

Welcome to the first issue of the Thematic Review on Adult Learning newsletter. This review, launched by the Education Committee, is being conducted as a joint activity with the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee. The purpose of the review is to examine the institutional arrangements and policy practices that underlie the availability of learning opportunities to different groups of adults.

We take this opportunity to welcome your country's participation in this project, which will undoubtedly contribute to better understanding of concerns that have arisen in most OECD countries. Through the review of each country situation and a cross-country comparison, we hope to find some of the key elements for effective learning activities and "good practices", to understand the returns to adult learning in different settings and to reach conclusions on how the policy and institutional environment might be made more supportive of adult learning.

Abrar HASAN

### What's happening?

- The first visit to Switzerland was extremely fruitful as you will see below. Finalisation of the Swiss visit (Background report and Country note) is progressing.
- We have just completed the mission to the United Kingdom (10-18 February 2000) and will keep you informed in our April newsletter.

### What's new?

- A Thematic review web page is being prepared. Once completed it will enable you to access documents concerning the Thematic review along with some very interesting links

### Participating countries

Canada	Portugal
Denmark	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Hungary	United Kingdom
Norway	United States

#### Who to contact?

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# Switzerland

## Co-ordinator

André Schläfli  
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## Logistics

Ruth Jermann  
Swiss Federation for  
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## Background report

Regula Schröder-Naef  
Josianne Bodart Senn

## Pilot Group

Several experts from  
Swiss institutions  
involved

## Responsible Institutions

Swiss State Department  
for Education and  
Science

Swiss Co-ordination  
Centre for Research in  
Education



## External expert team

### Rapporteur

Pierre Doray  
Canada

### External experts

Arne Carlsen  
Denmark

Klaus Schömann  
Germany

### OECD experts

Anne Sonnet  
Administrator

Patrick Werquin  
Principal Administrator

### Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>

Place: Zurich

09:00-11:00 Pilot group briefing  
11:15-13:00 Cantonal representatives evaluation  
14:00-16:00 Federations' policy on adult education  
16:15-18:00 The tasks of the different private training providers

### Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup>

Place: Saint-Gall

09:00-11:00 Visit : Training at Ecole-club Migros  
11:15-13:00 Meeting with key cantonal training providers  
14:00-16:00 Universities and institutions of higher education  
16:15-18:00 Job seekers and active labour market policies  
18:15-19:00 Meeting with Mr. Stöckling - Conseiller d'Etat

### Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>

Place: Bern

10:15-11:30 Meeting with social partners  
11:45-13:00 Meeting with federal authorities on legal developments  
14:00-16:00 Towards more co-ordination  
16:15-18:00 Meeting with practitioners

### Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>

Place: Bern

07:00-07:30 Meeting with Mr. Couchepin - Conseiller fédéral  
09:00-11:00 Federal statistical office Place: Neufchatel  
11:15-13:00 Visit of a vocational training provider  
14:00-16:00 Quality and Forming teachers

### Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>

Place: Geneva

09:00-11:00 Meeting with academics  
11:15-13:00 Outplacement and orientation  
14:00-16:00 Low achievers and remedial opportunities  
16:15-18:00 Evaluating the visit with the pilot group

## The Swiss Viewpoint

The Swiss authorities strove to give the team of experts a broad picture of Swiss learning and training activities. The Programme included visits to active programmes for the unemployed, talks with decision makers and researchers, meetings with providers of adult learning, discussions with specialists from the Federal Office of Statistics and other examples of Swiss adult learning activities.

Over 120 people participated, with meetings in German and French. One half of these people were representatives of private and semi-private institutions, while the other half came from the Confederation and the Cantons. The visit generated a lot of interest from professionals, who were stimulated by the exchange of ideas, and also from politicians, who took time out to personally meet with the Review Team. The Conseiller Federal, Mr. Pascal Couchepin met them in Bern, while Mr. Hans Ulrich Stöckling, Chair of the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Directors of Education, received them in Saint-Gall.