



“Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania

ICEEM/01 – Environmental Education Section

INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- THE CASE OF IIIEE, SWEDEN –

Adriana Budeanu

*International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Sweden
PO Box 196, Tegnérsplatsen 4, 221 00 LUND, Sweden, E-mail: adriana.budeanu@iiiiee.lu.se*

Abstract

The beginning of the Twenty-first Century presents humanity with the challenge of having to solve not only deep problems of humanity, as poverty, inequity and environmental destruction, but also the continuous conflict between the need for moderation and the continuous strive for economic growth. The key to meeting this challenge is knowledge and forethought – by individuals and society as a whole - increased understanding of environmental problems and the identification of viable strategies for future development. Such strategies must bring into being new systems of production and consumption able to restore the environment whilst being economically, socially and culturally sustainable.

Influencing and inducing change in societies towards sustainable development requires intervention and progress in thinking, at the interface between industry, governments, academia and the civil society. Among all, the academic world has – by nature – the role of leading other societal actors, through education and based on research, towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

Although high education institutions are showing great resistance to change, this paper presents one case, where the challenge of sustainability has been incorporated deeply into the approach, intent and practice of high education. Born as a creative response to the concern that, within industry and government, (where the power to affect environment conditions - negatively or positively - is greatest) environmental decisions are still being posterior to the occurrence of problems, the institute presented in this paper has been educating experts in integrated approaches for sustainable development, from all over the world, dispersing not only knowledge but also a way of thinking for the future.

Keywords: high education, sustainability, innovation
