



ACKNOWLEDGED BY



RCE Annual Reporting

19 March 2009

Dear Colleagues,

All acknowledged RCEs are requested to submit an annual report to fulfil their mandatory annual reporting obligations to the Global RCE Service Centre. Reporting will provide a snap-shot of the activities and achievements and challenges of RCEs. It will also inform RCEs about prospective collaborative initiatives. The global/(sub)continental coordinators will draw upon the reports to develop an understanding of the effective strategies for facilitating the ever-growing RCE community.

You have six weeks to complete the attached questionnaire. In filling this questionnaire, you are strongly encouraged to consult with your partners and make annual reporting a constructive process of collectively reflecting upon what your RCE has and has not achieved in the past year. Please send the filled-out questionnaire to the Global RCE Service Centre at rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu by 30 April 2009. The subject line of your email should read: **[RCE Annual Reporting 2009] RCE (Name of your RCE)**. The received questionnaires will be compiled and shared among the global RCE community during the conference in Montreal in May 2009.

Thank you very much for your time in advance, and we look forward to your answers.

Sincerely,

Global RCE Service Centre

RCE PORTO METROPOLITAN AREA

About This Questionnaire

Who is responsible for submitting this questionnaire?

Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address
Marta Pinto	Portuguese Catholic University	mspinto@intervirmais.pt

Can the Global RCE Service Centre make the information provided in this questionnaire available to the following groups?

Other RCEs Yes
 UN agencies Yes
 General Public Yes

**If you would like us to treat specific information included in your answers as confidential, please inform us which parts should be undisclosed. We will not disclose any information that RCEs would not like to share with other RCEs, UN agencies, and/or the general public.*

How was this questionnaire filled out? Please check one and provide details.

Filled out by the RCE coordinator(s)

Name of Coordinator	Affiliation	E-mail Address
Marta Pinto	Portuguese Catholic University	mspinto@intervirmais.pt
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Filled out by several key persons/organisations

Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address

Filled out based on broad consultation with RCE stakeholders

When and how did consultation take place?

Date(s)	
Venue	
Number of Participants	

Other

(Please specify)

Basic Information

1. Month and Year of Acknowledgement (Month) march (Year) 2009

2. Which organization hosts the secretariat of your RCE?

Name of Organization Portuguese Catholic University

Type of Organization Higher Education Institution

3. Please list the names and types of *core* institutions/members of your RCE.

Name	Type of Institution
Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination	Multi-stakeholder Entity
DREN - Regional Office of the Ministry of Education	Other
UNESCO Portuguese National Committee	Other
Lipor – Waste Management Intermunicipal Service of the Great Porto Region	Multi-stakeholder Entity
“UN Millennium Development Goals” Campaign Coordination	Other
IPJ - Portuguese Youth Institute	Other
CCDR-N – Regional Office of the Ministry of the environment	Other
Campo Aberto	NGO
FAPAS	NGO
Municipalities from the Porto Metropolitan Area (15 out of 16)	Municipal Government
Fundação Serralves (Contemporary Art Museum)	Other
ARH - Water Resources Regional Administration	Other
Portuguese Catholic University	Higher Education Institution
Forestis	NGO
	Higher Education Institution

Value-Added, Results and Achievements

4. In a few sentences, how would you describe the stage of development and the state of vitality of your RCE?

As an acknowledged RCE, the Porto RCE is still a newborn. However, the collaboration had started in 2003 with a project called "Sustainable Future – Porto Metropolitan Area Strategic Environmental Plan" in which several of the present organisations in the RCE were engaged. The Porto RCE is considered to be significant by all stakeholders taking part in this open/participative "state of the art" and "plan of action" for achieving sustainability in Porto Metropolitan Area and therefore there is good involvement from partners.

The first Strategic Advisory Board meeting conducted was well participated (26 out of 28 partners were present and more than 30 people attended).

5. In one sentence, how would you describe your RCE, if possible using a striking metaphor?

Our RCE is possibly best described by an african proverb: "If one wants to go quickly, one goes alone. If one wants to go far, one goes accompanied."

6. Do you believe that the RCE has met so far the overall expectations of the stakeholders? Please briefly explain.

We have been working as an acknowledged RCE only for 5 months. During this period we have been methodically addressing some of the priorities listed in our plan of action which were again reinforced in the first meeting of the Strategic Advisory Board (27th May 2009). These first priorities are: facilitating communication and exchange of knowledge and experiences between members and other ESD regional promoters (there are 28 members, each of them responsible for dozens of ESD projects and ESD centres); making the present activities developed by each member available for a broader public (regional scale); stimulate and developing joint initiatives; reporting on investigation results that can help promoters improve their activities and ESD centres.

We have been using several Google tools to allow and facilitate communication between the RCE members (mailing list, Google docs...) and with the public (blogger, calendar, twitter, Google maps...). Please check www.google.com/profiles/porto.cre

We are implementing the Annual Activities Plan 2009: creating the e-magazine "Education and Sustainability") and the Metropolitan Sustainability Agenda, scheduling Strategic Advisory Board meetings, setting up a Scientific Board, developing the Metropolitan Sustainability Academy (training courses for several publics related with ESD), facilitating and bridging cooperation in events promoted by one of the members (for example, an UNESCO exhibition will be rotating in the Porto region during the first six months of 2010; this process is being facilitated by the RCE Coordinating Office).

Several stakeholders are more and more engaged as time passes (the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education, the Unesco Committee, some municipalities, Lipor...) and that can be read as a positive sign.

7. As a result of development of the RCE and its actions, what *capacity* was built by whom, with whom and for whom? Please explain and give examples.

Decision makers and the Coordinating Office team (Portuguese Catholic University and Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination) worked together to set up the RCE. This dialogue (as well as the previous one involving the regional stakeholders) and the long consensus building process was a very fruitful experience. Several meetings with the environmental counsellors from the 16 municipalities as well as with the education counsellors and presidents took place during the RCE development stage. Throughout this stage the RCE concept was presented (by the RCE coordination team) to champion organisations as an effort to recruit active partners.

The explanation of the Governance Structure of the Porto RCE, the Activities Plan 2009 and the Partnership Agreement involved a broader dialogue based on proposals by the Portuguese Catholic University and Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination. Each member organisation had the chance to comment on those and suggest improvements.

After the acknowledgement all RCE partners were seriously implicated with the RCE launch. Fundação de Serralves hosted the event and the Portuguese Catholic University and Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination co-ordinated the event. The Regional Office of the Ministry of Education (DREN) enriched the organisation with an excellent team expert on communication issues and co-ordinated with some schools from the region a show on demonstrative science and sustainability projects. The catering and entertainment were also provided by professional schools from the region. All partners collected and organised a set of photographs demonstrative of their work in the field and another team member from DREN composed a film with them. During the launch, the UNESCO Portuguese Committee representative and responsible for the DESD implementation in Portugal offered the participants (journalists, teachers, counsellors and mayors, top representatives from several organisations ...) a presentation on the Decade, framework in Portugal. All the three top

representatives of the Porto Metropolitan Area, Portuguese Catholic University and Regional Office of the Ministry of Education also contributed with a short speech on the importance of the RCE to the Porto region.

Members of several organisations as well as teachers participated as attendants on the first training course on EDS organised this summer. The course itself was a result of the existing expertise within partner organisations.

8. What role has your RCE played in *bringing together* individuals and institutions into regional ESD activities and to what effect?

1. ESD members of staff from several RCE organisations and also teachers from the region participated in the first training course on ESD set up under the Metropolitan Sustainability Academy label (July 2009). The course was hosted and coordinated by the Portuguese Catholic University (included in its summer courses) and taught by the PCU researchers as well as the UNESCO Portuguese Committee DESD focal point, ESD researchers from invited universities and ESD project coordinators. The course was made public through the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education webpage as well as through mailings and invitations sent by the RCE Coordination Office.

Definitely, the RCE made collaboration possible. At the end of the week, the attendants were fulfilled because they updated their knowledge, learnt new techniques, and put together a theoretical framework for their work.

2. Working closely with the UNESCO Portuguese Committee, one of the Porto RCE core organisations, the Coordinating Office realized that it has an exhibition (Planet Earth Exhibition) that could be brought to the Porto Metropolitan Area region and pass through the ESD centres. All the members were invited to host the exhibition and a regional calendar was collaboratively built. The exhibition will rotate in the region from January to July 2010.

3. Another example is the ESD e-magazine that is being developed at the moment. Each partner, at the Strategic Advisory Board meeting, had the opportunity to participate in the e-magazine concept and sections definition (based on a proposal by the Coordinating Office). At the moment, partners are being invited to recommend ESD projects and ESD centres to be focused on the first two editions of this e-magazine. The proposal made by each partner has to include an auto-evaluation form that was developed by the RCE Coordinating Office based on research results on ESD project criteria and the ESD centres quality criteria. This approach intends to help partners to start their own evaluation of activities and facilities and also to filter the "excellence cases" to the e-magazine.

4. The "Water and Youth Forum" (will happen during the first days of October 2009) promoted by the Ecoclubs and by the Portuguese Catholic University is also taking advantage

of the regional collaboration. Several RCE members are also contributing to this transformative event.

5. The “Millennium Afternoons in the Porto Public Library” is an event being organised also in cooperation between several regional and national stakeholders. The Porto Public Library was invited to host a series of debates about the Millennium Development Goals that plan to get together teenagers and adults attending regional senior universities. The debate will be open by a teaser/documentary and moderated by facilitators coming from several Porto RCE organisations. The event is planned between the 14th and the 21st of October 2009 and it will bring together to the debate approximately 500 teenagers and senior adults from the region. The “UN Millennium Development Goals” Campaign Coordination is a core partner for this initiative.

6. The annual national contest "Environmental Olympics" promoted by the PCU will, this school year (2009/2010) engage the “UN Millennium Development Goals” Campaign Coordination in a special edition to be dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals. Other RCE premium organisations are also expected to participate. This project, with 15 years in the field, engages approximately 40.000 students (from 12 to 18) and hundreds of teachers all over the country.

9. Since the beginning of operation, your RCE has been working towards objectives jointly outlined by your RCE stakeholders.

(1) How far did you advance towards these objectives?

The objectives of the RCE on Education for Sustainable Development of the Porto Metropolitan Area are the following (under the objective you can find the advance report on each):

1. Promote joint work by stakeholders in Education for Sustainability and shared, continuous and structured action in the region at this level.

This objective is being achieved through the "Water and Youth Forum"; the "Planet Earth" UNESCO's exhibition; the Millennium Afternoons in the Porto Public Library; the e-magazine "Education and Sustainability"; the training course on "ESD - a new paradigm", the "Environmental Olympics"...

2. Create a common base of information on Sustainable Development and initiatives for the region's population.

This objective is being achieved through the preparation and publishing of a common agenda of initiatives (and in the future will be added ESD projects and ESD facilities) on Education for Sustainability promoted by the entities in the Porto Metropolitan Area (that is being built in collaboration). It is called the Metropolitan Sustainability Agenda.

Please check www.amp-agenda.blogspot.com

The e-magazine will also contribute to this objective.

3. Create a regional community of educators for Sustainability.

This will facilitate communication and exchange of knowledge and experiences between RCE team members and other educators, researchers and citizens.

On-going activity. Please check www.creporto.blogspot.com/2009/08/reeds.html.

The e-magazine will be one important resource for this network.

The goal is to establish a network with 200 regular and active individual members by 2010.

4. Support regional projects of Education for Sustainable Development and enhance their quality.

The criteria for ESD projects were defined and now the promoters should auto-evaluate their projects under this framework. The selected projects to be presented in the e-magazine "Education and Sustainability" will be made available to a wider community of potential stakeholders, financiers. At the moment it is one way to indirectly support these projects. In a near future we would like to establish a financial grant to support demonstrating Sustainable Development projects in the region, developed by schools and / or non-governmental organizations.

The goal is to identify and support 32 relevant projects of Education for Sustainable Development between 2009 and 2011.

5. Promote the active participation and training of adults in the area of Sustainable Development

This objective is being made visible by the establishment of the Metropolitan Sustainability Academy. It will offer light and specialised courses, post-graduates and summer courses available through partnerships with the various institutions, in order to increase the qualification of the region's citizens (targeted in different groups: graduates, professionals from different areas, young people, citizens with particular interests, etc.) in Sustainable Development issues and promote local sustainability. The first visible example is the summer training course on "ESD - a new paradigm" (which had 19 attendants) and the design of a post-graduate course on ESD.

6. Encourage the participation of citizens interested in cooperating in environmental protection.

One of the actions planned to achieve this objective is to establish a Sustainability Voluntaries Service. However, the RCE is not yet directly working with the public.

The goal is to identify, train and have 100 active volunteers in the programme between 2009 and 2011.

7. Steer the integration and "transversalization" of environmental issues in curriculum.

This objective will be tangible by extending the consensus on the issue of a joint educational material common to the region, which includes in the curriculum of the 2nd and 3rd basic education levels sustainability issues (material already developed by a team from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Porto) taking it into action.

However, it depends on large funding and it is not yet possible to proceed with it.

The goal is to distribute 10.000 kits EARTH I and EARTH II until 2014.

8. Encourage the quality of the facilities of Education for Sustainability.

The quality criteria for ESD facilities were already defined and now the promoters should auto-evaluate their centres under this outline. The selected centres to be presented in the e-magazine will be made available to a wider community of potential stakeholders, financiers, users.

We are expecting that the first working group to be created in the next Strategic Advisory Board meeting (in 30 September 2009) which will address this issue. Hopefully the group will discuss the application of quality criteria in education for sustainability facilities. The general criteria have been defined within a doctoral work. What is necessary now is a study of its functioning at a regional level and establishing a voluntary system of implementation).

The goal is that in 2013, 50% of the facilities in the Porto Metropolitan Area quantify the quality indicators and have high quality.

9. Encourage the active participation of youth in environmental protection and promotion of Sustainable Development at a local level.

Being achieved by the implementation of the project "Youth, Environment and Citizenship" for Ecoclubs, the endorsement of the "Water and Youth Forum" and promotion of the "Environmental Olympics".

The goal is to consolidate 10 Ecoclubs (through the International Network of Ecoclubs) by the year 2013.

10. Encourage academic studies on Education for Sustainable Development and ensure the resources for their dissemination and publication.

The post-graduate course to be held at the Portuguese Catholic University will hopefully enhance the research about ESD scenario in the region.

It is also planned the identification of interesting research projects that can be useful to the region (like the one already in implementation on quality criteria for ESD facilities) and make it public, mainly to the organisations responsible for ESD activities.

11. Strengthen the objectives and actions of the project "Sustainable Future".

Being indirectly addressed.

12. Encourage sustainability at school level (School Agenda 21; criteria...). Not yet systematically on course.

The goal is that by 2012, at least half of the schools in the region have signed the Charter for Sustainable Schools of the Metropolitan Area of Porto.

(2) How would you demonstrate these achievements? (For instance, if your RCE has measurable milestones, please explain how your activities match against your initial goals.)

The answer to this question is included in the previous.

(3) If planned activities have not yet happened, could you please explain why, and what measures you took/are taking to overcome the obstacles.

All planned activities for 2009 are on-going.

However, some long term goals defined by/for the RCE and the activities planned to achieve them are dependant on specific financing opportunities.

10. Are there any unexpected/unplanned results achieved by your RCE?

One of the unplanned results happened at the Portuguese Catholic University level. At first, the RCE was to be managed by a small group in the PCU - School of Biotechnology. But given the openness of the PCU director - that fully endorsed the RCE - and the inner strength of the RCE concept, this group is now working with the rest of the PCU, mainly with the psychology and education school, the arts school, the economy and management school. The RCE is helping in establishing bridges at all levels and the "inner" level is utterly essential.

11. What is the value-added of your RCE? What is its contribution to the partners inside and outside the region?

Inside the region: improving communication and collaboration between organisations, optimising resources, help organisations acknowledge and implement excellence in their daily work, promoting research and spreading results, international networking and learning, potential for funding...

Outside the region: it can be an example to other regions (RCE setting up and managing, demonstrative projects, quality criteria applied to ESD facilities ...).

12. Could your RCE activity be described as innovative in the context of your region? Please explain why or why not.

Yes. The achievements and on-going activities would not have been possible without the RCE.

13. Are the results and outcomes of research, projects, and other activities of your RCE made public in any form? Please check all that applies, and give references (e.g., URL) where appropriate.

	Results made public through the use of	Yes /N o	If yes, please explain. Where appropriate, please give references.
1	Advertisement	No	
2	Mass media	Yes	http://www.oregional.pt/noticia.asp?idEdicao=358&id=12131&idSeccao=3661&Action=noticia http://www.ambienteonline.pt/noticias/detalhes.php?id=7959 http://jpn.icicom.up.pt/2009/04/27/grande_porto_aposta_na_educacao_para_o_desenvolvimento_sustentavel.html http://www.santotirsodigital.com/educacao/educacao78.html http://www.labor.pt/noticia.asp?idEdicao=179&id=8882&idSeccao=1873&Action=noticia http://jn.sapo.pt/paginainicial/pais/concelho.aspx?Distrito=Porto&Concelho=Porto&Option=Interior&content_id=1214083
3	Internet	Yes	http://www.google.com/profiles/porto.cre http://creporto.blogspot.com/ http://www.futurosustentavel.org/noticias/detalhes.php?id=69 http://www.cienciahoje.pt/index.php?oid=30914
4	Local schools	Yes	
5	Governmental institutions	Yes	http://w3.dren.min-edu.pt/index.php?controller=noticias&action=detail&id=535 http://w3.dren.min-edu.pt/index.php?controller=noticias&action=detail&id=471 http://w3.dren.min-edu.pt/index.php?controller=noticias&action=detail&id=466
6	Other	Yes	http://www.amp.pt/gca/?id=468 (Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination)

(please specify)	<p>http://www.cm-pvarzim.pt/ambiente-e-urbanismo/campanha-um-concelho-de-bom-ambiente/semana-do-ambiente-2009/centro-regional-de-excelencia (partner Municipality)</p> <p>http://www.campoaberto.pt/2009/04/28/campo-aberto-assina-protocolo-do-campo-aberto/ (partner NGO)</p>
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Organisation and Governance

14. How is the organisation of your RCE currently set up (teams, etc.)?

We organized the Porto RCE in four functional structures.

The Board of Management approves the annual activities plan and budgets. Meets once a year. Includes the PCU - Portuguese Catholic University, the PMA - Porto Metropolitan Area Coordination (In representation of the municipalities members of the RCE and that contribute financially to the project.) and DREN - The Regional Office of the Ministry of Education.

The Strategic Advisory Board is the forum for representation of local and regional stakeholders and its main functions will be to advise, define activities, exchange experiences and promote the development of EDS actions.

The Coordinating Office is “the motor” of the RCE structure. It will be committed to make things happen, to prompt collaboration, to manage joint projects, to spot and prepare funding applications, to organize meetings between partners, to help the RCE coordinate with the international network. This team will have two technical staff from the PCU and PMA and will also train and engage students and volunteers in these tasks.

The Scientific Advisory Board is expected to contribute with their knowledge and networks. This committee will meet to discuss and contribute to the debate or be individually consulted for each of the main themes. The experts from several universities rotate every biennium. It is expected in a near future that the Strategic Advisory Board members volunteer to take part in thematic workgroups relating with ESD subjects and also with the RCE development and growth.

15. What are governance principles of your RCE? Governance is defined as *"rules, processes and behaviour that affect the way in which powers are exercised.... particularly as regards openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence"* (European Commission, European Governance - A White Paper, 2001).

Our RCE was built under a Collaboration Agreement signed up by all members. In this Agreement, the role of each member is described as well as the governance structure and its rules. There is full transparency in this process.

In summary, the Coordination Office has the responsibility to stimulate, lead, suggest and implement activities to be organised jointly with each organisation that wants to participate. It is also responsible for managing the annual budget.

The Strategic Advisory Board is both a thinking, counselling group as well as an executive one. All main decisions are shared by the Strategic Advisory Board.

The Coordinating Office works directly with the representatives of each organisation that has a seat in the Strategic Advisory Board to facilitate the development of the activities.

The annual budget is also a part of the Activities Plan - 2009 that is attached to the Collaboration Agreement. The Portuguese Catholic University created a specific cost centre for this project and has to report every year to the Strategic Advisory Board and Board of Management.

By the end of the year the PCU will prepare a report and propose a new Activities Plan and Budget for 2010 (that will be built with the contributions of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Strategic Advisory Board).

The Porto RCE is inclusive and participative. Every organisation and citizen interested in taking part in it will have a place. Individual citizens can take part in the "ESD Educators Network" that is now under progress.

We want to emphasise that, at least for the moment, the Coordinating Office has an essential role in organising information, coordination joint activities and helping on the collaboration process.

16. Please explain how (if) the management structure and governance principles have changed since inception.

We did not experiment changes yet.

17. How effective are the current management and governance structures in fulfilling the objectives and challenges? If there is a need, how should it be changed?

For the moment it seems the most effective way to fulfil the challenges ahead. Each board has clear duties and rights and the Coordinating Office helps to manage the collaboration process as well as the international/national networking.

The present need is the setting up of the voluntary thematic groups, of the Scientific Board and the Regional ESD Educators network (on-going tasks).

Current Issues and Projects

18. What issues is your RCE currently working on?

How to answer Q18:

RCEs' working thematic areas and issues can be categorized into:

(1) **sustainability/sustainable development issues** (e.g., waste management, water and sanitation, poverty);

(2) **capacity development/ESD issues** (e.g., teacher training, curricular reforms); and

(3) **operational and organizational issues** (e.g., collaboration among RCE partners, funding) .

- Please indicate the category of issues you are listing below, and explain *why and how* these specific issues have been chosen.
- If appropriate, please list issues in priority order. (If your RCE has several thematic working groups and several issues/themes have equal significance, please indicate the same number for these issues in the 'Priority' column.)

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Category of Issue</i>	<i>Explanation/Reason (Why and How?)</i>
1	Collaboration among partners	Operational and organizational issue	
2	Quality criteria for facilities and projects	Operational and organizational issue	
3	Communication within partners and with the regional public	Operational and organizational issue	
4	Teachers and Educators Networking	Operational and organizational issue	
5	Training for all	Capacity development/ESD issue	
...		Sustainability/SD issue	
		Sustainability/SD issue	
		Sustainability/SD issue	

19. Has the focus of your RCE shifted between time of mobilisation/launching and now? If yes, how?

Yes. First the RCE was focused on attracting lead organisations to it. Now it is focused on establishing a network that really works. :)

20. How do you address these selected issues listed above (e.g., publishing newsletters, conducting research, provision of educational programmes)?

Electronic newsletters (short news), weblog, stakeholders meetings, e-magazine, Metropolitan Sustainability Agenda, training, quality criteria for ESD facilities, quality criteria for ESD projects, ESD facilities database, stakeholders database, regular mailing to members (suggestions, requests...).

21. Briefly explain if and how your RCE has been involved in activities related to the following "major thrusts (goals)" of ESD.

<i>Thrust (Goal) of ESD</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>If yes, please explain.</i>
Access to quality basic education	No	
Training for different sectors of the society	Yes	Metropolitan Sustainability Academy (post-graduates, summer courses...)
Public awareness	Yes	Metropolitan Sustainability Agenda (help make public the activities going on in the region) E-magazine Education and Sustainability
Reorientation of existing education	Yes	Promoting the Agenda 21 in the School community and Sustainable Schools concept Promotion and support for Ecoclubs (young people are the leaders of their own initiatives that will benefit their local communities)

22. Please list collaborative projects and programs undertaken or planned by more than one partner within your RCE.

Collaborative Projects	Stage (Planning/on-going/ to be completed by---)	Partners
Water and Youth Forum	to be completed by October 2009	PCU Maia Municipality Lipor
Metropolitan Sustainability Academy	On-going	All
Metropolitan Sustainability Agenda (www.amp-agenda.blogspot.com)	On-going	All
Millennium Afternoons in the Porto Public Library	to be completed by October 2009	All plus

		Porto Public Library
ESD e-magazine "Education and Sustainability"	to be completed by October 2009 (first edition) and December 2009 (second edition)	All
"Planet Earth" UNESCO's exhibition	to be completed by July 2010	Maia, Vale de Cambra, Vila Nova de Gaia, Vila do Conde, Póvoa de Varzim, Oliveira de Azeméis, S. Joao da Madeira, Valongo, CCDRN, UNESCO Portuguese Committee
Porto RCE Launch	completed	All
Environmental Olympics special edition dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals (2009/2010)	to be completed by June 2010	PCU Quercus Zoomarine UN Millennium Development Goals" Campaign Coordination

23. Are there collaborative activities for funding and resource mobilization? Partners may include other RCEs.

Collaborative Projects	Funding Sources	Funding Period				Partners
		Starting		Ending		
		Month	Year	Month	Year	

24. How do you identify partners for the projects and activities?

All the members of the RCE are invited to take part and to identify possible partners for the activities. Each RCE member volunteers (or not) and all the relevant organisations identified by the partners are directly invited to participate.

25. How does your RCE address the Research and Development (R & D) component of the RCE concept?

The first thing we want to do is to approach researchers in this area (through the Scientific Advisory Board) and have easy access to their investigation and results. We would like to make these available to the Porto Metropolitan Area education community in a way they are easily understood, shortening the gap presently existing between scientific results and their use in education.

There is also the ambition to connect researchers from the PCU and other universities with the RCE members, promoting the possibility of more research projects being developed in the region.

The PCU also designed a Post Graduate Course in ESD. It should start in January 2010. The attendants will also play an important role in research and development issues.

Institutional and Policy Reforms and Innovations

26. Does your RCE engage in activities to contribute to institutional and policy reforms and innovations at any level (e.g., organizational level, policy and legislative level; district level, national level, continental level, global level)?

We can say that by promoting quality criteria for ESD projects and ESD centres we are somehow promoting an institutional reform at the organizational and local level. The changes will take some time to happen but we believe that these criteria will, at some point be institutionally adopted.

Considering that the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education and two regional offices of the Ministry of the Environment are RCE members, the discussions taking place will potentially have their consequences at the national level.

Links and Networking

27. What is the level of interaction among the partners within the RCE and in what form does it happen? Please explain (i.e. frequency and types of meetings, teleconference, etc.).

The Coordinating Office is in close contact with stakeholders. Several e-mails are sent weekly to propose ideas for individual and joint action, promote members events and RCE

initiatives. Members contact the Coordinating Office to send information on their activities, make suggestions to the RCE development.

The Strategic Advisory Board meets every 3 to 4 months and in the meanwhile communication between members is open.

The Strategic Advisory Board meetings are used to update the RCE activity, present members with tools, discuss the following steps (regarding communication, invitations to take part of the RCE and all the needed issues...). The outlines and deadlines are decided in the meetings and each member compromises.

28. Did the establishment of RCE facilitate the development of connections / partnerships with the following organizations and individuals?

<i>Connections/partnerships with</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>If yes, please give examples.</i>
UN institutions	Yes	The UNESCO Portuguese Committee and the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign Coordination.
Other international organizations	No	International Network of Ecoclubs
Other RCEs	Yes	Although not yet tangible some potential collaborations with RCE Barcelona, RCE Oeste...
International experts	Yes	At the moment we can consider the potential connection with the experts of the RCE international network
Expert organizations at national, regional and global levels	Yes	Representatives of several higher education institutions are to be invited to our Scientific Committee.
Others	No	(Please specify)

29. Is your RCE actively involved in inter-RCE collaborative activities such as thematic networks, continental meetings, and joint research? Please list your RCE's involvement in inter-RCE activities. If your RCE has not been very active, please explain what has made your RCE's involvement difficult.

We've invested in participating in the Barcelona and Montreal RCE meetings trying to gain some knowledge about the RCE network, partners, possible interactions and trying to understand better what role can we play in the RCE network in the future.

We have participated in the peer review of the S. Paulo application, sending several suggestions.

We also collaborated with the East Midlands RCE in selecting people to attend training courses on Sustainable Lifestyles in the UK and to a short term internship on the theme Sustainable Colleges.

Communication is definitely a constraint for us. It is more difficult when the language makes collaboration exhausting. Of course we are aware it is a common problem to several RCE but giving the early state of our development we prefer, at the moment, to focus our attention in our regional stakeholders.

About the cooperation with the portuguese speaking countries it was not yet tangible. We've been sending our news to the portuguese speaking RCEs we had the chance to know in Barcelona and Montreal and hope some joint project can arise in the future.

30. Please share with us any other impressions with regards to your RCE or your suggestions with regards to the reporting process.