Topics in this issue:

1. The new homepage is installed
2. The new Constitution: Main changes in membership
4. The Ahmedabad Declaration
5. SUPPORT started successfully
7. Book review: Competences for the future
8. Regula Kyburz-Graber honoured with the NAAEE-award for Environmental Education
9. Retrospective: Australian workshops on storythread in Austria and Croatia
10. Welcome to new members of ENSI, a ‘Thank you’ and ‘See you again’ to Adry Nienhaus van Lindt and Ton Remmers
11. Introducing the “new” ENSI secretariat
12. Agenda

1. The new homepage is installed! By Christine Affolter
The Web-team welcomes you on the new website of ENSI. With a big effort, many discussions, corrections and mails around the ENSI community we were proud to upload the new presentation of www.ensi.org. We invite you to visit ENSI in its new look, to browse through 21 years of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainability and to give us a feedback (secretariat@ensi.org). Our website may inspire you in your daily work, may be a treasure box for high quality information and bring up news from the field of ESD.

2. The new constitution: Main changes in membership by Christine Affolter
Due to the decision of the Annual General Meeting 2006 ENSI got a new juristic status: It is an International Non Profit Organisation, recognised under Belgian law. The main change for ENSI is the enlargement of membership possibilities. Three categories of membership are possible: 1. Statutory members (Member countries with the full right on decision making), Associate members (such as Research Centres, Universities and Non Profit Organisations with reduced rights on decision making) and Fellows of ENSI. For more information concerning the membership in ENSI see please www.ensi.org/about ENSI/membership.
About 1200 delegates from 78 countries gathered at the Centre for Environmental Education (CEE-headquarters) in Ahmedabad for the 4th Conference on Environmental Education (following prior conferences in Tblisi 1977, Moscow 1987, and Thessaloniki 1997). The overarching theme was “Environmental Education Towards a Sustainable Future – Partners for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Education”. This conference was used as a platform by the many delegates – educationists, scientists, environmental educators, trainers and teachers – to share practices, ideas, initiatives and visions on environmental education throughout the world.

The participants worked on their specialized themes in 22 different workshops. Each workshop concluded with recommendations, which were handed over to Mr. Matsuura, President of UNESCO. He promised that “UNESCO will engage seriously with the recommendations emerging from this conference”.

ENSI members participated in the following workshops:

Finn Mogensen: ‘Reorienting Formal Education towards ESD (Strategies, Pedagogy and Assessment)’

Reiner Mathar and Christine Affolter: Teacher Education – a crucial contribution to the UNDESD (with Charles Hopkins)

It was a pleasure to listen to a wide range of high-quality keynote speakers. My personal highlights were the presentations by Charles Hopkins (UNESCO Chair for Reorienting Teacher Education, York University, Canada), Kartikeya V Sarabhai (Director of CEE, India), Sunita Narain (Director of the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, India) and Rajendra K. Pachauri (Chairman of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC and Director General of the Energy and Research Institute, TERI). All keynote speakers stressed the fact that there is no more time to be wasted. Another central point of interest was the big difference of structures, needs and strategies between developed and developing countries on the way to a more sustainable society and to Education for Sustainable Development.

The conference concluded with the Ahmedabad Declaration, which was compiled and adopted by all the participants (see link at the end of this article).

ENSI was well represented through the following members, partners and friends: Finn Mogensen, Cam Mackenzie, Reiner Mathar, Christine Affolter, Daniella Tilbury, Syd Smith, Prithi Nambar (CEE India and Australia), Peter Woods, Charles Hopkins, and many other networkers from around the globe.

Akpezi Ogbugwe (Head of Environmental Education and Training Division of Environmental Policy Implementation UNEP) described the year 2007 “as a watershed year, with the IPCC report and the GEO4 report both mentioning the urgent need for action and change of direction”. She called all participants and their networks to “the march from Ahmedabad towards a fundamental change”.


by Christine Affolter
Important documents list:
Recommendations for Teachers Education: [www.tblisiplus30/working](http://www.tblisiplus30/working) group sessions
Key notes: [www.tblisiplus30](http://www.tblisiplus30)

4. The Ahmedabad Declaration
The final declaration was adopted by the participants of the Ahmedabad Conference on the 28. November. The document focuses on action, responsibility and common will to face the upcoming challenges. Please see the declaration at: [http://www.tbilisiplus30.org/Declaration.pdf](http://www.tbilisiplus30.org/Declaration.pdf)

5. SUPPORT started successfully
Please see newest information about SUPPORT at: [http://sustain.no/projects/support/](http://sustain.no/projects/support/)

6. A look back at the Montenegro Conference, 1.-2. October 2007 by Diana Garasic

«Sustainable Development – The Role of Education and Training»
The regional Conference was held in Przno, a beautiful touristy place on the Montener- grin coast on October 1 – 2, 2007. The organizers were KulturKontakt, Austria and ERI SEE (Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe). The Conference had two main topics:
1. «Sustainable Development - National Strategies to meet Global Challenges». Several speakers contributed in a panel introduction to the subject, speaking about EU Strategy on ESD, priorities and challenges on national level on the examples of the Netherlands and Montenegro and gave an overview on strategies for the implementation of ESD in Europe. The audience split in three working groups to discuss how to develop the implementation from strategies into daily life in the field of tourism, agriculture and society. Group reports were structured on questions: What are the lessons learned? What challenges were revealed? What should be the next steps? Common conclusions will be published.
2. «The Contribution of Education and Training to SD». Several speakers again open the subject, which was followed with discussions in three working groups, focusing on the fields of tourism, agriculture and education (within school system). Group reports were focused on the same questions as mentioned above and common conclusions are yet to be published.

More than 70 participants from the region, as well as invited experts from other European countries participated to the conference. The impression was that there are many activities going on in the region, but also with great variety of ranges, levels and social involvement. It was very interesting to learn about different examples and certainly there is a need for more regional cooperation and networking. The biggest challenge seems to be the insufficient cooperation among subjects or institutions responsible for, or dealing with ESD within the country. So, a more coherent approach among all stakeholders is still to be achieved.
Faye Benedict was also participating to the Conference in Montenegro and contributed the following impressions:

My main comment about the seminar would be that there were a number of very good concrete examples presented, of how sustainability is being integrated into education related to tourism and agriculture/rural livelihoods. Many of these are available on the web site I believe. On the policy level and in various segments of the school system, however, there was great diversity, ranging from Finland's elegant policy with specified learning outcomes to be achieved, to countries with no coherent strategy for ESD.

The conference highlighted also the importance of getting the school and pupils into contact with society, through cooperation with local authorities, businesses, organisations, etc. and through ICT-based contact with other schools and organisations.

On the policy level, the lack of an EU policy on ESD is a striking deficiency, although the role of education is mentioned in the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development, in one paragraph.

One of the greatest challenges is therefore in my mind, to integrate or mainstream ESD into the main educational policy in Europe and member countries. Although the UNECE strategy for ESD is good, one can ask whether this is a mainstreamed or a parallel process to the main lines of educational development going on today.

One example of how far we have to go still in this area is the European Qualifications Framework. The EQF has emerged from the Lisbon process and does not clearly address and specify many of the kinds of learning outcomes associated with ESD. We need to work more to spell out the "key competences for SD" that need to be delivered by ESD and work to get them integrated at the national level (national qualifications framework) if possible, even though they are lacking in the EQF.

These are just some of my main impressions from the conference! For more information please see the homepage of KulturKontakt, Austria: www.k-education.at

7. Book review: Competences for the Future
Regula Kyburz-Grabner (Ed.)
Markus Kunz, Maja Dal Cero, Harry Spiess, Vicente Carabias-Hütter, Urs Hohl, Peter Iseli
 Competences for the Future
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CONCRETE TERMS
1st edition 2006
200 pages, 195 x 260 mm
colourprint, paperback
CHF 39.-/Euro 26.-
ISBN 3-03905-043-5
Everyone is talking about sustainability: projects are sustainable, learning is sustainable, the effect of a decision is sustainable, and so on. Often, when speaking of sustainability, people refer to something with a long lasting effect.

But sustainable development is more than that: A development is sustainable if it globally meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In practice, putting this general central idea in concrete terms is everything but easy. Conflicts, misunderstandings, differing interpretations of events and facts, contradictory ideas on how to solve social problems, all this can stand in the way of simple solutions. With this book, we want to bring together two aspects: the knowledge about the problems that one faces when addressing concrete issues of sustainable development and the capability to help solving them. We start from people's everyday needs. We ask what it means to feed oneself, to dress oneself, to live, to care about one's health, to spend one's spare time, to travel or to act politically according to the central idea of sustainable development.

This book wants to raise the awareness of situations of human beings, social groups and societies, of the environment, and of developmental trends. But above all, it also wants to spark interest in getting to the bottom of an issue, in investigating and thereby making out positive developments in companies, institutions, politics, and culture. And we want to encourage the conviction that together we can do something – given the competencies required.

8. Regula Kyburz-Graber was honoured with the NAAEE-award for Environmental Education! ENSI congratulates and is very proud to have you Regula, in the ENSI-Community!

Here some headlines from the NAAEE homepage:
Dr. Kyburz-Graber is the associated dean for resources at the University of Zurich. Dr. Kyburz-Graber has authored numerous articles, presented at many conferences, served as faculty advisor for hundreds of graduate teacher students, and held positions on three editorial boards of journals dedicated to environmental education. During the past 10 years, she has served on the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of Environmental Education as well as Environmental Education Research. She has supervised nearly250 graduate students pursing postgraduate diploma in secondary level II. Recently Dr. Kyburz-Graber served as the organizer and hostess of the 9th Invitational Seminar on Research in Environmental and Health Education on Monte Verità, Ticino, Switzerland.

For more information see: http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/awards/
More information from the internal newspaper of the University of Zurich:
http://www.ensi.org/Database/

9. Retrospective: Australian workshops on storythread in Austria and Croatia
Australian workshops on Storythread in Austria and Croatia with expert Dr. Ron Tooth

By Günther Pfaffenwimmer and Diana Garasic
In autumn 2006 an ENSI delegation travelled to Australia and also visited the Pullenvale Environmental Education Center in Queensland/AUS. Its director Dr. Ron Tooth came to Europe in summer 2007 and held workshops on the Storythread method in Austria and Croatia.

Storythread is an interesting method for Education for Sustainable Development, for ethic instruction and as support for school development.

Ron Tooth has formulated Storythread as a method 25 years ago and since then uses it successfully with group instruction - from Kindergarten up to adult education.

Fictive or real story as starting point:
Exciting questions and hidden indications invite students or other participants to take different roles and to act as detectives. Participants are encouraged to explore phenomenons and problems in their environment using all senses but especially their curiosity and search for solutions. By doing this they encounter conflicts between different interests as well as underlying values and believes.

The method combines arts, ethic und scientific approach to actual problems. It encourages to experiment with theatre, dance, voice or painting in order to link the emotional and intellectual sphere.

The Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre has developed and provides many programmes from kindergarden up to adults. These programmes have four phases:
- story with its content with challenging and puzzling tasks
- visit in the Environmental Education where participants search and explore
- back to the classroom experiences from the story are transferred to the students reality
- plan for concrete actions are developed.

The FORUM Umweltbildung (Forum on Environmental Education) invited Ron Tooth to give lectures on Storythread in Salzburg and Vienna end of June 2007. His presentations were followed by a lively discussion with interested questions from the participating teachers and Environmental Educationists.

In July Ron Tooth visited Croatia and was invited to participate in Teacher Training seminar organized for Croatian biology teachers as excursion with workshops. The framework was ESD and destinations were the mountain Velebit and the Gacka river valley. As the participants experienced various environments, introducing natural, historical, cultural and economic aspects of the area, Dr. Tooth presentation and outdoor workshop were fitting in perfectly, widening and opening the perspective of insight of the learner ("INSIDE LOOK"). The teachers were focused on "deep listening" and observing and have practiced those themselves in the natural environment.

After practicing of deep listening, their observations of details, as well as their senses and imagination increased. This exercise showed how it would be possible to really involve kids' interest in environmental issues and further research.

We were very sorry that we couldn't present Dr. Tooth's approach to wider audience, then the 70 teachers present. But his visit to Croatia was already planed so he could afford spending just two days with us.

Details information and an exact descriptions and further information you find on the Storythread-Website www.storythread.eq.edu.au

Contact:
Dr. Ronald Tooth
Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre
10. Welcome to new ENSI members by Christine Affolter

ENSI welcomes warmly Croatia, which joins ENSI since autumn 2007. With pleasure we invite the country coordinator of Croatia, Diana Garasic, to the next AGM.
ENSI and CEE India collaborate in the project ‘Regionalisation Asia-Pacific’, therefore both partners are highly interested to welcome CEE in the status of an associate member. Both new members are very welcome in the ENSI-Community!
(How about Slovenia as Majda has confirmed membership + finances?)
ENSI looks back to the secretariat in the Netherlands. We are very grateful for all the work, which has been done in the last 15 month. With you, Ton, we have had a very alert partner for ENSIs development, outreach and targets. Adry Nienhaus van Lindt and Grietje Braam had run ENSI’s daily businesses, which is a very important condition for successful work of ENSI. Thank you for your high commitment to ENSI.
We wish you all the best to your new job, Ton, and we hope to see you in the future again in ENSI.

11. Introducing the new ENSI secretariat by Christine Affolter

The new ENSI secretariat will move officially from the Netherlands to Switzerland at the end of the year 2007. The ‘new’ administrator will be Christine Affolter, supported by n.N.
You can contact Christine Affolter under the following addresses:
christine.a.affolter@bluewin.ch; secretariat@ensi.org; christine.affolter@sub-fee.ch

12. Agenda

20 - 24 January SUPPORT ICT Workshop FSCEE, Shrewsbury, UK
24 - 25 January SUPPORT: 1st Partner Meeting FSCEE, Shrewsbury, UK
SUPPORT Contact: faye.be@umb.no

10 – 12 March ENSI Annual General Meeting Vienna
ENSI Contact: secretariat@ensi.org

12 – 14 March ‘Form-it Take part in Research’ Conference Vienna
Contact: prauhart@ecology.at Information: http://www.form-it.eu and http://www.ecology.at/form_it.htm