

# ECO-UNESCO is 21!

11/20/2007

**Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation celebrates 21 years of innovation, empowerment and environmental conservation.**

**ECO-UNESCO**, Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation, is celebrating on Thursday, 22nd November 2007 their 21st Anniversary by holding an exhibition at Filmbase, in Temple Bar. The event will be officially opened by the Minister for Youth Affairs Seán Haughey, T.D. and will showcase the work carried out by the organisation during the past twenty-one years.

Everything started in 1984, when a group of young people interested in carrying out environmental protection got together and started an **UNESCO** club. A year later the **ECO** Club became a member of the National Youth Council of Ireland (**NYCI**) and was admitted into the Department of Education's Youth Service Grant as part of the celebration of International Youth Year. In 1986, **ECO-UNESCO** was officially founded.

*"We are delighted to celebrate this special date with the ones who contributed to the development and growth of the organisation during all those years. It's impressive to see the magnificent work done not only by the staff but also volunteers and most importantly young people."* Comments Elaine Nevin, **ECO-UNESCO's** National Director.

During the following twenty-one years, **ECO-UNESCO** has developed and delivered numerous environmental programmes mainly aimed at young people but also at leaders and teachers to support them on introducing environmental education in their activities with young people. The organisation has also produced a series of education resources, which explore a wide range of environmental issues.

One of **ECO-UNESCO's** trademarks is their innovative approach to environmental education focusing on the needs of young people. The results are the development of successful programmes such as the Young Environmentalist Awards, **ECO-UNESCO** clubs, the **ECO** Youth Representatives and most recently the **ECO-Choices Programme**, which provides an alternative approach to drug prevention through environmental education.

**ECO-UNESCO** has also worked as advocates for environmental education and education for sustainable development (**ESD**) having undertaken a research project on **ESD** in partnership with **COMHAR** and more recently has worked on the development of a national strategy on **ESD** on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

As part of the 21st Anniversary celebrations **ECO-UNESCO** is also producing an Anniversary Report, which will be available soon for download on <http://www.ecounesco.ie/>

*For further information on **ECO-UNESCO**, contact us on +353 1 6625491 or at [info@ecounesco.ie](mailto:info@ecounesco.ie)*