

Universities as Beacons of Change: Education for Sustainability lighting up pathways for a new world”

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ABSTRACT

- **Title:** Sub-Regional Studies on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development in the Arab States: Insights from Higher Education
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Four Sub-regional studies (2015) were undertaken by the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Beirut to highlight good experiences, identify needs, and generate recommendations for the advancement of climate change education for sustainable development (CCESD) in the Arab countries (Mashreq, Arab Gulf and Yemen, Wadi El Nile, and Maghreb countries). These studies have been prepared to serve as background papers for the Regional Expert Meeting on CCESD in the Arab region (Beirut, 5-7 May 2015). The findings presented in these sub-regional studies are based on a combination of desktop review and a needs assessment survey/questionnaire to identify organizational strategies and CCESD programmes in the Arab States, and the gaps and needs in capacity building in the area of policy development, teacher training and curriculum on CCESD at the levels of general education (including technical and vocational education), higher education, and life-long learning. This presentation will particularly focus on CCESD in Higher Education in the Mashreq and Arab Gulf countries. We will share good practices and innovative partnerships on CCESD at numerous universities in these Arab countries. We will also explore key contextual opportunities and challenges through a cultural lens, and reflect on the teaching approaches and professional skills needed for enabling university educators to promote education for sustainability in the Arab region.