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Dear friends and colleagues,

With the ENSI AGM 2008 my time of being ENSI president came to a close. This was a function and role, which I was invited to hold since 2004. During this time period major changes took place: ENSI left the umbrella of OECD/CERI and became partner of a number of UN agencies: UNESCO, UNECE, and the UNEP-Carpathian convention.

With the close cooperation and collaboration amongst all ENSI members, our EU COMENIUS 3 net work project "School Development through Environmental Education" SEED achieved great results and shows promising potential for the future. In addition, with the special support of the Australian government, ENSI's outreach to Asia-Pacific made a major step forward. And finally we all contributed to the successful application of the EU-COMENIUS 3 Network project "Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow" SUPPORT, which, under Norwegian coordination reaches out into new networking dimensions and opportunities!

I am grateful to Willy Sleurs for being the new ENSI president, and I will continue my work in ENSI as the Austrian country coordinator, while also supporting the ENSI executive as needed.

With best regards,

Günther Franz Pfaffenwimmer

Dear ENSI friend,

When I was asked if I would be prepared to take over the presidency of ENSI from Dr. Günther Pfaffenwimmer, it was a difficult decision to make. Indeed, I realise that it will not be an easy task to replace Günther, as he is one of the founders of ENSI and, therefore, a living encyclopaedia and protector of the ENSI heritage.

Over the last few years ENSI has undergone some important changes. In the early days ENSI operated as an organisation under the (safe) wings of a prestigious organisation (OECD), but today we are attempting to move on as an independent international non-profit organisation.

In addition – and this is largely thanks to Günther – ENSI started a relationship with the European Union, which resulted in three ambitious European Socrates projects: SEED, CSCT and SUPPORT. Two of them have already been completed successfully. The outputs of both completed projects have already received world-wide recognition. Furthermore, it was also under Günther's presidency that ENSI established a strong connection with the UNECE and UNESCO in regards to the implementation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

I hope, during my presidency, to continue the relationship with UNECE, UNESCO, OECD, and possibly to expand our network with some new international organisations.

Nevertheless, the most challenging task of ENSI for the next coming years will be to keep member countries involved in the existing ENSI family and to continue looking for new member countries. After all, we all experience that policy documents are filled with concepts like globalisation, sustainable development, life-long learning and the responsibility of the educational sector concerning these issues. However, when it comes to real engagement for ESD, policymakers very often hesitate or refuse to take courageous decisions even for a small budgetary decision such as becoming a member country of ENSI. During the next coming years, it will be an important task for ENSI to convince countries and their policymakers that education plays an important role if we want to see sustainable development happen, and that ENSI can strongly contribute to this.

We must not forget what the core business of ENSI is: to support educational developments, an environmental understanding (in its broadest sense, including the social, economic and ecological aspects), and active approaches to teaching and learning through research and exchange of experiences and good practices.

The first event that fits in this view is the ambitious conference that will be organised next year, and which can be considered as a large-scale dissemination action of the

SEED and CSCT European projects, supplemented with the expertise that is already present within the ENSI family.

I start this term of presidency with the knowledge that ENSI exists within a tradition of being like a real family, where you don't stand alone to take on challenges or to solve problems. Don't be surprised, therefore, if I bother you with questions in the upcoming months!

I am glad I can count on an efficient secretariat under the direction of Christine Affolter, who also has been involved in the ENSI-network for a long time. I am sure we will all cooperate in the future in the same way as we have in the past: as members of a true learning organisation and of a warm "family".

Willy Sleurs

1. ENSI ANNUAL REPORT 2007

ENSI reports its networking activities in the areas of institutional partnerships, project work, new developments, outreach to Asia Pacific, and includes the most important addresses of networking partners.

You are kindly invited to download the Annual Report:

www.ensi.org/updates/news&mailings

2. ENSI AGM: Hot spots!

a) Elections

Günther Pfaffenwimmer (Au) resigned after four years of ENSI presidency. Günther was a highly engaged president, a great communicator, a good friend, a wise visionary and a man of the first ENSI generation. ENSI owes him much respect and thanks him very much for his work as president. Günther will stay involved in the network as the National Coordinator from Austria, so ENSI will have the chance to benefit from his extensive experience and all his expertise.

The new president of ENSI is Willy Sleurs from the Flemish Community, Belgium. He was elected with acclamation. Thank you, Willy, for taking over this demanding job! We all look forward to our cooperation.

b) Three new projects:

At the ENSI AGM the decision was made to develop the following three new projects:

- ***"Engaging Research on ESD"***

In 2006 ENSI was awarded a grant from the Council of Europe to fund a project that would promote junior researchers in the field of ESD. The grant is dedicated to an international seminar on research initiatives of individuals who undertake a Masters or PhD thesis, or any similar kind of survey.

The overall goal is to pool the expertise of research newcomers and to develop a small researcher's network under the umbrella of ENSI. The specific objective of the project is to harness the energy and enthusiasm of a new generation of researchers, who are committed to education for sustainable development, and to involve them in

ENSI in an active and meaningful way. This will revitalise and sustain the organisation to meet new challenges in linking ESD with democratic citizenship. For more information please contact the project leader:

johannes.tschapka@phbern.ch

- **“Carpathian SustAinable LEarning Network” (CASALEN)**

The Carpathian project was launched in the autumn of 2007 during a kick off meeting in Vác, Hungary. The participants agreed to establish a network for developing education for sustainability: the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN). The participants laid down the characteristics and main aims of CASALEN.

The main goal of CASALEN is to establish a support system in order to encourage cooperation in the Carpathian region within the existing financial frameworks (EU – LLL programme, Visegrad Fund). The core element of this support system could be a regular summer school that would provide in-service training for the multiplication of collected and structured materials, knowledge and know-how for ESD teachers.

The project’s next step is to plan a meeting in Trencin, Slovakia, in order to develop a concrete project proposal for the Visegrad Fund. Simultaneously the participants are in negotiation with UNEP about a project financed by an Austrian oil company, ÖMV, for developing a Carpathian Education for Sustainability toolkit and a series of workshop in the region.

For more information, please contact the project leader: attila.varga@ofi.hu

- **ENSI and Sustainable Vocational Education and Training (SVET)**

At the ENSI AGM the will and intention to reach out to the field of Vocational Education and Training was expressed.

In the Netherlands there exists an active network of Sustainable Vocational Education within the framework of the UN Decade that is preparing a Leonardo proposal on this issue and focuses on the following goals

- To develop multilingual online ESD courses for specific professional branches
- To develop and exchange implementation strategies and projects
- To organise an international conference on ESD / VET

Given the close relation between lower secondary education and lower level vocational education we may, under the ENSI umbrella, try to mix the processes and outcomes of such a new EU-project and the SUPPORT-project. Thus, this could be a twofold chance for ENSI to join in and contribute to the field of vocational education. Within the framework of the EU LLP it gives ENSI the opportunity to support and go for a transversal network.

Ton Remmers will support the development of the Dutch vocational network and has asked ENSI to join this initiative. For more information, please contact:

ton.remmers@home.nl

3. The SUPPORT CAMPAIGN: Carbon Footprint and traffic at school

In March 2009 the Support Network will run a worldwide campaign on carbon footprint and offer the possibility for schools – teacher, students and parents – to discuss the impact of traffic on climate change and the scope of action they can get engaged in to reduce their carbon footprint.

Beside using a carbon footprint calculator on carbon emissions on the way to and from school, the campaign will offer several other areas of action for schools:

- involving the local community
- getting in touch with local stakeholders in the areas of traffic and mobility
- getting in touch with experts in the field of carbon footprint

These are some of the fields of activities for schools, which are already in preparation.

The campaign launches in the spring of 2009. Please inform schools and partners of school in your country about this as soon as possible. Additionally we suggest and encourage side events in all countries, such as:

- Having a "go to school on foot day"
- Going for one day without a car
- Mobility in your bioregion

For more information, look at the support-website or contact the developing team:

Reiner.Mathar@afl.hessen.de

4. ENSI's HOMEPAGE is looking for a historian – can you contribute?

At the AGM in Vienna a decision was made to add a chapter to ENSI's new website, namely one that shows the development of the network from 1986 to present time. ENSI's history is not only a biography of the network, it is also a documentation of successful collaboration, of visions, challenges and developing expertise. ENSI is looking for partners, who are interested in contributing to the history of ENSI. If you have any memories and shared experiences with ENSI over the last 22 years, please don't hesitate to contact Günther Pfaffenwimmer, former president of ENSI: (E-mail: guenther.pfaffenwimmer@bmukk.gv.at)

5. REPORTS:

a) EUSEW (European Union Sustainable Energy Week) and the ManagEnergy Annual Conference

"Dear Mr Pfaffenwimmer,

I am writing to you in regards to the ManagEnergy Annual Conference 2008, which will take place in Brussels between Jan 28 - Feb 1, 200?. The Conference is part of EUSEW (EU Sustainable Energy Week). On Wednesday Jan 30, ManagEnergy will host an Energy Education Session called, "Bringing Energy Awareness to School". I heard from my colleague, Anders Berglind, that you were asked to participate as a keynote speaker last year, but that, due to short notice, this wasn't possible. I now wonder if you would like to be the keynote speaker of this year's session.

For ENSI, this would provide an opportunity to meet and discuss further cooperation with the EC, schools and regional energy agencies. ManagEnergy and DG TREN would be pleased to have you participate. "

Following this friendly invitation I travelled to Brussels. The education session included the keynote speech, an update on ManagEnergy KidsCorner and the presentation of winners in the 2007 competition, as well as presentations on a number of European and Intelligent Energy Education projects.

www.managenergy.net/conference/2008education.html)

The conference was interesting and fruitful. It showed a wide variety of European approaches to energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energies. This event also provided an opportunity for ENSI to meet and discuss with the EC representatives and regional energy agencies.

Especially positive was the exchange with the Managenergy representatives, who offered direct links to the SUPPORT web site as one of the next possible collaborative steps.

For details I recommend visiting the following links:

- www.managenergy.net, an initiative of the [European Commission Directorate-General for Energy and Transport](#),
- at www.eusew.eu you can see all the organisers and read the whole programme for the week,
- and at <http://www.managenergy.net/conference/2008.html> you will find information about the ManagEnergy Annual Conference 2008,
- and at <http://www.managenergy.net/conference/2008profiles.html> you are the "Speaker Profiles".

6. NETWORK MEMBERS PLACE: Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools – Enough for All forever

Dear Colleagues,

Well, this is my time to share my joy with respect to a very small, but hopefully significant document that was tabled in the Queensland parliament on March 12, 2008 by our Minister for Education, Training and the Arts. The development of the **Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools – Enough for All forever**, was one of the recommendations made by our Ministerial Advisory Committee on Educational Renewal (MACER) Reports – *Education for Sustainable Futures : Schooling in the Smart State* (Nov 2006).

After nearly two years of being in development, I am very pleased to say this document has been endorsed by the COEs of all three educational sectors: the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland, and the Director General of the Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

We now have an overarching document that will act as a Charter for schools as they develop their policies, programmes and processes to embed sustainability in all aspects of the schools' operations. The Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools aims at complementing the NEES and informing the Sustainable Schools process through the whole of school approach to environmental education for sustainability. I was also able to achieve another goal and that was to do it on one page!

I hope you can use this document to inform your own departments.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

With kind regards,
Cam Mackenzie

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7. 1 NEW PUBLICATION: 'Educatio per al desenvolupamentsostenible'



The **Catalan Society for Environmental Education** and **Graó** present the twelfth book in their series 'Monografies d'Educació Ambiental': ***Education for Sustainable Development: trends, divergences and quality criteria***, by Finn Mogensen, Michela Mayer, Soren Breiting and Attila Varga.

This book provides two important ENSI documents, written in the Catalan language for teachers and educators: *Quality criteria for ESD-Schools* and a part of the previous comparative study of Eco-school development processes in 13 countries, called: *Eco-schools: trends and divergences*.

The **Catalan Society for Environmental Education** was created in 1985 and brings together professionals and people interested in environmental education from different backgrounds and fields, who have the common objective of working towards sustainability through education.

SCEA. Societat Catalana d'Educació Ambiental
<http://www.pangea.org/scea>

The series **Monografies d'Educació Ambiental**, jointly published by **SCEA** and Editorial **Graó**, was created in 1997 with the specific aim of being used as a tool for a renewed environmental education. It is coordinated and directed by Teresa Franquesa and Jaume Sureda.



graoeditorial@grao.com

7.2 Presentation to the public about the Catalan version of the ENSI publications on Eco-schools and on Quality Criteria

Two years ago ENSI agreed with the Catalan Society for Environmental Education (SCEA) to put energy toward a Catalan publication, putting together the first part of the ENSI-SEED book, *'Eco-schools: trends and divergences'* and the *'Quality Criteria of ESD schools'* booklet, as well as presenting the research process that lies at the basis of the Quality Criteria guidelines.

The process of translation and editing was lengthy, but a few months ago the book was published as No.12 of the EE monographs edited by SCEA and published by the 'Editorial GRAO'. The Catalan title is: *"Educació per al desenvolupament sostenible. Tendències, divergències i criteris de qualitat"*, and the authors are Finn Mogensen, Michela Mayer, Soren Breiting and Attila Varga.

On April 1, 2007, the book was presented by Michela Mayer to more than 70 interested teachers and educators at the prestigious Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona in the city centre, and on April 2 at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) to almost 400 teachers, coming from different Catalanian areas in order to participate in the annual Forum of the 'Catalonian Green Schools'. The Spanish power point presentation is available.

The book has been very well received and commented on by the teachers and environmental educators who have been charged by the Catalanian government to follow the school projects and who plan to make use of the guidelines in the future. ENSI and SEED are proud of this new publication and would like to express their gratitude again to Teresa Franquesa from SCEA, Josep Planas from the Environmental Department of Catalanian Government and Cinta Vidal from Editorial Graó for their efforts in organising the events and disseminating this new publication.

8. AGENDA:

a) SUPPORT Conference: ICT Supported Education for Sustainable Development and Global Responsibility

Date: September, 1 - 4, 2008

Venue: The Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre Hanasaari, Espoo (6 km from Helsinki city centre), Finland

Dear ENSI members, dear guests,

The Finnish National Board of Education will host an international conference in collaboration with the SUPPORT project and the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre called, "ICT Supported Education for Sustainable Development and Global Responsibility".

Date: September, 1-4, 2008

Venue: The Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre Hanasaari, Espoo (6 km from Helsinki city centre), Finland

Organisers: the Finnish National Board of Education, the SUPPORT project and the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre

Conference fee: 300 Euros (includes programme and meals)

Registration by May 30, 2008 at:

<http://www.oph.fi/english/page.asp?path=447.5372.82537>

I look forward to seeing all ENSI-coordinators at the conference in Helsinki in September 2008!

Best wishes,

Lea Houtsonen

ENSI-coordinator of Finland

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b) ENSI Conference 2009

Venue: KH Leuven, Belgium

Date: March 26-28, 2009

ENSI welcomes you to the Knowledge-Transfer-Conference in Leuven/Belgium, March 2009. Focus points at the conference will be: a) presentation of the new elaborated frame curriculum for ESD in teacher education and further insight into the work of the Comenius 2 project "Competences for ESD Teachers" (CSCT); b) presentation of results and collaboration within the ENSI project "Quality Criteria and ESD Conceptualisation", and a first report from the board of "Junior Researchers in ESD".

Further information on this upcoming conference will be published in early summer by the ENSI secretariat.

c) ENSI AGM 2009:

Venue: KH Leuven, Belgium

Date: March 23-25, 2009