



environment
and school
initiatives

THE ENSI ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Imprint:**ENSI Secretariat**

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1. STAFF AND MEMBERS 2008

Executives

Willy Sleurs, President (since April 2008), National Coordinator, Belgium, Flemish Community

Günther Pfaffenwimmer, National Coordinator, Austria, former President (until 03/ 2008)

Christine Affolter, National Coordinator, Switzerland, Vice-president and Secretariat

Reiner Mathar, National Coordinator, Germany, Treasurer

Cam Mackenzie, Systems Representative, Project Leader Asia-Pacific, Australia

Johannes Tschapka, Austria, Project Leader of 'Engage Youth in ESD' and 'Engaging Research in ESD'

Michela Mayer, National Coordinator, Project Leader QCESD and Engaging Research, Italy

Astrid Sandas, National Coordinator, Project Leader SUPPORT, Norway

Faye Bendict, Project Leader SUPPORT, Norway

Attila Varga, National Coordinator and Project Leader CASALEN, Hungary

National Representatives

Diana Garasic, National Coordinator, Croatia

Gregor Mohorcic, National Coordinator, Croatia

Soren Breiting, National Coordinator, Denmark

Finn Mogensen, National Coordinator, Denmark

Lea Houtsonen, National Coordinator, Finland

Michel Ricard, National Coordinator, France

Martin Whyte, National Coordinator, Ireland

Claude Schock, National Coordinator, Luxembourg

Majda Naji, National Coordinator, Slovenia

Representatives of Associated members

Prithi Nambiar, CEE India

ENSI's friends and main partners

John Elliott, United Kingdom

Mariona Espinet, Spain

Paul Hart, Canada

Regula Kyburz-Graber, Switzerland

Sun Kyung Lee, Korea

Peter Posch, Austria

Charles Hopkins, Canada

Daniella Tilbury, United Kingdom

2. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 OECD/CERI:

ENSI is a decentralised international network set up in 1986 under the umbrella of OECD's Centre for Educational Research & Innovation (CERI). The official umbrella function of OECD ended in December 2004. Since 2005 OECD refers to ENSI in its official reports on Sustainable Development and Education for Sustainable Development activities. Günther Pfaffenwimmer, representing ENSI, was invited to take part in the OECD Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development, Paris (France), September 11-12, 2008, to give an input to session 3, titled, "Promoting Sustainable Schools." This session reviewed the elements of sustainable schools which promote student learning and practical experiences for improving the sustainability of the overall school environment. Information about the workshop is available on the OECD website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_37425_40771408_1_1_1_1,00.html

2.2 UNESCO

On UNESCO Bangkok's recommendation and by official letter from Director General Matsuura, ENSI has been engaged in an institutional partnership with UNESCO in the UN Decade for ESD since 2004. ENSI continues to enjoy a very good working relationship with UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, which involves regular correspondence.

2.3 UNECE

ENSI country coordinators were involved in the development of the UNECE strategy for ESD. In December 2005 ENSI was invited to be one of three observers in the then newly-created UNECE bureau of the ESD steering committee, which supports the UNECE ESD secretariat in Geneva in implementing the UNECE strategy and meets there on a regular basis. Günther Pfaffenwimmer continued to represent ENSI in UNECE as an observer in all their meetings during 2008 (see also the UNECE web site <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Bureau.htm>).

2.4 UNEP

Carpathian convention: ENSI has cooperated with the UNEP–Carpathian convention since 2004 on education. ENSI Hungary organised an ESD expert meeting and developed the cooperation project CaSaLeN (Carpathian Sustainable Learning Network) in the autumn of 2007. For further information concerning the CaSaLen project see page 12.

2.5 EUROPEAN UNION

ENSI's (former) president, Günther Pfaffenwimmer reported from the European Conference on Local Energy Action, Brussels, in January 30, 2008, in a workshop titled "Energy Education—bringing energy awareness to schools." As the representative of a national education authority, keynote speaker Günther Franz Pfaffenwimmer introduced the participants to the challenges of integrating intelligent energy concerns in national curricula. In his capacity as president of the ENSI network he also reflected on trends and guidelines for future-oriented teacher education.

2.6 COUNCIL OF EUROPE

ENSI and the Council of Europe shared two projects,

“Engaging Research in ESD” – ENSI’s first College of Junior Researchers on Education for Sustainable Development (Project leaders Michela Mayer, Johannes Tschapka)

Please see the project report (chapter 4.4) on page 12f.

Publication project (2008): “Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development- Learning and teaching Sustainable Development in Lower Secondary Schools” (Editors: Michela Mayer, Johannes Tschapka). Please see the project report (chapter 4.6) on page 14.

3. ENSI GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

A brief overview of the ENSI AGM (Vienna, March 10-12, 2008) and Executive Meeting (Bern, September 2008)

Key results from these two meetings:

- Elections 2008: Günther Pfaffenwimmer decided to resign from the ENSI presidency due to work overload. The ENSI international network expressed its deep gratitude for his dedicated engagement for ENSI and is very glad to have Günther’s continued involvement in ENSI as an ambassador and as country coordinator for Austria. Thank you again, Günther!
- Willy Sleurs from Belgium was elected as ENSI president with acclamation. Welcome to Willy and thank you for sharing with the executive committee the load of responsibility and work for ENSI in a fast-paced time.
- Reiner Mathar (treasurer) and Christine Affolter (Vice president) were re-elected with acclamation.
- Switzerland decided to invest a substantial amount in the development and implementation of ESD and will promote a strong relation with ENSI by officially paying a contribution to the vice-presidency and secretariat of ENSI (30 % work time).
- Due to organisational developments, SLO/ Stichting Leeplanontwikkeling, Netherlands — ENSI’s partner organisation in the Netherlands — let go of its ENSI membership in 2008. ENSI is looking for a new partner in the Netherlands.
- Korea: The official meeting of ENSI with the Korean Government had to be postponed for a variety of reasons. The official visit is now being planned for the year 2009.
- Based on the agreement that ENSI has become an international non-profit organisation, recognised under Belgian Law, Willy Sleurs organised the process in Brussels. The statutes of ENSI were revised to accommodate Belgian legal requirements. The new regulations will come into effect in the spring of 2009. The new constitution is published on the homepage of ENSI (ensi.org/about_ensi/constitution).
- The ENSI membership fee for 2007 and 2008 is 4000 Euro; the fee for new membership status as an “Associate Member” was decided upon at the AGM and is 800 Euro. The conditions and possibilities for the “Fellows of ENSI” as invited individuals were discussed at the AGM. Syd

Smith and Mervi Aineslahti were asked to formulate a proposal for this new group of members. The draft was discussed at the EXECOM in Berne, and will be discussed and adopted at the AGM in Brussels, March 23-25, 2009).

- Homepage www.ensi.org: The ENSI Executive Committee decided to develop keywords and to install a search machine to facilitate the approach to ENSI's publication. The project leader is Reiner Mathar.
- Interactive Homepage of ENSI: The EXECOM decided to cooperate with InWent / Germany to develop an interactive web-based discussion forum. The result will be presented at the AGM 2009. Project leader is Reiner Mathar.

4. ENSI PROJECT REPORTS

4.1 ENSI Goes Public:

Conference internationale de Bordeaux (October 27-29, 2008)

ENSI was invited by Michel Ricard, head of the French Committee of the UN Decade for ESD, organiser of the International Conference in Bordeaux 2008, and ENSI country coordinator for France, to participate at the Bordeaux Conference to offer session 1, titled: ENSI "Progress and possibilities for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) in EU-member states." The session included an introductory panel with Elisabeth Bittner (European Commission-DG Education), Andreas Karamanos (Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development), Roel van Raaji (Chair of the Expert Group on Indicators for the UNES Strategy for ESD) and Daniella Tilbury (Chair of the UN's Global Monitoring and Evaluation Expert's Group), who presented the state-of-the-art global monitoring process of the UN-Decade on ESD. Following the panel ENSI offered four workshops on the following subjects:

- Whole institutional approach to ESD and the role of school in the society (M.Mayer and E. Flogaitis)
- Systemic approach to curriculum changes in educational institutions (M.Clary, G. Turchany)
- Professional Educational Competencies in ESD (R. Steiner, M. Junyent)
- Informal and social learning: The challenge of the Decade to the Educational System (I. Mulà Pons de Vall, R. van Raaji)

Workshops and the introductory presentations were met with high interest by the participants. The workshop report from Daniella Tilbury and Ingrid Mulà Pons de Vall is available at www.ensi.org (in English and French). A list of recommendations, which were developed and discussed during the session will be presented at the UNESCO World Conference in Bonn, March 31-April 2, 2009.

Conference in Leuven 'Creating Learning Environments for the Future – Sharing Knowledge on Research and Practice' (March 26-28, 2009)

ENSI put out an invitation to a conference in KH Leuven, Belgium, with the goal of showcasing the networking activities of the last few years. Conference preparations were scheduled to begin in

October 2008. Responsible for organising the conference are Willy Sleurs, Christine Affolter, Michela Mayer, and Reiner Mathar.

ENSI Mailing: Four ENSI mailings have been sent out. ENSI reaches about 1200 addresses (readers) from all over the world. All mailings are on the ENSI website, see www.ensi.org.

4.2 Quality Criteria and ESD conceptualisation project (QCESD) in 2008

This project is focused on monitoring the dissemination of the QC booklet, which includes the ways this dissemination is going on; training courses, follow-up survey, and further translations, together with bringing attention to the debate and the initiatives related to the booklet's proposals and use of Quality Criteria and Quality Indicators in ESD.

Annual report on the development of the project in 2008:

The dissemination of the booklet has continued during 2008. In December 2007 the Catalan book was published (F. Mogensen, M. Mayer, S. Breiting, A. Varga, *Educació per el desenvolupament sostenible*, Editorial GRAO', Barcelona, 2007), and it was presented by Michela Mayer at a meeting organised by the Catalonian Society for EE, which supported the publication, in Barcelona on April 1, 2008, as well as to 400 teachers belonging to the Green Schools of Catalonian community the following day after. The Slovenian book containing the QC booklet in Slovenian has also been published, and the Portuguese version is ready to be published in a Portuguese book. The Russian translation is ready and the Greece translation is well on its way.

During 2008, an Internet-based survey on the QC booklet was prepared and distributed in 12 different countries / languages. The survey was formulated in the respective national languages (English, Norwegian, French, Slovenian, Belgian, Portuguese, Catalan, Italian, Danish, German, Hungarian, Netherlands, Finnish) with the help of the national ENSI coordinator and ENSI friends. The respondents for the survey include teachers, headmasters, and educational officials who are active in communities, at the regional or governmental level. The purpose of the survey, which includes qualitative as well as quantitative items, is to explore the potentials and the constraints that relevant stakeholders in the countries may have experienced in working with the QC booklet. Thus the respondents are asked, among other questions, to give their opinions on the relevance of the booklet and the ideas presented in it, how they have used it, and suggestions for improvements. Finn Mogensen (UC Vest, Denmark) from the QCESD research group is preparing and distributing the survey, and will complete the follow-up and analysis on the responses before the summer of 2009.

In December 2008 a QCESD group meeting was held in Louvain, Belgium, with seven participants, who discussed the survey, group participation at the ENSI Conference and possible follow up for 2009. The minutes of the meeting are available at the ENSI secretariat. From the experiences shared at the meeting and the evidence collected through the survey it is possible to conclude that:

- § the booklet has been highly appreciated by a variety of stakeholders and different countries as a tool to facilitate deeper discussion on ESD;

- § it has been used in research projects about ESD and eco-schools' quality systems;
- § the booklet could be used as an 'organiser', a road map to ESD, flexible enough to allow different processes and procedures;
- § it will be useful to continue collecting examples of possible uses for the booklet in a variety of conditions and circumstance that are strongly related to ESD (present examples refer more to EE);
- § and a possible future product for the QCESD group could be 'guidelines' for the use of the QC booklet, one proposition being a collection of that reflect different countries and their needs.

Planned development and activities in 2009

The group will present a keynote at the upcoming ENSI Conference in the format of a debate between Michela Mayer and Paul Vare from UK, and will also coordinate two workshops (one will be coordinated by Mariona Espinet and one by Soren Breiting). Several presentations are already planned, and we hope that the reports from the will provide valuable insights and hints for future publications.

The group will continue promoting the translation and use of the QC booklet throughout 2009, as well as recognizing and disseminating research projects about the use of QC for ESD.

The main products planned by the group for the 2009 are:

- An article on the QC process, including the latest survey results
- A proposal for a book on 'Guidelines for the use of QC in the Sustainable Education Process'
- All the presenters in Louvain and the members of the QCESD group will be invited to submit contributions to the book

Requested budget

The budget needs are mainly for the two planned publications: a review of the English version of the article on the QC booklet (review of a 20-page English article), as well as a review and editing of the English booklet. A detailed book budget plan will be sent after the Louvain Conference.

Annexes available: QCESD meeting minutes plus PPT and the survey descriptive analysis presented at the meeting.

Website links and references: www.ensi.org (QCESD project)

Email contact: michela.mayer@libero.it

4.3 "CARpathian SustAinable LEarning Network" (CASALEN)

The Carpathian Sustainable Learning Network, CASALEN, has been launched in the autumn of 2007 as an informal learning network. The aim of the network is to facilitate social and economic change towards sustainable development in society through shared learning in the Carpathian area.

Casalen Homepage

Through a generous offer of the Polish National Unesco committee, the website of CASALEN is now available at www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen. The website presents the principals, the background and the results of the network's meetings. An ESD contact list on the website includes national DESD committee members, researchers, NGOs, and officials helping networking in the region. The practical ESD work in the region is helped by ESD Resources in Carpathian which consist of a collection of list links to pedagogical support materials useful for the Carpathian region. CASALEN is open to everyone who shares its purposes, therefore, every suggestion to expand either the ESD contact list or ESD resource list are welcome at: attila.varga@ofi.hu

Development of the Carpathian Mountain ESD Training Tool Kit

ENSI, in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the support of the international corporate social responsibility initiative OMV Move & Help, will develop a draft Carpathian Mountain ESD Training Tool Kit by May 2009. The concept of the toolkit was adopted at the second planning workshop for supporting environmental education network development and educator training in the framework of the Carpathian Convention in Trencin, Slovakia January 28-30, 2009.

The main aims of the Toolkit are:

- To provide a gate to the existing ESD materials and activities
- To encourage teachers to look for connections and resources, such as natural parks and protected areas
- To encourage teachers to use the existing resources and look forward to the Carpathian Sustainable Mountain Development
- To encourage critical thinking and active participation in the communities
- To facilitate interaction and experiential exchange between the mountain communities within each country, as well as at a regional level
- To collect local information on existing natural and cultural resources and sustainable development challenges, in order to provide local input to the natural and cultural resource inventories, and to form recommendations for national governments and international developmental efforts.

The whole concept of the toolkit is available in the Annex.

Training tour in Romania

In order to collect feedback and local input on the draft toolkit, a training tour in Romania will be organised with the help of the Ministry of Education Research and Youth of Romania. The tour was planned at a planning workshop in Poiana Brasov, Romania, November 7-8, 2008.

The training programme is aimed at:

- mainstreaming and including protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains in the curriculum of the Carpathian schools;
- distributing to the schools the teaching materials based on the Carpathian environment, and

- training a number of teachers from the rural mountainous areas to apply an interactive approach to education for sustainable development in the classroom.

The training will also aim at connecting the teachers' training with the protected areas, and some of the activities will be carried out by involving the protected areas in the curriculum, by involving the protected area personnel into the training sessions, and by developing training and teaching materials that will focus on interactive teaching and using the natural space and protected areas as a classroom/teaching tool. The initial stage of the project is an interactive teacher training tour, which will take place in Romania, following advice from the Romanian stakeholders and consultations with the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania. The project will result in the Carpathian toolkit that will be available for adaptation to other Carpathian nations.

Website links or references: <http://www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen/>

Email contact varga.attila@ofi.hu

4.4 “Engaging Research on ESD”

ENSI received an award grant from the Council of Europe for promoting an international seminar on research initiatives dedicated to junior researchers in the field of ESD. The overall goal was to pool the expertise of research newcomers and to develop a small researcher's network under the umbrella of ENSI. The seminar, an ENSI project, was successful, and a next step is now to build a permanent link between the ENSI network and junior researchers involved in master or PhD theses. This has been proposed to the EXECOM in September 2008 and will be discussed at the March 2009 AGM.

Report on the Seminar held in September 22-25, 2008, in Berne, Switzerland:

The seminar was hosted by the seminar and culture house “Möschberg” in Grosshöchstetten, Switzerland. It was organised by Johannes Tschapka (A), and lectured by Christine Affolter (CH), Michela Mayer (I), and Johannes Tschapka (A). The seminar was jointly funded by the Council of Europe and ENSI. The teachers' college PH Bern supported the seminar organisation and hosted an evening lecture and a buffet.

The 19 participants came from Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. All of them were actually involved in PhD or in MT activities in ESD or in SD.

Educational Research in ESD was presented as ‘a tool for change,’ and the seminar was organised as an Action Research process. The main research questions the working group tried to answer were related to the research priorities asked by ESD and to the added values of intercultural exchanges. The working groups were very alive and engaged, encompassing language problems and cultural differences, and at the end many of the participants expressed a willingness to continue this international exchange with and through ENSI.

A communication platform has been set up on the Global Campus 21 platform: <http://gc21.inwent.org/> where several of the presentations, ideas for debates, annotated bibliography and group work notes have been appended.

The seminar has already had some follow up:

- § The Australian participant Mike Duggan has proposed the evaluation of ENSI as the focus of his PhD. He is now working on gathering documentation.
- § Ten of the participants will also participate in the ENSI Leuven Conference in a number of roles, as workshop leaders or workshop reporters (with full or partial grants from ENSI).

Planned development and activities for 2009

In 2009 the proposal is to increase the number of participants from other countries and to organise another research-focused seminar in the autumn of 2009. The platform needs to be improved and animated. One first product will be the report of the Leuven Conference, to be prepared in collaboration between the 'junior researchers' participating at the conference and the conference reporter, Dr. Johannes Tschapka.

Website links or references: ENSI website / Inwent platform/Global Campus 21

Email contact: michela.mayer@libero.it and johannes.tschapka@bildung-z.ch;

4. 5 “EU-COMENIUS 3 Network project “Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow” SUPPORT”



The logo for the SUPPORT project features the word "Support" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a gradient from light blue to dark blue. Below the word, the tagline "Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow" is written in a smaller, dark blue font.

Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow



Education and Culture DG

Comenius Lifelong Learning Programme

The SUPPORT project has received funding from the EU Comenius Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. The responsibility for this information lies solely with the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. The EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of this information.

SUPPORT is an EU Comenius Lifelong Learning project running from 2008 to 2011. The project is affiliated with ENSI and involves 31 partners in 14 countries, plus about 15 member organisations in several other countries. The first one and a half year has now passed, and the project is established and running well and on schedule.

A start-up partner meeting was held in Shrewsbury in January 2008, kindly hosted by our partner FSCEE. It followed a thematic workshop, also organised by the FSCEE, and worked on clarifying how SUPPORT would develop an international school ESD campaign and use the internet to raise levels of communication, collaboration, partnership and participation in sustainable development issues.

An ARION seminar on ESD was held in Shrewsbury, and FORM-IT held a large conference in Vienna called “Bridging the gap between research and science education”. SUPPORT has also presented its work at ENSI meetings, at a teacher training event in Estonia, and at a Comenius contact seminar in Denmark. In September 2008, the Finnish Board of Education held a major thematic conference on “ICT supported education for sustainability and global responsibility” with about 140 participants. The presentations and workshops inspired many rich discussions. A short SUPPORT partner meeting followed, focusing on the upcoming ICT school campaign and the partners’ plans for promotion. 2008 ended with an inspiring Comenius contact seminar in Athens, Greece, held by our Greek partners. At this seminar 49 teachers worked with the ideas of partnership and participation for ESD, and created ideas and proposals for eight new Comenius school partnerships. We hope that several of these will be funded, giving additional experiences and examples of how partnership and participation can change educational practice.

One of the outcomes of the SUPPORT project will be a book on school collaboration, and the two editors, Attila Varga and Katalin Czippan, have been collecting case studies for this book.

The project’s ICT group has worked hard, together with the other SUPPORT partners, to prepare the school ESD campaign on climate and transport, called “CO₂nnect – CO₂ on the way to school”. CO₂nnect will be SUPPORT’s main activity in 2009. But there is more! Other events in 2009 include a 3-day partner meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, in June; a thematic workshop titled “Biodiversity in ESD: reflection on school-research cooperation” to be organised by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ; a study visit called “Conscious citizens-sustainable communities” to be held by the Hungarian Society for Environmental Education in September; and a large thematic conference plus partner meeting, to be organised by Codename Future in the Netherlands in November.

Astrid Sandås, Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, head of SUPPORT

Faye Benedict and Åsa Renman, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, project coordinators

Website links or references: www.support-edu.org , www.co2nnect.org

LLL Study visit in Austria:

As part of the SUPPORT activities, Günther Pfaffenwimmer, together with Austrian colleagues from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research, and the Austrian Ecology Institute organised an EU Life Long Learning Study Visit with the title, “Bridging the gap between research and science education” in Vienna, October 20-24, 2008 with participants from ten countries.

4.6 Publication project (2007): “Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development”:

ENSI was charged by the Council of Europe, Directorate of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage, to elaborate ESD examples and educational concepts. Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development is a collection of good practices in relation to learning about Sustainable Development in lower secondary schools. They address the needs of 10 to 14 year-old citizens in understanding their role and opportunity in contributing toward a sustainable tomorrow. The publication was presented at the ENSI AGM 2008 in Vienna, Austria, in English. It was very successfully distributed at all ENSI-related events in 2008, and will be reprinted in English and French in the spring of 2009.

4.7 Preparation of three applications in the following EU-programmes:

By order of ENSI, the former Dutch representative, Ton Remmers, negotiated within the framework of the EU Lifelong Learning Program ENSI the preparation of three applications with possible partners:

1. Jean Monnet: European associations active at the European level in the field of education and training
2. Leonardo da Vinci: A partnership project on Vocational Education and Training (VET)
3. Leonardo da Vinci: A thematic Network with two related European networks: ENTER and EUROPEA.

Ad 1

A critical condition for eligibility is that associations should be located and have a legal status for more than two years (on September 15, 2007) in one of the eligible countries. ENSI does not yet meet this condition. A next call for proposals for a framework partnership agreement will be launched in 2010 for the three-year period 2011-2013.

Ad 2

Applications like these should be submitted by a school, under the umbrella of ENSI. Starting with the Dutch network *Sustainable Vocational Education* there were seven meetings on this issue with representatives from four VET-schools. With one of these schools as the formal coordinating school, ENSI partners were to be invited to the network and the project.

In the end, these meetings did not lead to proposals because the top management of all schools did not give any priority to EU applications on sustainability. Therefore, ENSI was not able to start a European network on sustainable VET during this project period. However, the negotiations have not yet failed. There is interest in starting a project on sustainable VET. There are also indications that a well-organised preparation process in 2009 will lead to a network and proposals for the next application period in 2010.

Ad 3

More recently we tried to start a thematic network with two European networks that are also active in the field of sustainable education: EUROPEA and ENTER. EUROPEA-International is an asso-

ciation of 15 national organisations that connects about 600 agricultural educational institutions throughout Europe, see also www.europea.org. ENTER is a network of institutions and organisations that develop their scientific and pedagogical cooperation in initial and in-service teacher training and teaching in the fields of agricultural, forestry, environment, green systems and rural development, see also www.enfa.fr/enter. The projects of each of these networks as well as their respective results have issues in common, such as teaching methods, new education, teacher training, sustainability, environment, and learning surroundings. All these results, however, are not yet linked to each other. The network between ENSI, ENTER and Europea will learn from each other's visions, experiences and results. By bringing these together, the final outcomes of these former projects will be enriched, stimulated and strengthened and this will optimise the final dissemination process. Foreseen working methods are: Conferences, workshops, training sessions, and research projects. Negotiations are still in process, and it is not yet clear that these contacts will lead to a successful proposal within the timeline expected by the EU Lifelong Learning Program.

Conclusion:

ENSI is investing a lot of effort and time in elevating its network to the international level. It may, however, take another year for these efforts to bear fruit.

4.8 ESD4EU- Project proposal

Project proposal: Education for Sustainable Development for Europe

ENSI was invited to take part as a scientific partner in the application ESD4EU, under the EU programme eContentplus. eContentplus programme is a "multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable."

ESD4EU is a proposal for a "Targeted project for educational content" within the framework of eContentplus that:

- facilitates co-existence, use, reuse and exchange of existing educational content in real contexts of use, and
- makes it easier for users to find and use existing digital educational content.

ESD4EU will be carried out by a consortium of 13 project partners from 7 European countries: Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Romania, United Kingdom and Belgium. It is based on high quality educational content, provided by the leading education experts, for example, UNESCO, WWF, Umweltbildung.at and Zeitbild. ESD4EU is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Microsoft Deutschland. Target of the project is to establish a cross-national and cross-lingual specialised search-engine that:

- accesses pedagogical material on ESD in the involved countries
- browses text files and even videos by keywords in various languages
- translates search results automatically in the query's language

A multilingual internet user platform will be established to:

- further improve the search engine and the display technology
- collect and evaluate user generated content
- encourage cross-boarder collaboration of users

Important notice:

The platform will not compete with existing platforms on ESD! And the user interface should be integrated in existing platforms.

Decision concerning the proposal **ESD4EU** (06.03.09):

The project proposal was not accepted, due to 'missing European perspectives' (Mail from the author of the proposal, Dr. F. Richter, Zeitbild Verlag, Germany).

4.9 “Competences for ESD teachers” (CSCT) – A framework to integrate in the curriculum of teacher training institutes

Comenius 2.1 Project 118277-CP-1-2004-BE-Comenius-C2.1

The Flemish publication 'Duurzame ontwikkeling' – Hoe intereren in onderwijs' (W. Sleurs, V. De Smet, V. Gaeremynck; Antwerpen, De boeck, 2008) contains the most interesting outputs of the project, supplemented by developments about ESD which are relevant for primary, secondary and teacher education. ENSI takes a prominent place in the book. The CSCT-model was presented at the UNECE-meeting in Paris, France in September 2008 by Barbara Gugerli-Dolder, Switzerland, who is a member of the project group.

5. NEW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

National ENSI-Homepages

Austria launched a national ENSI homepage, which collects and shows all ENSI information within the country. Switzerland and Finland will also build a national ENSI website in 2008. The main topic is to make ENSI's work visible and to give information in the respective national context and language. Feedback on the Austrian homepage has been very positive. An ENSI homepage is under construction in Finland and is planned in Switzerland.

6. ENSI NETWORK ACTIVITIES

6.1 Follow up of EU COMENIUS 3 Network project “School Development Through Environmental Education“ (SEED)

- Publication of Quality Criteria in 17 languages (Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, French, Dutch, German, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Slovenian, Romanian, Croatian, Catalan, English, and Russian (currently being translated), and dissemination throughout Europe.
- Publication of Action Research Tool Box (2007) was presented at the AGM 2008, March 10 in Vienna, Austria. The publication came in use at the SUPPORT Contact Seminar in Athens, Greece in November 2008.

SEED publications were also provided to the Romanian Ministry for Education and Science, to Malmö University, Harriet Axelsson, as well as to EU DG Education and Culture and EU DG Transport and Energy. All SEED and CoE publications were also presented and distributed at an international conference in Bordeaux, October 23-25, 2008.

6.2 International Conference on ESD in Bordeaux, France (October 23-25; 2008)

Session 1: ENSI 'Progress and possibilities for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) in EU-member states'. The workshop report by Daniella Tilbury and Ingrid Mulà Pons de Vall is available at www.ensi.org/publications.

6.3 EU-Specific Support Project "Form-it – Take Part in Research" Conference

The two ENSI-experts Regula Kyburz-Graber and Michela Mayer are very involved in this project. The future position of the European Research Area obviously depends on the successful development of excellence. The key competencies needed today are self-motivated and self-directed learning strategies, teamwork and communication skills, and above all, the ability to differentiate, select, apply and replace information from the immense and daily growing global knowledge base. The development of excellence in science holds a very central function for successfully positioning Europe in international research activities and for ensuring economic progress and wealth.

A "Form-it – Take part in Research" conference was held in Vienna, Austria, March 12 - 15, 2008. Günther Pfaffenwimmer supported the organisation of the conference and took part together with the ENSI Experts Michela Mayer and Regula Kyburz-Graber, who had leading roles as key notes speakers and work shop leaders. For details please see: <http://www.form-it.eu/news.htm>

6.4 Korea

ENSI and Korea have been sharing a very fruitful collaboration since 2003. Invited by Michela Mayer, Sun-Kyung Lee has also been taking part in the ENSI AGMs, and she is also a member of the EU COMENIUS 3 Network project "School Development through Environmental Education" SEED. In May 2007 the Korean Ministry of Environment invited ENSI's President and Vice-president to visit Korea. Due to a number of unfortunate developments, however, the visit to Korea had to be postponed to 2009.

6.5 Slovenia

Slovenia has become a full member of ENSI in 2008. Welcome Slovenia and welcome Mrs. Majda Naji, Slovenija ENSI Country Coordinator!

7. ENSI'S OUTREACH TO ASIA-PACIFIC

As a result of ENSI's visit to and discussion in Australia and its participation in the Bangkok Conference, several new developments have taken place:

- The Sains University, Malaysia, became a member of SUPPORT, and professors Sharifah Norhaidah Syed Idros and Rohizani Yaakub from Malaysia took part in the first SUPPORT workshop in Shrewsbury/UK, January 2008.
- ENSI and CEE India discussed their collaboration (and a future membership as the first associated member of ENSI). CEE offers the possibility of becoming the information hub for ENSI and facilitating communications for interested partners in Asia.
- ENSI and SEED publications were provided to all interested friends of ENSI in Asia.
- The regular ENSI mailings reach more than 100 addressees in the Asian Pacific Region.

8. ENSI RELATED PUBLICATIONS

A dissertation, which is also related to ENSI's work, was delivered in 2008:

Mervi Aineslahti, Finland: A journey in the landscape of a sustainable school development (see www.ensi.org/publications : Matka koulun kestäväen kehittämisen maisemassa).

ENSI congratulates the new doctor of philosophy and looks forward to collaboration in the fields of EE and ESD. The dissertation can be viewed at www.ensi.org.

9. ENSI Country Coordinators and Associated members 2009

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