



## **ENSI Project: Learning environments Terms of Reference**

**Project Title: Learning Environments**

**Acronym: LEARN**

**Project Team: open**

**Link person to the ENSI secretariat and executive: Christine Affolter (ad interim)**

### **Project Description:**

#### **1.Context / Justification :**

Learning environment is a logical development of ENSI's former project 'Learnsapes'. The focus of the project will lay on the research of effects of a wide range of learning environments which include 'personal learning environments' (ICT), emotional approaches (for example with drama and arts), learnsapes (ecologically shaped school grounds for personal experienced learning), learning in different social environments, in a multiple culture learning society (social learning) and global learning. The quality criteria for successful learning environments are topic in the ENSI project 'Conceptualisation of Quality Criteria'. In the focus of the project 'Learning Environments' will be the research on the influence of the different 'learning environments' on successful learning. The analyses of effects, success factors, challenges and obstacles are in the centre of the research.

Definitions of ENSI's goals, which are relevant for the project (and the definition of social learning) are incorporated in appendix I.

#### **2. General Objectives:**

Exploring the concepts of learning environment on their cultural background (means: in the participating countries) Analyses of effects on the concept of learning for a more sustainable society, identification of success factors, description, on the basis of a set of quality criteria, of effective learning environments.

#### **3. Strategies:**

- a) Build up a project team on 'Learning Environments'
- b) Develop a project plan

- c) Collect case studies on the basis of a common framework and develop a comparative study describing different concepts and scenarios of learning environments.
- d) Identify relevant factors for promising learning environments in the light of education of sustainable development
- e) Synthesize a set of quality criteria for supporting adequate learning environments

**4. Actions for 2009:**

- Build up an expert group for the project
- Design of a project plan for a 4 years term: Definition of goals, planning of actions, implementation of actions, evaluation and reflection of results and processes, define budget for 2010, explore financial resources, partners and project frames
- Presentation of the project plan at the EXECOM in October 2009

**5. Outputs/ Results:**

- Gathering a project group under the co-leadership of an experienced ENSI member and a junior researcher
- 2 meetings of the working group before ENSI Execom October 9. /10. 2009.
- At the Execom: Presentation of the project description and activity plan (start of project work: winter 2009/2010)

**6. Contributions from the project partners:**

Working time

**APPENDIX I**

**Goals of ENSI, related to 'Learning Environments:**

ENSI supports educational developments that promote environmental understanding, active approaches to teaching and learning, and citizenship education, through research and the exchange of experiences internationally.

ENSI's main areas of work in the field of environmental school initiatives include:

- initiating, co-ordinating and supporting research and school development activities;
- Publishing and disseminating these activities.
- promoting international exchange, understanding and co-operation, including co-operating with other international organisations and programmes;
- Making policy recommendations and/or statements as appropriate.

*Under the above main areas of work, ENSI undertakes activities such as:*

- developing and sharing research and school development strategies and tools;
- organising international workshops, seminars and conferences;
- Disseminating approved experiences and researched programmes.