

Mailing **enSI** Issue 52: 05.05.2010

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1. ESD-conference in Bergen, Norway, had to be rescheduled to August due to the flight stop caused by the volcanic ash

The SUPPORT conference, which should have taken place 19-23 April, had to be rescheduled as the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland stopped all the air traffic in northern Europe that very period. See the announcement below for the new dates.

Partnership and participation for a sustainable tomorrow: Continuing the UN Decade of ESD

Final conference of the EU Lifelong Learning Network SUPPORT

Aug 30th - Sep 1st, 2010
Bergen, Norway

The SUPPORT network, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and the City of Bergen welcome education policy makers, school authorities, teacher trainers, researchers, teachers and others working for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to the conference in Bergen, August 30th – September 1st, 2010.



This conference builds on the activities and themes of the 3-year Comenius Lifelong Learning network project "SUPPORT: Partnership and participation for a sustainable tomorrow." Preparatory readings will be made available on the SUPPORT website (<http://support-edu.org>) including e-publications of the results of SUPPORT. Conference participants will bring to the conference their experiences in implementing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Conference target group: Education policy makers and education authorities • Local policy makers and local authorities • School leaders/ head teachers/ principals/ managers of schools • School ESD partners • Teachers • Teacher trainers • Education researchers • Inspectors

The conference website is <http://support-edu.org/BergenConf>

Registration will open shortly!

Objectives

The ultimate objective of the SUPPORT project is to promote high quality ESD. Current issues and findings in ESD will be presented and discussed, thus building a shared understanding of the challenges of reorienting education policy, school development and teaching practice to develop competencies needed for sustainable development. Through group work and discussions, the conference participants will develop an agenda for action and priorities for the continuation of the UN Decade for ESD at levels ranging from the classroom to educational policy. Findings from the SUPPORT network will be presented with a view to dissemination and exploitation.

Methodology

Keynote inputs will provide current perspectives on the learning outcomes of ESD, methodologies for achieving these outcomes, and the challenge of developing effective educational policy and practice in ESD. Group work and poster sessions will provide opportunities for exchange of experience and discussion of factors facilitating or hindering the development of education systems to support high quality ESD.

2. ENSI AGM information directly to participants

Rescheduled ENSI AGM: 10./11. September, Belgium

Dear ENSI Country Coordinators, dear ENSI Associate members, dear friends

Normally we would have had the ENSI AGM last week back-to-back to the SUPPORT meeting in, Bergen, Norway. But due to unforeseen circumstances both the SUPPORT meeting and the AGM had to be cancelled.

We are trying now to find a new date to organize the ENSI Annual General Meeting 2010!

But first of all: ENSI became an International Non Profit Organisation and the new constitution of ENSI stipulates that the AGM of ENSI inpa has to be held in March! To achieve this, the ENSI Executive Committee did meet on March 16./17. in Leuven/Belgium and had an official 'ENSI inpa' AGM. The minutes from this meeting are available to all of you. Please let me know if you are interested in the minutes and the approved budget for 2010.

The official part of the AGM is fulfilled so far and ENSI as an organisation is not in stress at all.

But we think that it is important to meet in any case and to discuss the development of our work and the network. This is the reason why we are searching a date now.

The new date for the SUPPORT Conference in Bergen/Norway is August 30th – September 3rd. Unfortunately Willy Sleurs is absolutely not allowed to leave Belgium during that week, because he is responsible for the organisation of the entrance examinations to the university in exactly these days. Also some other members of ENSI are unable to take part at the Bergen Conference, due to professional duties.

A second opportunity might be the SUPPORT partner meeting in Belgium, which will be reorganised by the Norwegian project team as well (it would follow the Conference of Bergen within a week!). As far as we know today, the meeting is planned now as a 'Steering group Meeting' of SUPPORT in order to prepare the final report to the EU. We are aware that some of you belong to the Steering group and therefore will be in Belgium from September 7–10th.

In consequence to this planning we propose to meet:

In consequence to this planning we propose to meet:

In Belgium (same place as the Steering group meeting) from September 10th (lunchtime) to September 11th (early evening).

This planning is depending on the organization of the precedent SUPPORT Meeting. As soon as the SUPPORT Meeting will be confirmed, the ENSI secretariat will inform you with more details.

Please let us know, if you may be able to participate to this ENSI meeting.

For all of you who may not have the opportunity to travel to Belgium, I can organize and invite you to a side meeting at the Bergen Conference for discussing the ENSI developments, the project work and also the challenges we face in a time of financial cuts. Please let me know if you would appreciate this opportunity.

We are aware of the difficulties which we are facing for the ENSI AGM 2010. But we know also how busy autumn is for all of us and how difficult it will be to become travel allowances for two meetings. We try now to de-stress the situation and to offer to you the two mentioned possibilities. Please let us know what you think about it!

Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you either in Bergen and/or in Belgium.

With kind regards

Willy Sleurs and Christine Affolter

3. The ENSI Annual report gives a full picture of ENSIs activities in 2009.

ENSI proves each year again how effective a small but high level skilled network can contribute to EE and ESD. You will find the document ready for download under

www.ensi.org/About_ENSI/Constitution/Annual_report/

4. ENSI inpa honours its first Senior Advisor

Who may become an ENSI Senior Advisor?

The Senior Advisor for ENSI inpa comprises a person, who has been a long-term partner of ENSI, who has been a Country Coordinator, or who has been active in ENSI projects and events. Becoming a 'Senior Advisor of ENSI' is an honour; as well this title involves assuming some volunteer responsibilities such as taking on the role of a mentor or consultant.

Senior Advisors a important mental leaders for the network! They may contribute to ENSI:

- As a mentor to the Board by giving advice on ENSI's strategic planning, advising on selected ENSI projects, commenting on issues that arise in ENSI executive or board meetings, and proposing external experts who may provide help.
- As an ambassador for ENSI at international organisations, government initiatives and international conferences arranged within and outside of ENSI; as well to be market and promote ENSI within and outside their country. Also they may initiate new projects for the committee to consider.
- As a link to universities and research initiatives.
- By participating in current ENSI projects and taking an active part in projects approved by the ENSI Executive. A Senior Advisor may also participate in any other activities as determined by the ENSI Board.
- As a mentor for young researchers and the development of younger ENSI members.

ENSI inpa Senior Advisors are members of the network free of charge. They are included in ENSI communications and may participate in all ENSI organised events free of conference or other fees. They are warmly invited to attend the ENSI Executive Meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

With pleasure and pride ENSI presents the first Senior Advisors!



Mauri Ahlberg, Professor of Biology and Sustainability Education at the Department of Teacher Education of the University of Helsinki, Finland, has been the Finnish pedagogical adviser for ENSI for over a decade. A special and future leading impact for ENSI has been his commitment to introduce the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) when engaging with the complexity of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development and approaches of Collaborative Knowledge Building. **Mauri Ahlberg** has supported the ENSI "teacher-as-a researcher" movement as a way to monitor the quality of education for sustainable development. **Mauri**

Ahlberg has also directed many doctoral dissertations by ENSI school teachers.



Peter Posch, retired Professor from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, is the “godfather” of ENSI. He developed the ENSI-project and proposed it to the CERI governing board as Austrian representative in 1986.

Peter Posch also introduced Action Research as a main research and development feature in ENSI, stimulated and published a wide portfolio of research while being a sought-after lecturer, and initiated a strong collaboration among educational administrators, researchers, teacher educators and teachers in their respective fields. Especially following the new phase of ENSI as an independent global network, he has supported and promoted ENSI’ s development by offering highly appreciated advice as a true “critical friend”.



Syd Smith, former manager of the Environmental Education Unit (NSW Department of Education and Training), Sydney, Australia, joined ENSI in 1997 when Australia renewed and since then has dynamically evolved its membership in ENSI. **Syd Smith** initiated the “Learnsapes”-project in ENSI, which, under his guidance, emerged as one of the first and trendsetting research and development initiatives. As treasurer of ENSI, Syd Smith has helped develop ENSI’ s portfolio and organisational structure, and has established ENSI’ s outreach in the South Pacific area.

The ENSI Executive board would like to express its appreciation to you for engaging in our network as a Senior Advisor.

5. Project ‘Learning Environments’ started!

Report on the LEARN Meeting in Budapest, by Monika Reti

Ideas and plans for a new project were outlined at LEARN meeting on 26-27 March in Budapest. Hosted by the Hungarian Institute of Educational Research and Development, participants at this preliminary meeting were searching for possibilities to raise questions and make meaningful inquiries about future-leading learning environments.

After an insight to former projects and research conducted by participants concerning various aspects of learning environments and sustainability and a critical approach to international efforts made to describe innovative learning environments (with special emphasis on OECD ILE) a vivid discussion emerged about some general issues (mainly about sustainability and education and also the systemic processes within (public) education such as innovation, success criteria, change management, networking itself and knowledge governance) and specific areas (such as linking educational processes with nature and field education, using ICT and knowledge management tools). Despite the small number of participants there was a fruitful exchange of ideas and a progressive and promising planning phase.

Based on these discussions the focal points of the project emerged: by collecting existing good practices and exemplar cases for future-leading learning environments we are going to make inquiries about the innovation processes in education that could be empowered and supported by setting up learning networks.

We strongly hope that our inquiries about learning will contribute to establishing and empowering initiatives both on local and on systemic level that could lead to a successful and enjoyable form of learning for sustainability.

Main points of the meeting

Developing a future-leading base for teaching and learning ESD – in context of local and global dimensions.

Our base ought to include own digital platform (consisting of data, examples) for collaborative knowledge building and existing examples like Nature Gate should also be included (UN international year of biodiversity 2010 and learning sustainable use of local and global biodiversity). We should encourage the creativity of students as it is a future-leading force.

To achieve this:

- we should have a self-corrective attitude as real science is
- we should concentrate of being in harmony with nature
- we should challenge the definition and theory of sustainability (ESD)

Create a theoretical based open framework for supporting future-leading teaching and learning (inquiry based learning, collaborative knowledge, lifelong learning) with a value-based background

We will develop concept maps covering the theory of SD, ESD, LE and educational innovation and the connection about them, and then map cultural differences in approaches to global dimension of ESD based on these to aid analysing examples.

To achieve this:

- we include modern approaches including: (a) socio-cultural approach: collaborative knowledge building, continual testing, cumulative, self-corrective, self-reflective; (b) constructivism, socio-constructivism; (c) neuroscience findings and biological perspectives; (d) infrastructural, local and gender-related aspects; (e) individual expectations and means of parents and students
- identify indicators for the process
- theoretical base should use on-line form like wiki
- nominate our values

Searching and inquiring principles of pedagogical assessment suitable for examining already existing practices.

We should concentrate on multiple levels (students, teachers, schools, society, and mankind) and use web-based tools for that keeping in mind the flexibility of learning and teaching.

To achieve this:

- we promote piloting teachers' portfolios to learn more about the role of teachers' ESD competencies
- we use quality criteria for ESD
- we keep an eye on diversity of personal goals of children
- we search for innovative school assessment methods

School' quality includes also participating and collaborating in networks. LEARN creates an own digital network.

This network is aware of security concerns and ethical views, will be extended to stakeholders, companies from economics sectors and develop a close connection between public and higher education (with special regard on teacher training and educators). Networking is important on personal level too.

To achieve this:

- we establish a platform of our own
- we use web2 solutions force
- teach schools to use this digital network and create their own network (which becomes a quality indicator)
- evaluate the quality improvement of working with digital networks

Encouraging making inquiries about innovation and empowering them to establish permanent development towards sustainability, learning from other sectors in society.

To achieve this:

- provide guidelines for educational innovators (possibly portfolio for school level)

- promoting scientific way of thinking (including critical asking and dealing with open questions and testing everything, even assumptions)
- foster successful lessons, confident critics and self-confident individuals
- analyse exemplar cases of successful and sustainable school innovations supporting sustainability and make a comparative study to outline similarities with and differences from other sectors in society in the process of innovation

We invite researchers and various stakeholders to take part in our project: besides the core team we have already established a reference group that could serve as a reflective body to our findings and ideas and are eager to start networking with anyone interested in sharing practices, ideas and joining this promising adventure.

6. Call from the UNESCO MEEG chair, Daniella Tilbury: Literature review of authoritative literature on processes and learning for ESD

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Decade of Education for Sustainable Development - Processes and Learning for ESD

As the lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), UNESCO has commissioned a review of authoritative literature on processes and learning for ESD. This literature review will inform Phase II of the global monitoring and evaluation process for the DESD and will feature in the 2011 DESD global report which will focus on processes and learning for ESD.

The literature review will seek to:

- 1) clarify what processes should be promoted to facilitate learning through ESD; and,
- 2) identify learning opportunities in ESD that in turn promote and facilitate sustainable development.

The value of this literature review depends on access to scholarly work and empirical studies from across the globe. We also consider it important to ensure that culturally varied as well as appropriate responses to ESD are captured in the document.

We are asking for your assistance as ESD experts, key informants and/or practitioners. If you have access to key documents which can inform this literature review, we would be grateful if you could send them to daniella_cam@hotmail.com before 15th May 2010.

The final draft of the literature review is expected to be available online at the end of June.

We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Professor Daniella Tilbury

Chair, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Group (MEEG) for the UN DESD

email: daniella_cam@hotmail.com or dtilbury@glos.ac.uk

7. ENSI's Associate member: European Environment Agency (EEA)

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union. The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public. Currently, the EEA has 32 member countries.

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For more information please see: www.eea.europa.eu and ecoagents.eea.europa.eu

8. Publications and presentations:

- e) Learning to shape the future through education for sustainable development. An educational guide towards changes in primary school (Germany, Transfer 21)
Link: [Learning to escape the Future.pdf](#)
- f) Nature classroom, a presentation of Education for Sustainable Development from Slovenia
Link: [Nature classroom - Innovative learning environments.pdf](#)

9. Agenda

- a) UK ITE Network for Education Sustainable Development/Global Citizenship Third Annual Conference, Education of hope:
The impact of ESD and GC on the well being of teachers and young people 15. July 2010, London South Bank University
Link: [CCCI final programme.pdf](#)
[CCCI booking from July 15th 2010.pdf](#)
- b) Environment and Health, Zurich, 18. -21. August 2010
Link: [Environment Health Conference.pdf](#)
- c) Conference for ESD - in Ulaanbaatar! August 30st – September 03rd 2010

By Tomas Hertzman, former director of Ramboll Sweden

This mail is targeting both UN family and a potential support to the conference, and my network to challenge you to be present in the Conference!

Dear friends. I attach an advert for the Conference, which I have mentioned will take place here in "UB" at shift August- September 2010. At least I mentioned it to some of you!

But the news is that the Secretariat (see the mail of Bolortunga above in cc) is intensively engaged in the preparation and the first hesitating steps are taken and they are now rapidly and devoted marching towards what seems to be a very challenging and

inspiring meeting between traditions of Mongolia, new ESD approaches, advanced and consistent examples of Mongolian ESD-programme, substantial participation from (not least Sweden but also the rest of) the international ESD scene. Well! Will you be here?

My role is very much in the marginal! But still I want to pull my straw to the stack and try to mobilize the network. So I challenge you people!

Support the initiative in person!

See to that you are here! Presenting, listening and facilitating experience sharing!

Support the initiative in kind!

See to that you advert this Conference in your networks and fora! Make it known! Now!

Support the initiative in monetary terms!

Well we all know that arranging Conferences is not free of charge. So I suppose the Organizing Committee will be pleased!

Support the initiative by lending them some of your "statues"!

Your Logos should be on the programme, on the proceedings! Of course!

As I said- I am not the core in this. BUT I think that the initiative is worth all possible support. So I send you this and I invite you to connect to my friend at the Mongolian State University for Education- Mrs Bolortunga or Tunga as we say! Please connect to her about your possibilities for support.

And see you here at THE ESD event this year!

For you who wants to know more about this fascinating country- mail me! I will convince you to come here!

Best regards and thanks --

Tomas Hertzman

Senior Advisor

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Link: [Invitation to Conference in Ulan-Baataar.pdf](#)

- d) **Alara World Congress 2010: Participatory Action Research and Action Learning, Melbourne Australia, 6.- 8. September 2010**

Link: [Action Learning Action Research Association World Congress Early Bird Registration.pdf](#)