DIVISION B-C / B 7, C 1 / INTER COMMISSION WG
ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A QUALITY LIGHTING FRAMEWORK

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1. Introduction

We find ourselves at a crossroads where many of our planets most critical scientific and environmental challenges are occurring when we are not well prepared to address them. Global climate change, loss of night-scape, rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, collapsing fisheries, and habitat losses are real threats to the world-wide economy and our way of life. At the same time, youth continue to fall further behind their global peers in science and math, resulting in the threat of a future where fewer Earth-citizens are prepared for careers that will address these challenges. The IAU recognized this perilous track and organized this working group, which gives a broad mandate to educate the public about night-scape, astronomical science and stewardship through achieving sustainable development within a quality lighting framework. The WG’s focus is on education for achieving sustainable development within a quality lighting framework, since by educating future citizens we will help reorient education towards sustainable development. This will empower the world’s 60 million teachers to become key agents of change, and through them reach both local and global authorities and change the situation. For this reason, our objective is to establish a national contact in each country with active members of the Commissions C1 and B7, through the main observatory of the country or other institution willing to support the activities of the National Contact, with the commitment to the transfer and sharing of knowledge.

1.1. Tools

We propose to use as a tool the following successful programs, as good practices and as a source of organized integrated knowledge:

- Globe at Night (https://www.globeatnight.org)
- Cosmic Light EDUKit (http://nuclio.org/cosmiclightedukit)
- IYL Quality Lighting Teaching Kit (http://www.noao.edu/education/qltkit.php)
The WG intends to establish a strong professional network with pre-service teacher courses as well as the in-service education of teachers at all levels, education policy-makers, and authors of educational materials, with a final goal of integrating the concept of quality lighting and the topic of Light Pollution into the national educational environmental curriculum.

2. Last period remarks

During 2017 this Intercommission WG was established and as it was planned we gathered a strong team from all over the world as a first nucleus for this initiative as shown on the web-page. We all hope and count on more participation so as to achieve our goals.

The first meeting of the inter-commission was held in Utrecht on July 2017 during the IAU-Symposium for education. All the new goals and action are gathered on the web-page hosted at the University of Arizona thanks to Connie Walker.

These activities will be promoted by the National Contact in each country so as to achieve our goal for sustainable development within a quality lighting framework.

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