

Mailing enSI Issue 48: 05.05.09

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- **UNESCO Youth Conference."Youth Opens the Space."**
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- **SUPPORT/Comenius seminar: Biodiversity in Education for Sustainable Development. - Reflection on School-Research Cooperation**,
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CEE India

1. ENSI CONFERENCE: 'Creating learning environments for the future. Research and practice share knowledge'

Leuven (Belgium), March 26-28, 2009

A short glimpse on the Conference by Willy Sleurs, President of ENSI inpa:

"More than 10 years after the last conference in Linz (Austria) ENSI inpa organised a conference on the campus of the University College of Leuven (KHLeuven): '*Creating learning environments for the future. Research and practice share knowledge*', from 26 to 28 March

About 120 researchers from different organisations, teacher trainers and teachers from 24 different countries participated in the conference.

The first day was reserved to key-note presentations and the poster-session.

The second day started by an introduction to the workshops on quality criteria in the field of ESD and on the professionalisation of ESD teachers. The rest of the day was spent to workshops, presented by ENSI members and with the help of the group of young enthusiastic researchers. Last year ENSI set up a group of junior researchers which focus their research work on ESD.

The text of the keynote presentations and the results of the workshops will be available by the end of the year as the *ENSI Conference Proceedings*.

After the conference ENSI received many reactions, ranging from '*following rather traditional methods with little interaction between speakers and listeners, with too much talking about ESD rather than doing ESD*' to '*a very interesting meeting with a lot of opportunities for discussion and for networking in the field of ESD*'.

The organisers have now to sit together and to evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the conference, seriously taking into account the many reactions they received, in order to establish an innovative learning environment within the ENSI family that will promote ESD more effectively than before".

2. FOCUS: Learning Environment – a new term?

By Dr. Jyri Manninen, Keynote presenter at the ENSI Conference in Leuven
The term "learning environment" has become popular during the last decade, mainly because some varieties of constructivism have highlighted the importance of real environments for learning (especially learning at work, contextual learning environments, situated learning). Technological development have also made it possible to develop new ICT based learning applications, which are often named as learning environments (for example, virtual, web based, open, digital, modern, mobile, immersive, ubiquitous...).

However, the term itself is older than constructivism, and we can also have learning environments which have nothing to do with constructivist learning theory. For example, the "good old" behaviourism stressed the role of environment in the learning, as a source of stimulus for the organism. Humanistic approach and andragogy (Knowles) have brought in 1970's into our attention the importance of social and physical environment in the adult learning situations.

Currently "Learning Environment" can be seen as a modern pedagogical approach challenging the traditional forms of education. The old teacher centred teaching

method based on delivery of information is replaced by active construction of knowledge, collaborative learning processes and interaction with the reality. Teachers and trainers should be seen more as "designers of Learning Environments", which require new ways of networking within the school (co-operation between the teachers) and especially outside the school with different social, public and private organisations (museums, employers, third sector organisations, etc.). The presentation will shortly summarise the theoretical background of Learning Environment approach and its implications on teaching and training practices and on learning processes.

Website links and references

Manninen, J., Burman, A., Koivunen, A., Kuittinen, E., Luukannel, S., Passi, S. & Särkkä, H. 2007. Environments that support learning. Introduction to Learning Environments approach. Helsinki: National Board of Education.

<http://www.bookplus.fi/product.php?isbn=9789521334405&lang=EN>

Short presentation of the keynote speaker

Dr. Jyri Manninen works as a professor (adult & continuing education) at University of Joensuu, Finland. He has been working on learning environment –theme since 1988, focusing on web based and open learning environments and on the learning theories. Email contact: jyri.manninen@joensuu.fi

3. SUPPORT: Call for participation at the SUPPORT/Comenius seminar: Working on Biodiversity in Education for Sustainable Development - reflection on school-research cooperation (by Prof. Faye Benedict and Asa Renman, SUPPORT coordinating team))

This is to inform you that there will be an interesting workshop on Biodiversity in ESD taking place in September, as this might be of interest to you, your colleagues or others in your network.

The goal of the workshop is to explore how schools and researchers can collaborate to create high quality education on biological diversity, building a bridge between scientific theory and educational practice. The workshop will be a meeting place for teachers, teacher trainers, scientists and education specialists. It is organized by Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research- UFZ as part of the Comenius Lifelong Learning project "SUPPORT: Partnership and participation for a sustainable tomorrow."

Full title: Biodiversity in ESD, Reflection on School – Research Cooperation

Dates: 24 to 27 September, 2009

Target group: Teachers and teacher trainers

Venue: Reinhardswaldschule in Fuldata near Kassel, Germany

Reference number in the Grundtvig database: DE-2009-840-001

Deadline for application for funding from the National Agencies: April 30th

The fact that the workshop is listed in the Grundtvig database means that teachers from countries with a National Agency for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme are

eligible to apply for funding. Note that the deadline for applying for funding from the national agencies is April 30th.

To see the list of national agencies, go to the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html

See the SUPPORT website (under “coming events”), for further information, <http://support-edu.org/>.

Please contact Karin Ulbrich at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research if you have any questions or want to know more! E-mail: Karin.Ulbrich@ufz.de

4. MEMBERS NETWORKING PLACE:

National Action Plan Australia

Australian Government Releases its National Action Plan on Education for Sustainability (by Syd Smith, Australia)

In early April 2009 the Australian Minister for Environment for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts launched *Living Sustainably: The Australian Government's National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability*.

The plan sets out the work to date on education for sustainability in Australia and the issues to be addressed in the following years. It outlines the plan's vision and mission with strategies and actions to achieve the plan's objectives. It was developed to address Australian needs following an extensive community consultation process in 2007-2008. Its aim is equip all Australians with knowledge and skills required to live sustainably.

There are 4 main actions listed in the plan:

1. Strengthen the government's leadership role in education for sustainability as an exemplar for change through its own policies, programs and operations and by promoting system-wide change through greater coordination and collaboration with state, territory and local governments.
2. 'Reorienting education systems to sustainability' focuses on achieving a culture of sustainability in which teaching and learning for sustainability are reinforced by continuous improvement in the sustainability of campus management.
3. 'Fostering sustainability in business and industry' will build capacity in business and industry to plan for sustainability, adopt appropriate frameworks and tools, and harness incentives for change such as improved efficiencies, cost savings, corporate reputation, and staff morale and retention.
4. 'Harnessing community spirit to act' emphasises collaboration with the many diverse providers of education for sustainability to help improve community and practitioners' access to knowledge and tools. It also supports research to better understand issues, attitudes and behaviour.

Download the Australian National Action Plan: www.environment.gov.au/education/nap

Naturgate for Fast and easy identification of species and biodiversity

Good news from Professor Mauri Ahlborg, Finland: All ENSI teachers, administrators and researchers have now a uniquely fast and easy-to-use species identification tool. The identification method itself is patented but the online service is offered freely via Internet to all ENSI participants. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its CEC (Commission on Education and Communication) informs: <http://cec.wcln.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=1&pid=668> Many of the wild flowers, birds, and butterflies are common in the whole Europe. For more information see: <http://www.naturegate.net>

5. NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Education for Sustainable Development

Papers in Honour of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) Edited by Brian Chalkley, Martin Haigh, David Higgitt

In 2005, The United Nations launched its Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which recognises that education, including Higher Education is the key to the change in social attitudes that will be needed to protect the welfare of future generations. This involves helping learners to live as though the future matters and to achieve ecoliteracy. This includes the understanding that personal lifestyle decisions may have consequences, ranging from climate change, through loss of biodiversity, to pollution and resource depletion that may permit environmental degradation on a planetary scale. It also involves helping them to develop the skills needed to cope with such challenges. This international collection of research papers and position statements from special issues of the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education and Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, written by many of the leading practitioners in the field, aims to provide resources and practical guidance for all seeking to promote and engage in education for a sustainable future. Rabindranath Tagore encouraged each learner to make their actions demonstrate a harmonious union between education and environment. David Orr argued that the world needs people who live well in their places to make the world both habitable and humane and that the main challenge for education is to help learners make their minds fit for life on Earth. This book tries to chart a practical route towards these objectives.

This book was previously published as special issues of the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* and *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*

'Impliquer les jeunes dans le développement durable'

Rédaction: Michela Mayer, Johannes Tschapka, Mars 2009

Le livret 'Impliquer les jeunes dans le DD' est une contribution du Conseil de l'Europe à la Décennie des Nations Unies sur l'Éducation au Développement durable. Ce texte a pour but d'aider les élèves et les enseignants à intégrer l'Éducation au Développement Durable dans la vie scolaire et dans les activités de la communauté, à travers nombre d'exemples et de concepts éducatifs.

Cette brochure existe aussi en Anglais: *Engaging youth in Sustainable Development* (Spring 2008)

Download: www.ensi.org/publications

6. AGENDA:

5th World Environmental Education Congress, Montréal (Canada) May 10-14, 2009

ENSI is participating on the 5weec with a short presentation: 'The international network ENSI as a well recognised partner in school development'

May 12th, 10.30 a.m, session 06.16

The project **SUPPORT** will be presented at the exhibition/poster session. We are looking forward to meet you at this big event!

European Commission Youth Action 4.3 (Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations)

"Down to earth"- Training Course, August 2009, Swansea, Great Britain

For more information contact: downtoearthproject@hotmail.com

Partner Invitation: [http://ensi.org/Updates/media/downloads/73/Down to Earth Training Project.pdf](http://ensi.org/Updates/media/downloads/73/Down%20to%20Earth%20Training%20Project.pdf)

UNESCO Youth Conference."Youth Opens the Space."

A Conference for trainers, youth workers, volunteers, educators etc from EuroMed, Caucasus and Middle East countries.

Venue: Wrocław, Poland, between 27th and 31th of August 2009.

More information: <http://www.unescocentre.pl/youthopensthespace2009/>

SUPPORT/Comenius seminar: Working with Biodiversity in Education for Sustainable Development - reflection on school-research cooperation

Reinhardswaldschule in Fuldata, near Kassel, Germany , 24.-27. September 2009

For more information see: www.support-edu.org

SUPPORT/Study visit seminar: Conscious Citizens - Sustainable Communities

Organiser: Hungarian Society for Environmental Education (HSEE)

Budapest, 4 – 10 October 2009

For more information see: www.support-edu.org

Conference: Action Research for improvement in schools, communities and organizational spaces. What is to be done?

33rd Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)

Athens, 30. October – 1. November 2009

For more information see: <http://korinthos.uop.gr/~carn09>

Conference Flyer: [http://ensi.org/Updates/media/downloads/73/Poster CARN Conference.pdf](http://ensi.org/Updates/media/downloads/73/Poster%20CARN%20Conference.pdf)

7. NEWS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

CEE

Centre for Environment Education

Learning Environment – a new term? (Jyri Manninen, Joensuu University Finland)

Please find at the newsletter of **CEE India** here:

<http://ceeindia.org/cee/ceenario.html>