

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Topic:** 1. Promoting Sustainable Education for Climate Action

2. Strengthening the Protection and Promoting of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**Country:** Türkiye

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UNESCO has developed innovations while taking global peace into consideration and made moves as to provide people a safe world to live in, since its foundation. Targeting keeping people and the area they live in healthy, UNESCO has cooperated with many organizations and increased its extent. Türkiye has made new decisions in parallel to the policies of UNESCO and supported them.

**1. Promoting Sustainable Education for Climate Action**

UNESCO has decided that the most affective solution towards the both enviromental and climate change problems is to raise awareness among people starting from little ages and that the biggest step towards this action is to add items regarding these problems to the curriculum. Students from various regions around the world are unable to get informed about the global issues, most likely because of the curriculum content. Many insufficiency in the education field causes students not to improve their perspective of the world.

One of the most important points UNESCO has noticed is that the teachers who provide children education are also illiterate in some subjects. As the poorly given lectures of enviromental problems continue as they are, both students and the teachers will go on being unaware. The education programs presented at schools often exclude enviromental subjects as to focus on more academic subjects which is one of the biggest reasons why children do not know what is currently going on in the world. UNESCO, which thinks this kind of awareness raising process would be the best with the teachers, has started working with NGOs (non-governmental organization) since they are lot more free and comprehensive in their actions.

In Türkiye, too, many steps have been taken towards the awareness raising regarding global environment issues. Items such as "Environment Education and Climate Change" had been added to curricula, activities in class have been made to have the students' interest and attention, "UNESCO Club"s have been opened at many schools and the policies of UNESCO have been expressed. Many NGOs in Türkiye, such as TEMA (Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion) and ÇEKÜL (Preservation and Promotion Foundation of the Environment and Culture), work with schools and give students presentations or have them join programs as volunteers and be active. There also many schools in Türkiye which aim to give education based on environment and nature.

Many steps in this country have been taken towards the goal of UNESCO and will continue further.

**2. Strengthening the Protection and Promoting of Intangible Cultural Heritage**

According to UNESCO, intangible values are the building blocks which creates a nation's personality and should be protected. The degeneration of these intangible values have become more common as time has passed. People have started to forget important parts of their own culture because of the wars and some global change. Indigenous people who are the most familiar with national traditions have problem with having the said traditions being recognized. Oral traditions are the widest in this topic because of their suitable nature for this. Languages could be an example, as %40 of the 7000 languages in the world are face-to-face with the danger of being forgotten according to UNESCO.

As to protect these intangible cultural heritages, UNESCO creates lists, such as "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity", and contracts. Even though many contracts have been signed, it is not very sufficient on national extent. Giving the indigenous people chances to protect the values of their own region would be the best way to properly keep that value alive and have it passed to the future generations. When business is involved, "protecting the cultural heritage" loses its ethical value and starts being a financial tool. To prevent that from happening, the consent of the people who live in the area of the cultural heritage must be gotten.

Türkiye has lots of cultural factors in its self and are moving along with UNESCO as to revive and protect those factors. For example, as the result of this cooperation, "Meddah" tradition are being promoted on the television and school programs and are being shown at many cultural festivals. UNESCO's process of protecting and making the cultural heritages known includes digital devices and sources. News, audio sources, visual sources etc. are benefital tools for popularizing cultural heritages. However, as much as information technologies are a great way to gain attention from wide numbers of people, they undoubtly also have the possibility of spreading misinformation and make people believe wrong things. Even so, using them for the good causes great impact. Türkiye creates archives of the etnographic images, audios and documents it has collected and publishes them, making them easer to access. Teachers who are willing to continue their national and regional traditions often organize programs with the students and have them know their own cultural values.

Türkiye is sustaining cooperation with UNESCO to protect the cultural heritages it holds and is active in UNESCO based projects such as the protection lists by joining them with over 30 intangible cultural heritages.