

RCE Wales Briefing Paper 4

First, we would like extend to all our readers best wishes for a peaceful and productive 2010.

The New Year does, indeed, begin very positively, with the good news that we have all been waiting for:

‘RCE Wales’ has been formally acknowledged by the United Nations University!

The Secretariat staff returned to the office this week to find awaiting a letter and certificate giving formal notification that the UN University (UNU) had decided formally to acknowledge ‘RCE Wales’, based on the recommendation of the Ubuntu Committee who had scrutinised all applications.

The Steering Group would like to reiterate their sincere thanks for the help given by so many of you that has enabled this successful outcome. In particular, we understand that your letters of support, the evidence of ongoing ESDGC activity and the obvious way in which the ESDGC community in Wales is networking and responsive, were influential in the Committee’s recommendation to UNU. Of the 23 applications for ‘RCE’ status (Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development’ (sic)) received from all over the world, 8 were formally acknowledged. A list of other RCEs in the UK and around the world can be found on the UNU RCE website at www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=108&ddlID=183.

‘RCE Wales’ will formally come into being on 1 February 2010.

In the meantime, the Secretariat and Steering Group are preparing a press release to ensure the widest possible audience is alerted to this new ESDGC (Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship) development in Wales.

The RCE exists to support those already engaged – or wishing to be – in ESDGC. Our primary aim is to assist in the development of more effective Education for SD&GC in Wales, and through the RCE we can more easily collaborate with and learn from others around the world who are similarly engaged. Of course, we believe Wales has much to offer in this field in its own right, and we are excited at the prospect of more international ESDGC activity and learning, and of the mutual benefits that can bring.

Unfortunately, a representative could not be present at the European RCE conference in Graz, Austria, in December, but we prepared a poster and some fliers for the event to raise the Wales ESDGC profile internationally with RCE colleagues, and highlighting the ESDGC projects that had been included in our application.

An ‘RCE Wales’ Newsletter

Now that the application process is formally at an end and ‘RCE Wales’ has been acknowledged, the priority work of the Secretariat will be refocused. We will continue to service the Steering Group and its meetings, and be more engaged with developing supportive activities to facilitate and enhance ESDGC-related work across Wales – and maintaining vigilance concerning the means by which the RCE, its Steering Group and Secretariat can best maintain relevant and effective support. A key part of this latter

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function will be to facilitate communication about ESDGC matters across Wales, to ensure that the resources and efforts of stakeholders working in all sectors enjoy the maximum exposure, impact and opportunities.

For the RCE to gain its own momentum, to remain grounded in the needs of its stakeholders, and to remain focused on plugging existing ESDGC gaps in knowledge, expertise and provision in Wales, we anticipate altering our communication with stakeholders from this point on. This is therefore the final Briefing Paper. In future the Secretariat will pull together a newsletter, **written by YOU**. We will include in the newsletter updates on Steering Group/Secretariat activity and strategic ESDGC updates, insofar as such information may be helpful to stakeholders in informing, contextualising, guiding or prioritising their own work programmes. However, the newsletter will be a vehicle for sharing your ESDGC experience and questions, with a view to *stimulating activities and debates* that contribute to the development of individual and collective ESDGC practice, research, and projects with more impact, and hence leading to more (and potentially more innovative) ideas and opportunities .

We will send out Contributors' Guidelines in due course.

So, how can you get involved?

1. If you are new to ESDGC, take a look at the Wales ESD&GC website at www.esd-wales.org.uk/cymraeg or www.esd-wales.org.uk/english .
2. If you are new to the concept of a Regional Centre of Expertise on ESDGC, then take a look at the official UNU RCE website, the link for which is given at the top of this Briefing Paper.
3. If you want to catch up with the 'RCE Wales' story so far, take a look at Briefing Papers 1-3, which are available in Welsh and in English, at www.esd-wales.org.uk/cymraeg/RCE_development/default.htm or www.esd-wales.org.uk/english/RCE_development/default.htm .
4. Briefing Paper 3 set out a number of ways in which individuals and organisations can engage with RCE Wales at this early stage in its development; please take a look to see how you can help us to build a thriving and effective RCE. In addition:
5. Let us know if you wish to be included on one or more of our distribution lists (choose the relevant list(s) from:
 - **Adult & Community Learning**
 - **Further Education**
 - **Higher Education**
 - **Local Authority**
 - **Miscellaneous**

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- **Non-Governmental Organisation**
- **Private Sector**
- **Publicity** (for those in the media)
- **Schools**
- **Statutory**
- **Welsh Assembly Government**
- **Work-Based Learning**
- **Youth Work**

6. Contact us if you would like to receive a copy of the press release announcing the establishment of 'RCE Wales', to be distributed in the last week of January.

7. Watch out for further information about the forthcoming RCE Wales newsletter and prepare to send us your contributions!

8. Keep an eye open for emails from the Secretariat ('RCEWales') about forthcoming RCE projects that are designed to support *all* stakeholders. We'll be contacting you again soon to seek your direct input. Please respond, to ensure the RCE shapes up well and meets priority needs.

Contact the Secretariat at any time:

RCEWales@swansea.ac.uk

Jane Claricoates: 01792 602029

Yvonne Jones: 01792 602654

Jan Morgan: 01792 602655

Many thanks. We look forward to working with you to get 'RCE Wales' up and running!

RCE Wales Secretariat, Swansea University