

INFORMAL COUNTRY REPORT

SWITZERLAND

Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development: progress report

a. Ensuring that there is an education for sustainable development (ESD) school plan in every school by 2015

The Swiss Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (SC ESD) is continuing to work on the systematic integration of ESD into the compulsory education curriculum of each canton/linguistic region (Measure 1) and into the training and continuing education of teachers (Measure 2). The process of implementation will be closed at the end of 2014.

As of 1 January 2013, **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** in Switzerland has an identity: the foundation **éducation21**. On behalf of the cantons, the federal government and civil society, **éducation21** supports the implementation and consolidation of ESD. It has taken over from the Foundation for Education and Development and the Foundation for Environmental Education, which focussed on global education and on environmental education respectively. In addition, **éducation21** deals with health and political education, including human rights and economics. The foundation aims to help prepare children and adolescents for their future in an increasingly complex world. It achieves this by **linking in to curriculum development**, which, due to the integration of ESD, shares the same goals.

Acting as a national service centre, the new foundation is active in education on national and cantonal levels in every language region. **éducation21** can provide teachers, school boards and other stakeholders with pedagogically sound teaching media, information and advice. It also can award financial support to school and class projects. With regard to teacher training and further education, **éducation21** works with higher education centres and with training and further education colleges for teaching staff.

b. Promoting the integration of ESD into teacher education

Mr François Bourqui, co-project manager of the ESD-Consortium COHEP (Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education), will provide the UNECE for Europe Steering Committee on ESD with detailed information on this topic at its meeting of **21 March 2013**, including a presentation of the results of recent study on integration of ESD into the teacher training in Switzerland

The presentation will be sent before 10 March 2013 to Mrs S. Hofner at the UNECE secretariat.

Reorienting technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy

The requirement of the Swiss Federal Council for a green economy and more cleantech (Masterplan Cleantech 2011) resulted in a review of all basic vocational courses, which were checked for cleantech-relevant content. The result shows that there are already some imple-

mentations, but some important professional categories still show significant deficiencies. It is up to the Federal Council to decide whether or not to update the basic vocational courses (Summer 2013).

The opportunity of launching a stimulus program “Continuing education for resource efficiency and renewable energies”, started in 2012, is still being discussed.

The Swiss government is pursuing its goal of improving the resource efficiency of production and consumption through green economy initiatives, with the aim of lowering the drain on resources to environmentally sustainable levels and improve competitiveness and welfare in Switzerland. A catalogue of measures in the areas of communication, education and counselling, as well as specific instruments to raise the awareness of the general public, have been submitted for approval to the Federal Council.

Bern, 6 March 2013

National focal point for Switzerland

Beat Bringold
