1. **How are the recommendations of the Expert Group on Competences implemented at the national level and adapted to national contexts?**

Awareness of education for sustainable development has continued to grow in political and administrative circles within Switzerland. Intensive work is being carried out on measures for implementing the recommendations of the UNECE Expert Group on Competences in ESD.

**Examples:**

The preparations for the foundation of a national centre of competence (agency) for ESD are going well. The agency will be a specialist centre at an operational level and a services enterprise for ESD, which will allow access to and concern itself with existing approaches to the topic such as environmental education, global learning and health education. Its main purpose will be to promote and facilitate the integration of ESD in school curricula. The future agency will be sponsored by the Confederation, the cantons and civil society. It is due to be set up on the 1.1.2013.

The Swiss Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, SC ESD, is working to systematically integrate ESD into the regional language curricula of compulsory schools (Measure 1) and into the training and continuing education of teachers (Measure 2). In relation to this, an appraisal has been carried out of the scientifically-based plans for ESD that already exist at the different teacher training institutions.

When the Continuing Education Act was being compiled, aspects of ESD were included during the consultation phase.

ESD elements were integrated into the Dispatch of the Federal Council on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation 2013–16.

An international ESD Indicator Project concluded by developing an ESD Indicator Set for checking tenders and services in the field of ESD.

2. **How is cooperation between governmental departments in the fields of ESD?**

Cooperation in the field of ESD has intensified and improved between various federal offices and the cantons, particularly in the domains of legislative processes, the development of the new agency for ESD and vocational training (see a and c).
3. Are there any ESD activities carried out or planned to respond to the demands of a green economy, especially as regards technical and vocation education and training?

The Federal Council of Switzerland’s requirement for a green economy and more cleantech is being implemented within the framework of the Masterplan Cleantech (2011).

The implementation of the operational area “Qualification – Education and Continuing Education” within the Masterplan Cleantech provides for cooperation across government offices as well as for networking with industrial partners.

All basic vocational education courses are being checked for Cleantech-relevant content and supplemented where necessary.

A stimulus programme “Continuing education for resource efficiency and renewable energies” is being created.

The educational regulations and plans of the basic vocational education system and of the higher vocational education system will be supplemented within the framework of the Dispatch with elements of sustainable development.

Continuing educational programmes with an emphasis on sustainable development are planned for various vocational trades (e.g. joiner).

4. Has the economic downturn impacted ESD activities in your country?

As far as we can see, there has been no economic downturn with associated effects on the implementation of ESD in the educational system in Switzerland.