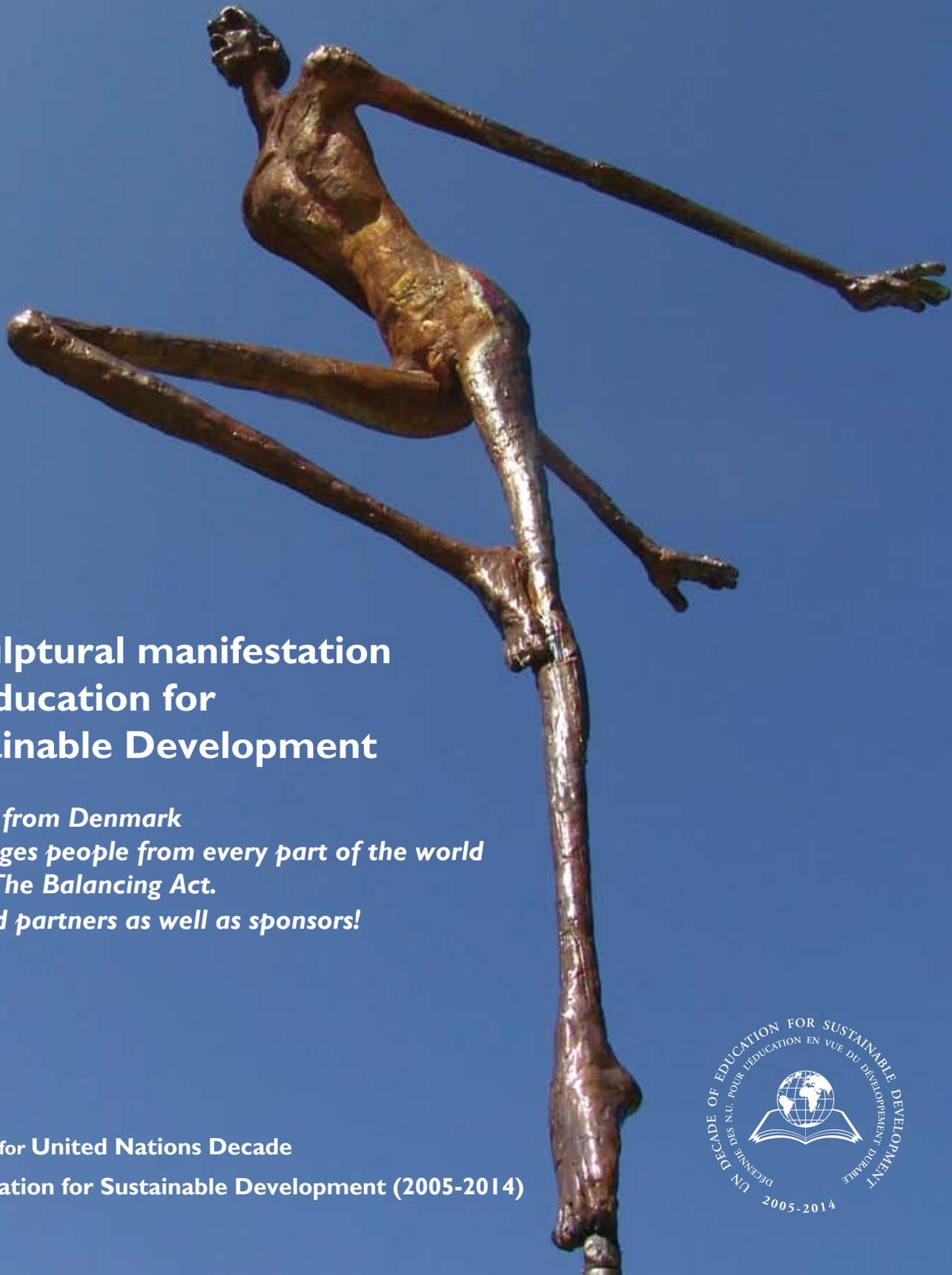


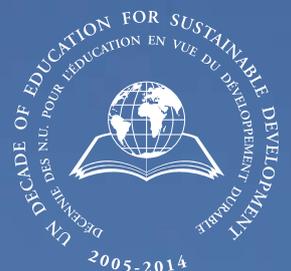
# BALANCING ACT



## A sculptural manifestation for Education for Sustainable Development

*Eco-net from Denmark  
encourages people from every part of the world  
to join The Balancing Act.  
We need partners as well as sponsors!*

A project for United Nations Decade  
for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)



# Would you like to be a part of the project The Balncing Act?

This Internordic project on Education for Sustainable Development has been named The Act of Balance. In accordance to the symbol of the project the Danish sculptor Jens Galschiøt has created a number of bronze figures which decorate this pamphlet. The figures symbolize visually the balance which is essential for sustainability.

We invite all Nordic institutions of education to join the Balancing Act and the important work, which is a part of the project and the proces for a sustainable developmenet. The institutions that join the project must commit to work for the 7 values and 3 goals of The Balancing Act. The 3 goals are supported by a number of ambitions, which again is a part of the work of the proces.

## The 3 Main Goals are:

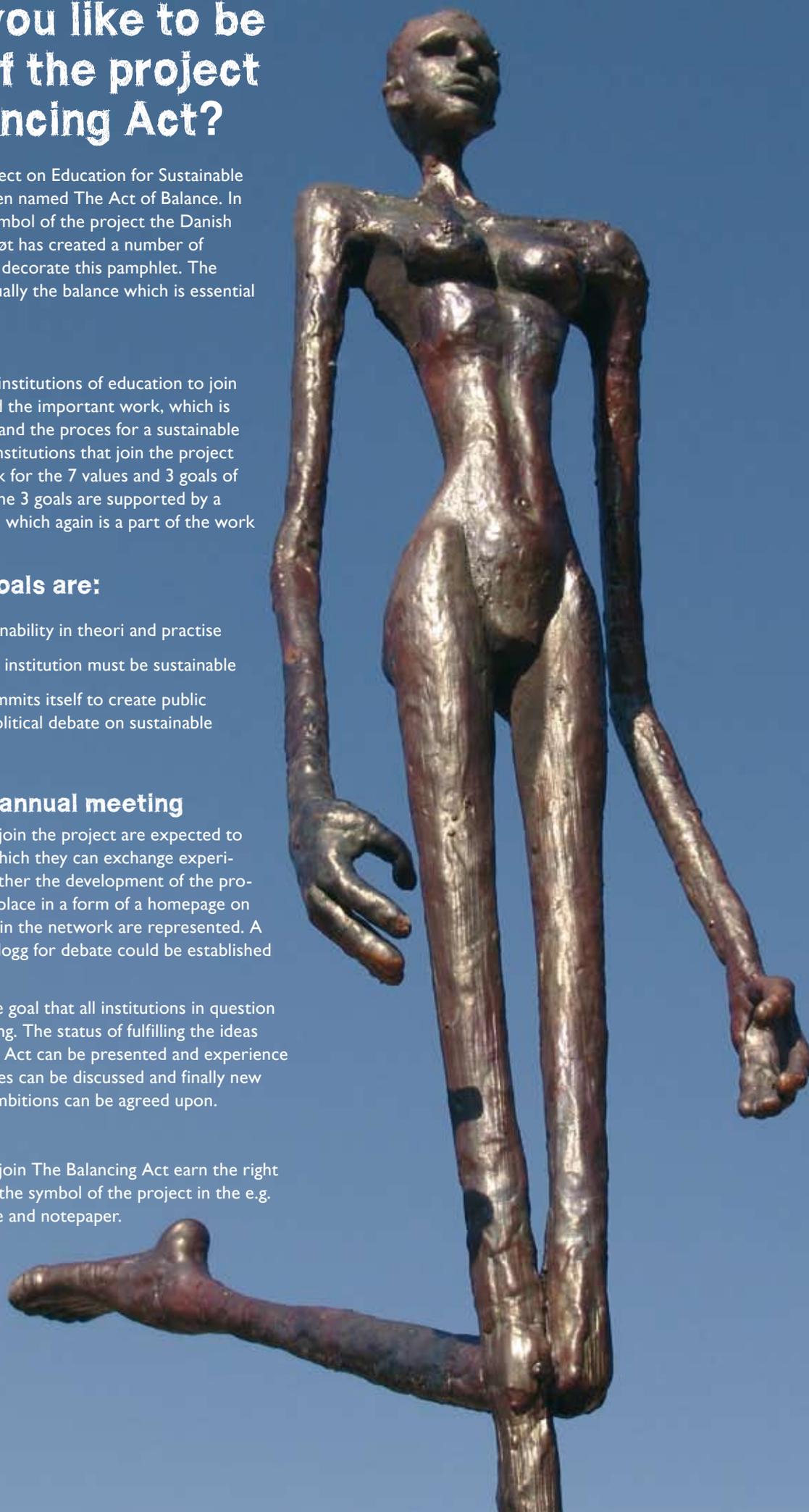
- Education in sustainability in theori and practise
- The running of the institution must be sustainable
- The institution commits itself to create public information and political debate on sustainable development

## Network and annual meeting

The institutions that join the project are expected to make a network in which they can exchange experience and ideas to further the development of the project. This could take place in a form of a homepage on which all institutions in the network are represented. A bank of ideas and a blogg for debate could be established on this homepage.

It will be a part of the goal that all institutions in question hold an annual meeting. The status of fulfilling the ideas behind The Balancing Act can be presented and experience and ideas in the proces can be discussed and finally new common goals and ambitions can be agreed upon.

The institutions that join The Balancing Act earn the right to use the name and the symbol of the project in the e.g. pamphlets, homepage and notepaper.



# Why Education for Sustainable Development

In the conference on Environment and Development held by UN in Rio de Janeiro 1992 it was agreed by all countries to form a sustainable development for 21st century named Agenda 21. In this it was stated that education is essential to further a sustainable development and to improve man's ability to solve environmental and to improve people's ability to solve environmental and development problems.

Ten years later, in 2002, a UN World Summit Meeting took place in Johannesburg in which status was stated over the progress of sustainability of each country. In the meeting it was realized that education is one of the most important tools in the work of a sustainable world. Subsequently UN adopted a resolution to speed up the process of Education for Sustainable Development covering the next decade 2005-2015.

## UNESCO'S vision for the decade:

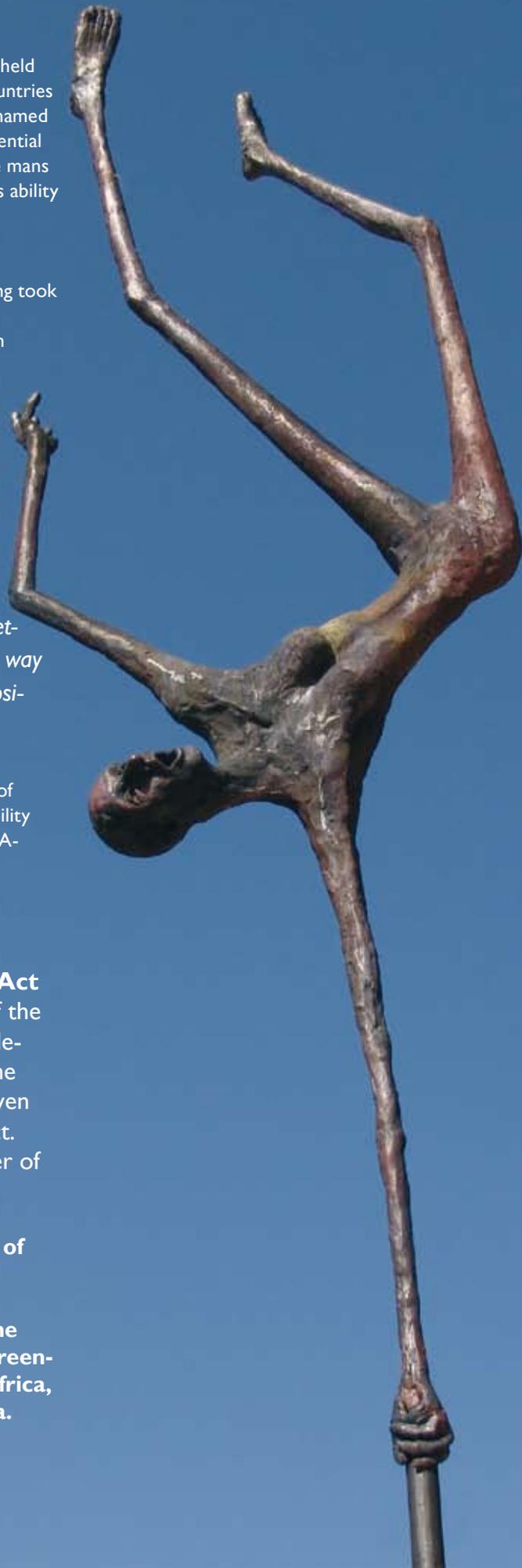
*"A world in which all people have a possibility of getting education and learn the values, behaviour and way of living that support a sustainable future and a positive development of society".*

The UN organisation, UNESCO, is the coordinator of the project for the period 2005-2015. The responsibility for carrying out the work lies within the UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION in each country.

**We invite you to join The Balancing Act** and the important work, which is a part of the project and the process for a sustainable development. We want institutions to join the project and to commit to work for the seven values and three goals of The Balancing Act. The three goals are supported by a number of means to reach the three main goals.

**The objective is to set up the sculptures of The Balancing Act worldwide.**

**In time, the ten sculptures, one for each of the seven values and three goals of The Balancing Act, will be seen in Europe, Greenland, North America, South America, Africa, India, China, Siberia, Japan and Australia.**



# The 7 Values of The Balancing

*The project is based on 7 values of sustainable development and education for sustainable development, which the participating institutions support as a base for their work:*

- 1** We recognize the important consideration for the coming generation and in that respect we will estimate the consequences of our actions and doings in a long-term perspective.
- 2** We recognize that there is only one Globe with limited resources and capacity and therefore we must give the highest priority to environment and resources.
- 3** We recognize that we live in a world with unequal distribution, and because of that it is our moral duty to work for a more equalized distribution of the resources and wealth.
- 4** We acknowledge that everyone must participate in solving the global challenges and are willing to contribute and work to strengthen the democracy on all levels.
- 5** We shall find new knowledge to solve problems across technical boundaries and we shall educate people to participate in global citizenship with focus on environmental and social issues.
- 6** We shall show the connection between words and action by working according to the principles of sustainability on a daily basis.
- 7** We shall contribute to a wide spread political debate on sustainability and be visible in this debate in society – we shall work out the values for every step forward to ease the way to a sustainable practise.



*Sustainable development is dealing with our future in the present time!  
Taking into account that the result of present actions will effect other people another place, at a another time.*

# Three Goals and Ambitions of the Balancing Act

*The 7 values are shown here in some realistic goals and in a number of ambitions to reach the 3 goals for developing Education for Sustainable Development:*

## Goal 1 ➤ **The Education include sustainability in theory and practise**

The goal is to give the students knowledge and qualifications to be ambassadors and agents for sustainability. The institution must therefore have the ambition to:

- Educate the students in values, theory and practical solutions of sustainability and in communication in order to communicate the information and create a debate on sustainability during their education as well as after.
- Educate the students in the cycle of nature and the interaction between nature, environment, ethics and philosophy. Also regarding human rights and the consequences of globalisation.
- Make sure that the students succeed in the practical solutions under the goals 2 and 3.
- Educate the students in studying and debating researches on lifestyle, comparison and critics.
- In-service training of teachers in sustainability – in theory and practise.

## Goal 2 ➤ **Institutionens drift er bæredygtig**

Målet er, at institutionen viser bæredygtighed i praksis og dermed viser både eleverne og omverdenen sammenhængen mellem ord og handling. Derfor skal institutionen arbejde for – og være i gang med en omstilling inden for følgende områder:

- Kildesortering af affald, recirkulering og genbrug af materialer.
- Grøn indkøbspolitik – herunder økologiske fødevarer i køkkenet/kantinen.
- Bæredygtige transportløsninger til og fra institutionen for elever og lærere.
- Miljøledelsessystem, der omfatter bæredygtig drift mht. energi- og vandforbrug, rengøring mv. samt efteruddannelse af driftspersonalet i bæredygtig drift.



## Goal 3 > How to manage the institution in a sustainable manner

The goal is for the institution to be the good example, that shows to other institutions and the local society how it is possible to perform sustainability in practise in combination with education. Therefore it is an ambition that within a year the institution will hold a public arrangement of the following agenda:

- Institutions of education in the neighbourhood are invited to an informative meeting about the project of The UN Decade for Education and Sustainable Development, and call upon more institutions to participate.
- Associations, authorities and industry within the local area are invited to an informative meeting about the project of The UN Decade for Education and Sustainable Development as well as sustainable development in general.
- Also public meetings that can create attention and debate about the project of The UN Decade for Education and Sustainable Development will be held.
- Getting local or national media to comment on the work of the institutions to create attention and visibility for the project.
- Involvement of the local society in realization of practical an sustainable solutions.

### Status and further development on the annual meeting of the project

The participating institutions have received a tool in form of the Balancing Act, which can support the process for a sustainable development.

Annually each institution carries out an evaluation by making a status on the project, and how far it has reached the three goals. This evaluation can be included on the homepage of the project. Also the evaluation can be presented on the annual meeting for the other institutions.

The statements of the institutions are supposed to be used at the annual meeting as a combined status of the project, and sharing of experience and development of new ideas. Furthermore the annual meeting is the place where the institutions can set new common goals and ambitions for the project and determine the further development and maybe cooperation with other countries.

# For further information and contact:

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Jens Galschiøt, Danish sculptor

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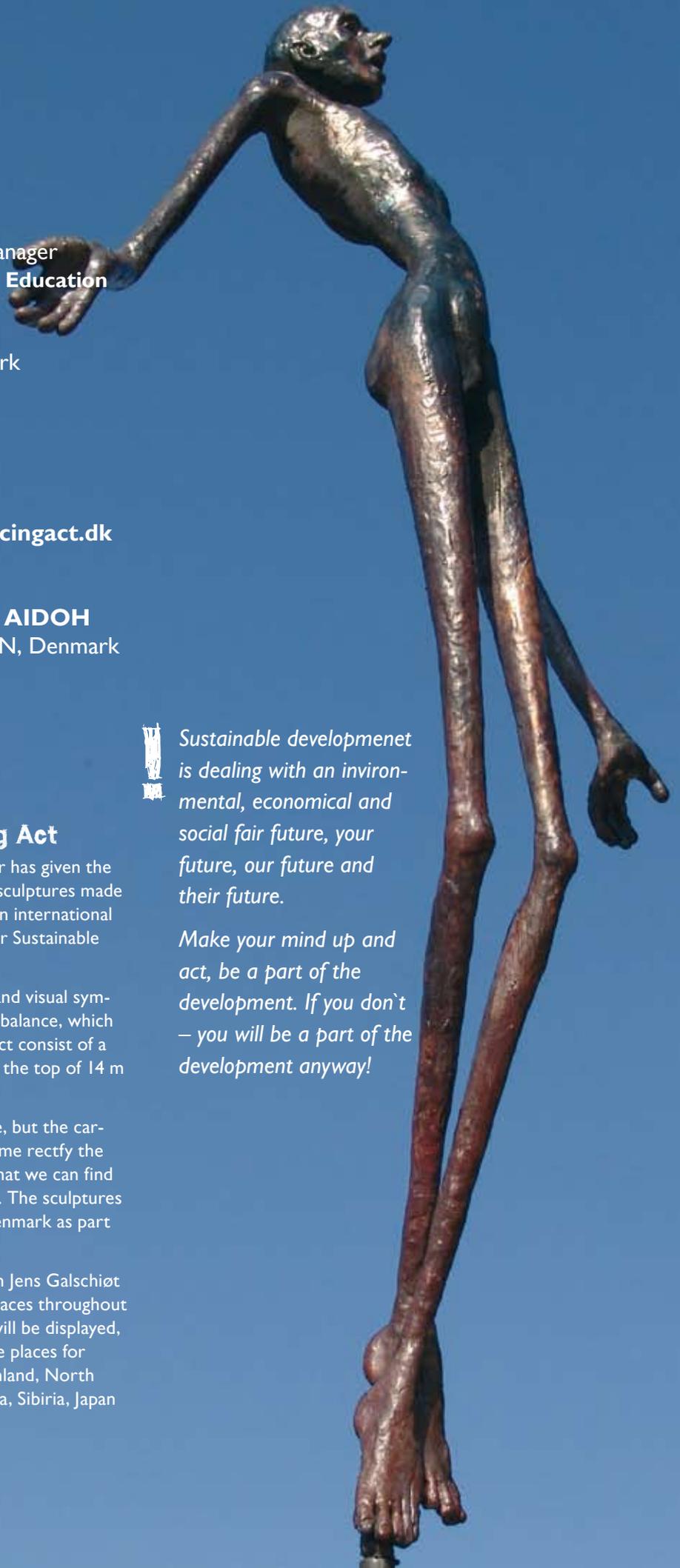
## The symbol of the Balancing Act

The Balancing Act which decorate the folder has given the name of the project consist of a number of sculptures made by the Danish sculpturer Jens Galschiøt as an international symbol for the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Education..

The Balancing Act is created as a concrete and visual symbol of the project and especially on the fine balance, which is needed for sustainability. The Balancing Act consist of a number of bronze figures, which balance on the top of 14 m high carbonfibre poles.

The figures can only barely keep the balance, but the carbonfibre poles make sure that they all the time rectfy the imbalance as a sign for us to see and learn that we can find the sustainable balance if we make an effort. The sculptures will be displayed in Norway, Sweden and Denmark as part of the Nordic project.

The project has planned in cooperation with Jens Galschiøt that the sculptures will be displayed many places throughout the world. The vision is that 10 sculptures will be displayed, one for each of the 7 values and 3 goals. The places for the display are planned to be Europe, Greenland, North America, South America. Africa, India, China, Sibiria, Japan and Australia.



*Sustainable developmenet  
is dealing with an inviron-  
mental, economical and  
social fair future, your  
future, our future and  
their future.*

*Make your mind up and  
act, be a part of the  
development. If you don't  
– you will be a part of the  
development anyway!*