1. ENSI's Annual General Meeting in Vienna, 9th and 10th April 2015

ENSI invites its members and friends to the AGM 2015, taking place in Vienna, Kardinal- König-Haus, (Kardinal-König-Platz 3, 1130 Vienna [http://www.kardinal-koenig-haus.at]), from Thursday 09. April 14:00 to Friday 10. April, 12:00.

Invitations will be sent by the secretariat before March 10th. ENSI members and friends are warmly invited to participate, please contact the ENSI secretariat for this before March 20th.

2. ENSI's new ‘home’ in Vienna: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen, Vienna

Over the last ten years ENSI has been an International Non profit Organisation under Belgian law. It has been hosted by Dr. Willy Sleurs, former ENSI president. Thank you Willy Sleurs for your long loyalty and friendship to ENSI!

Now time has come to move ENSI to a new place, in order to reduce administrative expenditure. ENSI found a new home in Vienna at the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen (Austrian Federal Ministry for Education and Women’s Affairs) and will be incorporated at the AGM 2015.

ENSI's work:

1. ENSI's Annual General Meeting in Vienna, 9th and 10th April 2015
2. ENSI’s new ‘home’ in Vienna: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen, Vienna
3. Publications: ‘Do We Know What We Are Doing?’ and ‘Handbook of Research on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustainable Development’
5. ENSI @ the WEEC2015 in Gothenburg
6. 8th WEEC Planet and People in Gothenburg
7. UNESCO Decade for Sustainable Development, Final Assessment Report and Global Action Programme
8. Grand dame of ENSI, Dr. Michela Mayer, gets retired: A tribute to a good friend!
Networking across the globe:

3. Publications: ‘Do We Know What We Are Doing?’ and ‘Handbook of Research on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustainable Development’

**Do We Know What We Are Doing?**
Rolf Jucker; Cambridge Scholars Publishing; 2014

The discourse of education for sustainability has been severely limited by the fact that it largely refuses to acknowledge important insights from other fields of learning and knowledge. This reluctance to engage with central insights regarding how the world and, more specifically, how human interactions with both the human and non-human world work, ensures that it has remained a largely self-centred discourse. It is tangled up with reflections on education without contextualising them in the real world. As such, it is not just education in general, but also so-called “education for sustainable development” (ESD), that needs to perform a radical paradigm shift and become communal learning in real-time in a real place. This, therefore, necessitates a willingness to face some tough questions regarding its prevailing insularity.

- Rolf-Jucker_Do-We-Know-What-We-Are-Doing_flyer-1-4438-6685-7.pdf


Education is a key component for progress in both the developed and developing world. It is imperative that society has access to new strides made in the area of sustainability so that current global challenges are resolved.

**Handbook of Research on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustainable Development**

brings together case study examples in the fields of sustainability, sustainable development, and education for sustainable development. This book will be an essential reference for educators, teachers, trainers at all levels of education, sustainable development practitioners, education policy makers, and the public at large.

For more information see:
- www.igi-global.com/book/handbook-research-pedagogical-%20innovations-sustainable/94912
5. **ENSI @ the WEEC2015 in Gothenburg**

ENSI will present the outcomes of the project CoDeS on the World Environmental Education Congress 2015 in Gothenburg (June 29th to July 2nd). Two workshops were submitted and accepted:

**School-community collaboration in remote communities**

Presenters: Georgia Liarakou, Evgenia Flogaitis, Costas Gavrilakis

On WEEC2015 is presented a study, undertaken in the context of the multilateral Comenius network CoDeS, aiming to report on the experience of practitioners who have developed collaboration towards sustainable development in remote communities of Europe.

**School-Community Collaboration for Sustainable Development - CoDeS approach: Research, practitioners work and evaluation**

Presenters: Christine Affolter, Monika Reti, Patrick Dillon

All seven CoDeS outcomes and CoDeS evaluation scheme will be presented and discussed. For more information on CoDeS visit: [www.comenius-codes.eu](http://www.comenius-codes.eu)

6. **8th WEEC Planet and People in Gothenburg**

Find more information and also the registration at: [weec2015.org](http://weec2015.org)

Registration is open now! Early registration fees until March 31st!

The Decade on Education for Sustainable Development was closed on the UNESCO-World-Conference in Aichi-Nagoya in November 2014. Here is the link to the final assessment report over the full Decade for Education for Sustainable Development:
- [www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002301/230171e.pdf](http://www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002301/230171e.pdf)

Next UNESCO programme (post 2015) was launched and is again supporting our work for a more sustainable future:

The **Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD** seeks to generate and scale-up ESD action. It is intended to make a substantial contribution to the post-2015 agenda.

The overall goal of the GAP is to generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

The GAP has two objectives:

- to reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference;
- to strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development.

The GAP focuses on five priority action areas:

1. Advancing policy;
2. Integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (whole-institution approaches);
3. Increasing the capacity of educators and trainers;
4. Empowering and mobilizing youth;
5. Encouraging local communities and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.

Find more on GAP here:

8. **Grand dame of ENSI, Dr. Michela Mayer, gets retired: A tribute to a good friend!**

After decades of excellent, inspiring, loyal and passionate work and collaboration for and with ENSI, Michela Mayer will step back and retire. An era is coming to an end - the whole ENSI community is thanking you for all your work, your laughing, your presence, your engagement and your ongoing commitment!

Thank you Michela, for being our inspiration and friend! 

Christine
Michela Meyer - the ENSI story, the vitality and the opera.

It was on an early spring day, when Michela and I walked through in Milano / Italy in order to relax from our work on one of the numerous ENSI projects. I can hardly recall the origin of the idea but it seemed to come from Mariona / Barcelona. “Mariona said we should rather write an opera about ESD …” Michela opened the dialogue while waiting for the delicious bread near the dome of Milano. “It would raise more attraction and reflect the basic notions of sustainability in form of a music themes, which underline the librettos of education.” That was always what the collaboration with Michela represented to me: the vitality and opulence of environmental education as a lively form to celebrate the comedy and tragedy of humans' environment. Maybe I should mention the origin of opera, which lays in Italy in the “Florentine Camerata” at the dawning of Renaissance. Michela represents the renaissance with its great advances occurred in science and art. At the end of this day we finished the outlines of ENSI's “Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development” released 2008. The opera we have not composed yet. It is still waiting for realisation ;)


A flashback on the middle of the eighties of last century: eleven countries started the Environment and School Initiatives Project within OECD and among them was Italy one of the strongest promotors. Michela was appointed Italian country coordinator and shaped the ENSI project from the start to the present as an intellectual whirlwind. It was Michela who invited the other country coordinators twice to come to the Centro Europeo dell’ Educazione in Frascati. These meetings in the magnificent ambience of the Villa Frascati were highly influential in consolidating the project and paving the way to the first international ENSI conference in Austria in 1988 with more than 300 participants of all ages. I was intrigued by Michela's skill in getting teachers involved in challenging environmental school initiatives inspite of a prevalent conservative educational tradition. Many of these projects became well known and respected in other countries (e.g. the „Water Analysis Project“ of five secondary schools in Mantova or the „Oasi di Serre Project“ of two elementary schools in Serre/Salerno). I am very happy to have been able to work with Michela and hope that she continues to assist ENSI with her advice.

Peter Posch, co-founder of ENSI

I had the pleasure of working with Michela on the UNICEF Expert Group for ESD Indicators - it would not have been half as much fun without her. I can hear her voice now, warm, passionate, pressing her case but also stopping to listen, sometimes reflecting and laughing if she feels it's right to think again. She has a rare combination of good humour and warmth plus criticality with an indefatigable drive to get things done.
At her suggestion, Michela and I co-presented a paper at the ENSI conference in Leuven in 2009. I arrived late, jet-lagged, unsure of where to go... Michela was texting me even as my taxi neared the venue. Again she was welcoming, generous and energetic and helped to make the whole event a real pleasure from start to finish. Today, as I draft another project proposal, Michela is offering support. She is an inspiration that I hope to draw on for many years to come.

Paul Vare, University of Gloucestershire, UK

I first met Michela in May 2009, at the ENSI conference in Leuven. She welcomed me in what I described back then in a typical warm Italian hospitality: with a big smile and with a lot of enthusiasm. I was lucky to collaborate with her in the past years in the CoDeS project. At every meeting or conference, she welcomed us with the same smile and the same enthusiasm. Now I know it goes far beyond just Italian hospitality, it is typical warm and enthusiastic Michela hospitality. Thank you Michela!

Wim Lambrechts KH Leuven

For me Michela has been the exemplar of a critical friend. First of all she is a friend, one of the most empathetic person I ever met. For me it was wonderful to see how sympathetic she was always with all of us in the ENSI family, and at the same time very critical too. Criticism in her case was equal to constructive ideas and meant each time an encouragement for a better work on one side an instancy to stand for the basic values of ESD and ENSI on the other. She never let us to be uncertain that the complex, quality focused, dialog based approach is the correct and only real way of ESD. For me she was a kind of master who helped a lot to find my way into the educational expert community, I thank her to emancipate me from the positivistic worldview of science, and teach me how to stand for a more complex, more vivid and more fruitful way of using science in order to a better world. I will never forget her supportive words, her impelling comments, and first of all her infinite kindness and humanity.

Thank you Michela for all you gave us: the unique mixture of enthusiasm, professionalism and love. I personally thank you the beautiful days in Rome with my family, and I wish you at least as much joy and strength for the future as you have given to us till now.

Attila Varga, OFI, Hungary

I first met Michaela at the EU SUPPORT meeting in Shropshire. I was very intimidated by such a forthright ESD expert! She rightly put me in my place, I was too verbose and didn't properly grasp or at least I didn't communicate well enough my understanding of what Education for Sustainable Development should be about! Probably we have always shared a 'progressive view' of this concept, which has the local community at its heart and this led to our work on the CoDeS project. It has been a joy to get to know Michaela even better at these meetings. The learning has most probably been a one directional process apart from when I taught her how to use Whatsapp! I will also always
remember her very tuneful rendition of Bandiera Rossa at a final project meeting! I think a colleague still has this recording. I hope we still get many more opportunities to work together.
Margaret Fleming (MF Associates)

Dear Michela!
Looking back we have a common ENSI history of nearly 30 years. I remember vividly our first meeting in Paris in October 1986 and many other meetings, discussions, exchanges and also times of fun and success since then. All is part of our life and the impressions are like a film. I appreciate your passionate engagement, collaboration and impulses you gave me and us and especially for your personal friendship.
Thank you for inviting me to visit you and your family in Rome and also for organizing the meetings in Frascati, Firenze and other places, and thus opening Italy for me.
I wish you and your family all the best for the coming years and you are always very welcome to visit us in Vienna!

Cordiali saluti

Günther

I am relatively new to the ENSI world but even on my first encounter with Michela, at the initial meeting for CoDeS in Friedrichsdorf, I was struck by the presence of the grand old dame of ENSI. Her power, her persuasion, her commitment to the cause (not some formalities) impressed me from the word go. And when I later worked with her on her contribution to the “Schooling for Sustainable Development in Europe” book I realised the depth of her knowledge, experience and in particular the precision and clear-headed quality of her contribution to our field. I believe that success for EE or ESD comes with people like Michela who can do both: be impressive and knowledgeable experts and have a personality and peoples’ skills which can sway an audience. So thank you, Michela, for all you have done for ENSI, EE and ESD and for how you have enriched our lives!

Rolf Jucker, SILVIA Foundation, Switzerland

I hear Michaela has decided to move onto the next stage of her life and is leaving the active ENSI environment to which she has devoted herself to many, many years of her life. Time brings change and often change brings regrets and sadness. It is certainly with a tinge of sadness and remorse that Michaela is leaving after so many years of giving active and valuable support to ENSI, and above all, to Environmental Education throughout Italy and Europe. While I was a more recent recruit to ENSI I know Michaela had spent many years previously as the Italian
representative undertaking research programs, preparing ground breaking
reports and developing academic papers for ENSI and other European
conferences. But above all she has been a very valuable contributor to
discussions and meetings, leaving ENSI with a superb reputation and
recognition throughout the world.

It was my pleasure to meet Michaela in Sydney several years ago when she
came with her husband, Tomasio on a purposeful visit to conduct a research
project. She was as usual her energetic self, highly intelligent and
hungry for knowledge and advice on environmental developments in
Australia. Michaela saw her job as an exciting pursuit, something to be
enjoyed, a purpose in life, a fulfilling adventure which ultimately left
the world a better place.

Michaela must be proud of her contribution to the success of ENSI
particularly in its infant days when the organisation was making a name
for itself. I can truly say we are certainly proud of her and thank her
with enthusiasm for her positive influence in promoting Environmental
Education and Sustainability throughout Europe and Western Society.

I wish her health, happiness and good luck in this next stage of her life.

Gracie mille, Michaela, In gratitude

Syd Smith,
Former Australian Representative for ENSI, Senior Advisor for ENSI

I have known Michela ever since the ENSI Junior Researchers Group was initiated in 2008. Michela welcomed us all in the way that she always greets the world, with warmth and exuberance. What touched me the most was the time I asked her if I could remain a Junior Researcher even though I had not yet been able to obtain a position at a university after finishing my Masters. Michela assured me that being a researcher is not necessarily linked to having a job in Academia, but is something you are in your heart. Thank you, Michela, for your support and encouragement.

Rebekka Tauritz, University of Edinburgh

Dear Michela!
We want to thank you for all the energy, humor, enthusiasm, competence and insight you have brought to the ENSI consortium and its projects throughout the years. You have been one of ENSIs key experts and critical thinkers on school development, education for sustainable development and evaluation. Over and above this, though, you have been ever present in the social dimension of the network as a warm, caring and generous person. In the EU–SUPPORT project, your action research methodology, well-reflected comments and always constructive suggestions in your role as external evaluator were much appreciated and greatly strengthened the project and its outcomes.
From the juniors, we will especially give you credit for your warm and inclusive approach to young new members. You made us feel welcome and we always felt you were truly interested in our views and opinions.

Thank you for all of the fine memories from our cooperation and friendship. We wish you and your family many happy retirement years!

Astrid, Mari, Nina and Faye – the Norwegian Team from Directorate of Education, Bergen University and Naturfagsenteret

THANK YOU MICHELA FOR OPENING THE MILLION LOCKS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE, YEAR AFTER YEAR DURING ALL THESE TIMES. EACH LOCK HAS FACILITATED ME AND MANY OTHERS TO MEET NEW AND TRULY COMMITTED PEOPLE AND START NEW EXCITING PROJECTS WHICH ARE STILL LASTING. YOUR INTELLIGENCE, COMPANIONSHIP, MOTIVATION, VISION AND EXPERTISE HAVE MADE AN IMPACT IN ENSI AND EUROPE!

MARIONA ESPINET
FEBRUARY 2013

JOAN PÈRE HASSANA
IS A CATALAN ARTIST FROM THE LAND OF MY PARENTS, LLEIDA, WHICH PAINTED THE “BOOKS OF NATURE” TO HER DAUGHTER, JANA.

“OPENING THE LOCK OF NATURE, JOAN PÈRE HASSANA”
“Do you know Michela Mayer?”
When we discussed about environmental education worldwide and dropped names of well known researchers: Do you know Michela Mayer from Italy? Of course, yes, everyone knows Michela, all over the world.
When we started a new project and were looking for cooperation with Italy: What about Michela Mayer, would she be a cooperation partner? Of course she would!
When the EU-Project “Form-it and kidsInScience” was planned: who would join the project from Italy? Oh yes, Michela Mayer, of course she was THE partner, and she joined the group.
When we asked someone about science education partners in Italy: first question was, do you know Michela Mayer? Yes, of course, everyone knows Michela Mayer.

Michela, thank you for your great cooperation, your important contributions to so many projects and publications, your laughing, your humor, your enthusiasm, your ongoing energy, your great friendship. All the best to you for your future.
Regula Kyburz-Graber, Switzerland