Topics in this issue:

1. ENSI conference: ‘Creating learning environments for the future. Research and practice share knowledge’
   Leuven (Belgium), March 26-28, 2009

2. FOCUS: Engaging Research on ESD – a new ENSI project

3. REPORT: Successful SUPPORT conference in Finland

4. REPORT: Carpathian Environmental Education Network / Move4Nature Teachers’ Training Tour

5. REPORT: ENSI meets the Francophone community, Bordeaux October 27-29, 2008


7. MEMBERS’ NETWORKING PLACE: “Call for International Review – Swiss Curriculum for compulsory schools” by Johannes Tschapka

8. NEW PUBLICATIONS:
   * CSCT Handbook: Duurzame Ontwikkeling (in Dutch)

   * ‘Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development in Lower Secondary Schools’ (Mayer and Tschapka; ENSI and Council of Europe, 2008) has been translated into French. Title: “Motiver la jeunesse à soutenir le développement durable – Apprendre et enseigner le développement durable dans l’enseignement secondaire”

9. AGENDA:
   • 5th World Environmental Education Congress, Montréal (Canada) May 10-14, 2009
1. ENSI conference: ‘Creating learning environments for the future. Research and practice share knowledge’

Leuven (Belgium), March 26-28, 2009

ENSI inpa is pleased to announce an international conference in Leuven (Belgium), March 26-29, 2009. At this conference the results of successful ENSI projects and products will be disseminated. In addition, workshops will be offered in order to find out how the project results can be implemented, and how knowledge can be shared between research and practice.

Preliminary programme:

Thursday March 26 (begins 14:00)
• Welcome by the president of ENSI
• Lecture by Prof. Dr. Roger Standaert (University Ghent, Director of the Curriculum Department of the Ministry of Education and Training of the Flemish Community; Secretary-General of CIDREE): Education for Sustainable Development in a Globalised World
• The ENSI philosophy
• Working groups on ‘learning environments for ESD’

Friday March 27 (09:30 - 18:00)
• Keynote: ESD and the whole school/institutional approach
• Working groups on:
  o Whole school/institutional approach
  o Professionalisation of teachers (teachers’ competences for ESD)

Saturday March 28 (9:30 - 12:00)
• Keynote: networking and ESD
• Presentation of results by ‘ENSI’ ‘junior researchers’

Conference details will be published very soon on the ENSI-website!

2. Focus: Engaging Research on ESD – a new ENSI project

Michela Mayer and Johannes Tschapka reporting from the first seminar:

The Council of Europe, together with Environment and School Initiatives (ENSI), undertook an international ENSI Seminar titled: “Engaging Research on ESD”. The seminar brought together the enthusiastic energy of a new generation of researchers who are committed to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to explore research collaboration and networking. The seminar was facilitated by Christine Affolter, Michela Mayer and Johannes Tschapka.

A range of interesting research projects presented by the participants were discussed in analytic discourses and led to joint ideas about research in the field of ESD. In addition to pooling the expertise of the research newcomers, the seminar provided opportunity to begin a small researchers’ network under the umbrella of ENSI.
The group was made up of participants from the following countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The group members showed great interest in participating actively in the 2009 ENSI conference. Following the seminar, the ENSI Executive Committee decided to welcome this initiative and to consider a serious role for the “Junior Researchers” at the conference and beyond.

For photos see: http://picasaweb.google.com/rltauritz/ENSI2008?authkey=1_CbVLa-diU#
Website links or references: You can find the platform for engaging research at: http://gc21.inwent.org/de/index.jsp

3. Report: Successful SUPPORT conference in Finland, by Asa Renman

During the first week of September, an international thematic SUPPORT conference took place in Finland. The conference was organized by SUPPORT and the Finnish National Board of Education in collaboration with the Hanasaari Swedish - Finnish Cultural Centre.

The conference was titled “ICT Supported Education for Sustainable Development and Global Responsibility”. It attracted 105 participants—from education policy-makers and researchers to teacher educators, teachers and environmental authorities concerned with ESD and global education (GE).

The aim was to discuss and share ideas on how to increase cooperation between these different groups, to exchange experiences on “best practices” in ESD and education for global responsibility. As the conference title indicates, one of the main goals was to look at ICT-supported education, for instance as a tool to facilitate partnerships for ESD between students, researchers and local communities. Another goal was to look at how using ICT can contribute to developing responsible global citizenship.

The four-day programme was quite full, but the Finnish organizers did a fabulous job of sticking to the time plan. Just to give a few glimpses of the program…:

The first keynote on ESD and Global Responsibility was given by professor Sharifah Norhaidah Sayed Idros. She is a member of SUPPORT and works at the “University in a garden” - the University Sains Malaysia, School of Educational Studies in Malaysia.

Another keynote speaker was Patrick Dillon, professor at the University of Exeter in the UK; he spoke about “Collaborative learning in on-line education for sustainability”.

Several interesting cases were also presented. For example, Caroline Figuéres, Managing Director of the International Institute for Communication and Development, described how useful ICT can be in promoting development in school education in Latin America and Africa.
Reiner Mathar, national ENSI coordinator for Germany and also leader of the ICT group in SUPPORT, introduced “CO\textsubscript{2}nnect”, an international school campaign on transport and climate change that will be launched by SUPPORT in March 2009.

4. REPORT: Carpathian Environmental Education Network / Move4Nature Teachers’ Training Tour – First Planning Workshop, by Attila Varga

The Carpathian Sustainable Learning Network (CASALEN) launched in the autumn of 2007 as an informal learning network. The aim of the network is to facilitate social and economic change towards sustainable development in society through shared learning in the Carpathian area.

**Casalen Homepage**

Thanks to the generous offer of the Polish National Unesco committee, the CASALEN website is available at [www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen](http://www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen). This website presents the principals, background and meeting results of the network. It also includes an ESD contact list of national DESD committee members, researchers, NGOs, and officials helping with networking in the region. The hands-on ESD work in the region is supported by ESD resources in Carpathian, which consist of a collection of list links to pedagogical support materials useful for the Carpathian region. CASALEN is open to everyone who shares its purposes. All suggestions on how to expand either the ESD contact list or the ESD resource list are thus welcomed! Please write to: attila.varga@ofi.hu

- **Training tour in Romania**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania, have organised a Planning Workshop for the development of a Romanian training tour in Poiana Brasov, Romania, on November 7-8, 2008. The training programme is being developed on the basis of the CASALEN initiative and enjoys the support of the international corporate social responsibility initiative OMV Move & Help.

The training programme is aimed at:

- including the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains into the curriculum of Carpathian schools;
- distributing to the schools the teaching materials based on the Carpathian environment; and
- training a number of teachers from the rural mountainous areas to apply an interactive approach to education for sustainable development in their classrooms.

The training will also aim at connecting teacher training with the protected areas, and some of the activities will be carried out by involving the protected areas in the curriculum, by involving the protected area personnel into the training sessions, and by developing training and teaching materials that focus on interactive teaching and using the natural space and protected areas as a classroom/teaching tool. Following advice from the Romanian stakeholders and consultations with the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania, the initial stage of the project is an interactive teacher training tour, which will take place in Romania.. An outcome of the project is a Carpathian toolkit that will be available for adaptation to other Carpathian nations.
• Carpathian side-event at the Bordeaux conference, October 2008

As a part of its network building activities, CASALEN has promoted and contributed to sub-regional meetings with a focus on and expertise in ESD, from the Balkans, Carpathians, and the Caucasus on “Networking and Cooperation in support of Education for Sustainable Development” at the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Bordeaux, France, October 27-29, 2008. This conference was organised by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (UNESCO-BRESCE), together with UNEP – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC) – and UNECE. The main objective of the conference was to facilitate dialogue between the representatives of UNESCO national commissions and the UNECE National Focal Points for ESD within the framework of Southeast European, Carpathian and Caucasus cooperation processes, in order to effectively implement ESD in these sub-regions’ countries.

Website link: http://www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen/

5. REPORT: ENSI meets the Francophone community in Bordeaux (October 27-29, 2008), by Christine Affolter

ENSI was pleased to be invited by Michel Ricard, organiser of the International Conference on ESD in Bordeaux 2008 and ENSI country coordinator for France to run the first parallel session on “ESD in the European Union”. The session included an introductory panel with Elisabeth Bittner (European Commission-DG Education), Andreas Karamanos (Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development), Roel van Raaji (Chair of the Expert Group on Indicators for the UNESE Strategy for ESD), and Daniella Tilbury (Chair of the UN Global Monitoring and Evaluation Expert’s Group) who presented the state of the art in the global monitoring process of the UN-Decade on ESD. Following the panel, ENSI offered four workshops on the following subjects:
* “Whole institutional approach to ESD and the role of school in society” (M. Mayer and E. Flogaitis)
* “Systemic approach to curriculum changes in educational institutions” (M. Clary and G. Turchany)
* “Professional Educational Competencies in ESD” (R. Steiner and M. Junyent)
* “Informal and social learning: The challenge of the Decade to the Educational System” (I. Mulà and R. van Raaji). The workshops and the introductory presentations were well received by the participants; outcomes will be published on the ENSI homepage soon. Resulting from the workshop is a list of recommendations, which will be presented at the UNESCO DESD mid-term Conference in Bonn, March 2009.


At the regular annual meeting in Ljubljana, the representatives of the European organizations linked in consortium CIDREE discussed the implementation of key competences in the European curricula. This is the guiding theme of the education in EU and OECD. Key competences are also the basis of PISA, which allows comparison of the effectiveness of school systems in the context of the compulsory education.

Anne Looney CIDREE president highlighted a fundamental curriculum question in 21st century; how to learn? This question is not just bound to the walls of the schools, it is now a lifelong learning pursuit.
Mr. Tapio Saavala, the representative of the European Commission / EAC, spoke about the role of key competences in the EU strategies for education and training and its implementation in the school practice.

David Pepper (QCA, London) lectured on the implementation of cross-curricular key competences in Europe. Cross-curricular dimension can add a richness and relevance to the curriculum experience of young people.

Majda Naji tried to answer the essential question: »What are we trying to achieve with ESD competencies in the school practice?« ESD schools recognized that a school culture, founded on the principle of key competencies of ESD, may achieve good outcomes by taking a holistic approach to school improvement across the curriculum. Promotion of ESD key competencies in the education requires a systematic approach and a specific knowledge, skills and values.

The 2008 yearbook of CIDREE presented at the meeting in Ljubljana offers a holistic view of 21st century curriculum. The CIDREE members expressed particular thanks to Chris Van Woensel for her editorial work on the year book with the title “The implementation of key Competences. Challenges and opportunities.”

http://www.zrss.si/default.asp?link=predmet&tip=8&pID=81

7. NETWORK MEMBERS PLACE: “Call for International Review – Swiss Curriculum for compulsory school” by Johannes Tschapka

Status: Currently the Swiss government has begun curriculum development that places a strong emphasis on ESD (EDK, 2007). The former ENSI secretary (1998 - 2005), Johannes Tschapka, is in charge of this curriculum development. The implementation of ESD challenges the development team on several counts. The emerging competence-based curriculum meets specific notions of ESD, which may cause conflicting issues.
Call: In order to enhance the international reliability of integrating ESD into the Swiss Curriculum, Johannes Tschapka calls for five experts from different countries, who are involved in ENSI, to review a guideline of ESD for the Swiss curriculum by April 2009.

Background: The Swiss measure No 6 (International Affairs) of ESD by the Swiss federal education board foresees the involvement of ENSI. The active task of ENSI experts in measure No 1 (Curriculum Integration) will strengthen the collaboration between ENSI and the Swiss federal education board and highlight ENSI’s role as a source of expertise in the respective field.

Task description: By the beginning of April 2009 you would receive a 40-page document containing guidelines on ESD, which has been developed by national experts on Education and on the respective sub-areas of ESD in Switzerland: Health Education, Global Learning, Citizenship Education, and Environmental Education. I would ask you for a separate document with comments, critical reflections and constructive suggested changes (min. 2 to max. 5 pages).

Refund: The Swiss government offers to refund staff costs by a maximum amount of 400.- € per expert.
Deadline for feedback: December 18, 2008

Swiss page on Curriculum (only available in German at present):
http://www.lehrplan.ch/
Email contact: Johannes.tschapka@lehrplan.ch

8. NEW PUBLICATIONS:
New translation into French:
The very successful booklet ‘Engaging youth in sustainable Development in Lower Secondary Schools’ (Mayer and Tschapka; ENSI and Council of Europe, 2008) was translated into French and will be available soon. Title: “Motiver la jeunesse à soutenir le développement durable – Apprendre et enseigner le développement durable dans l’enseignement secondaire” For orders, please contact the secretariat (secretariat @ensi.org)
In Dutch:
CSCT Hand book: Duurzame Ontwikkeling

9, AGENDA
5th World Environmental Education Congrès, Montréal, Canada
May 10-14, 2009
For information please see: http://www.5weec.uqam.ca/