



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

Swiss Confederation

Swiss Continuing Education and Training Act (CETA)



**The most significant Swiss policy
development in the area of adult
learning and education since 2009**

Andrea Ernst, October 2017

CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review 2017, Suwon



General information about the CET Sector in Switzerland

- **Switzerland:** Small country in the middle of Europe; 8 million inhabitants, developed country, direct democracy and federal system, well-developed education system
- In Switzerland, continuing education is **mainly organised on a private basis** and is **individually responsible**. State intervention is not in the foreground
- Continuing education takes place **outside the state-regulated formal education system**.
- **High participation** in continuing education and training: 65%, but social disparity exists.
- **Over 10%** of the population **lack basic skills**



Needs

- Positioning of continuing education and training sector within in the Swiss Educational Area
- Strengthening lifelong learning
- Definition of common principles
- Creating a uniform understanding of terms
- Improving links to the formal education system
- Providing a legal basis for the acquisition basic skills as a prerequisite for lifelong learning

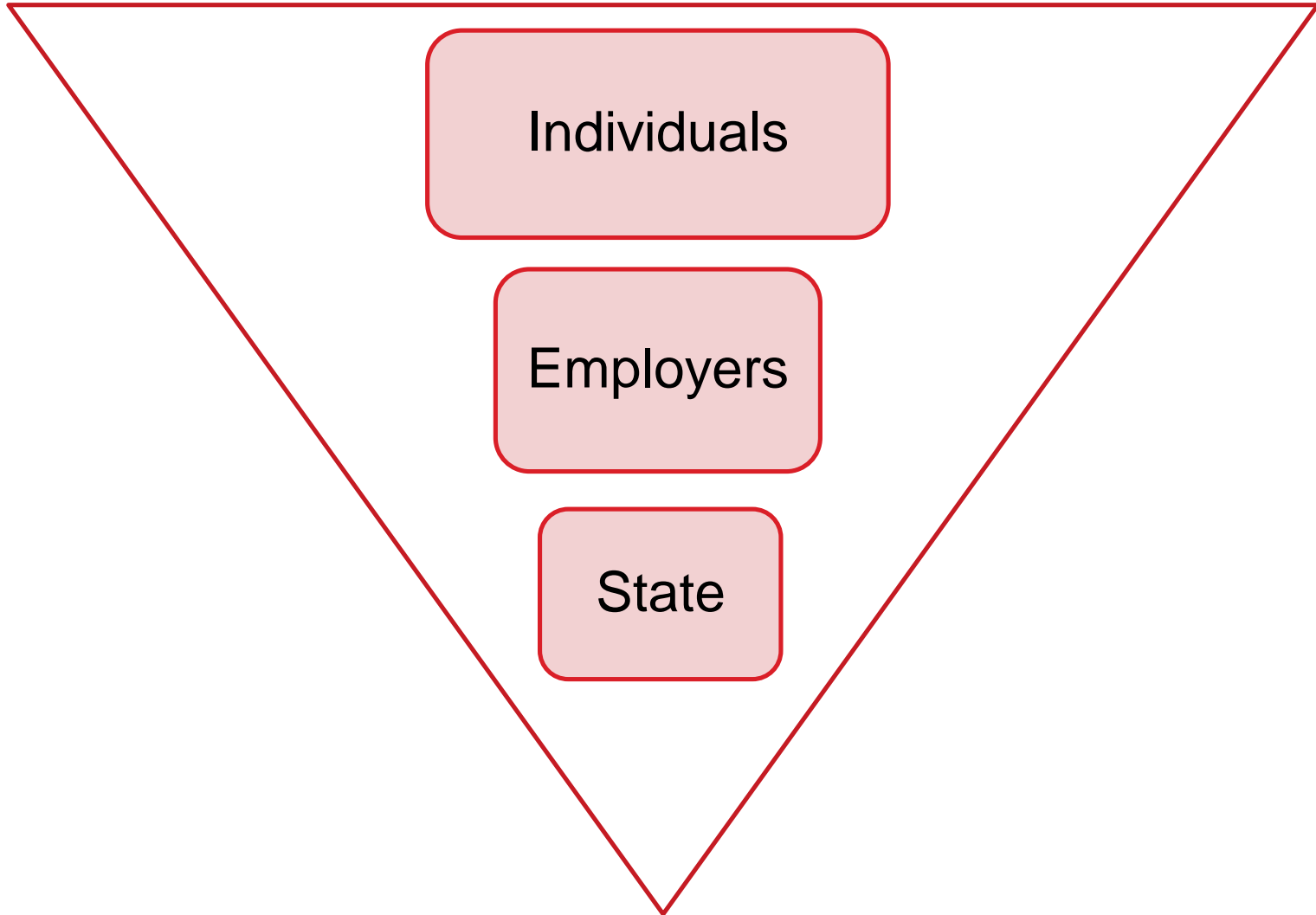


Content of CETA: Basic principles

- ✓ Responsibility (Art. 5)
- ✓ Quality control and quality improvement (Art. 6)
- ✓ Recognition of non-formal and informal learning for the purpose of pursuing education and training (Art. 7)
- ✓ More equal opportunities (Art. 8)
- ✓ Competition (Art. 9)



Responsibility

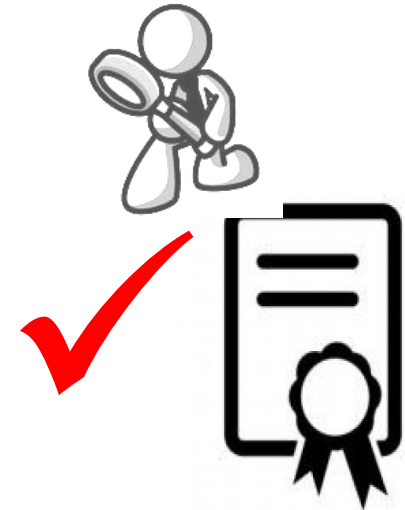
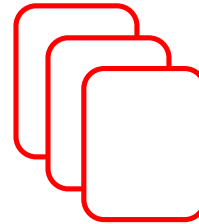




Quality

Q

- Information about courses
- Pedagogical training for trainers and instructors
- Tutorials
- Qualification procedures



Improving transparency

Recognition of non-formal and informal learning for the purpose of pursuing education and training



More equal opportunities

By regulating or supporting continuing education and training the Confederation and the cantons help to create more equal opportunities:

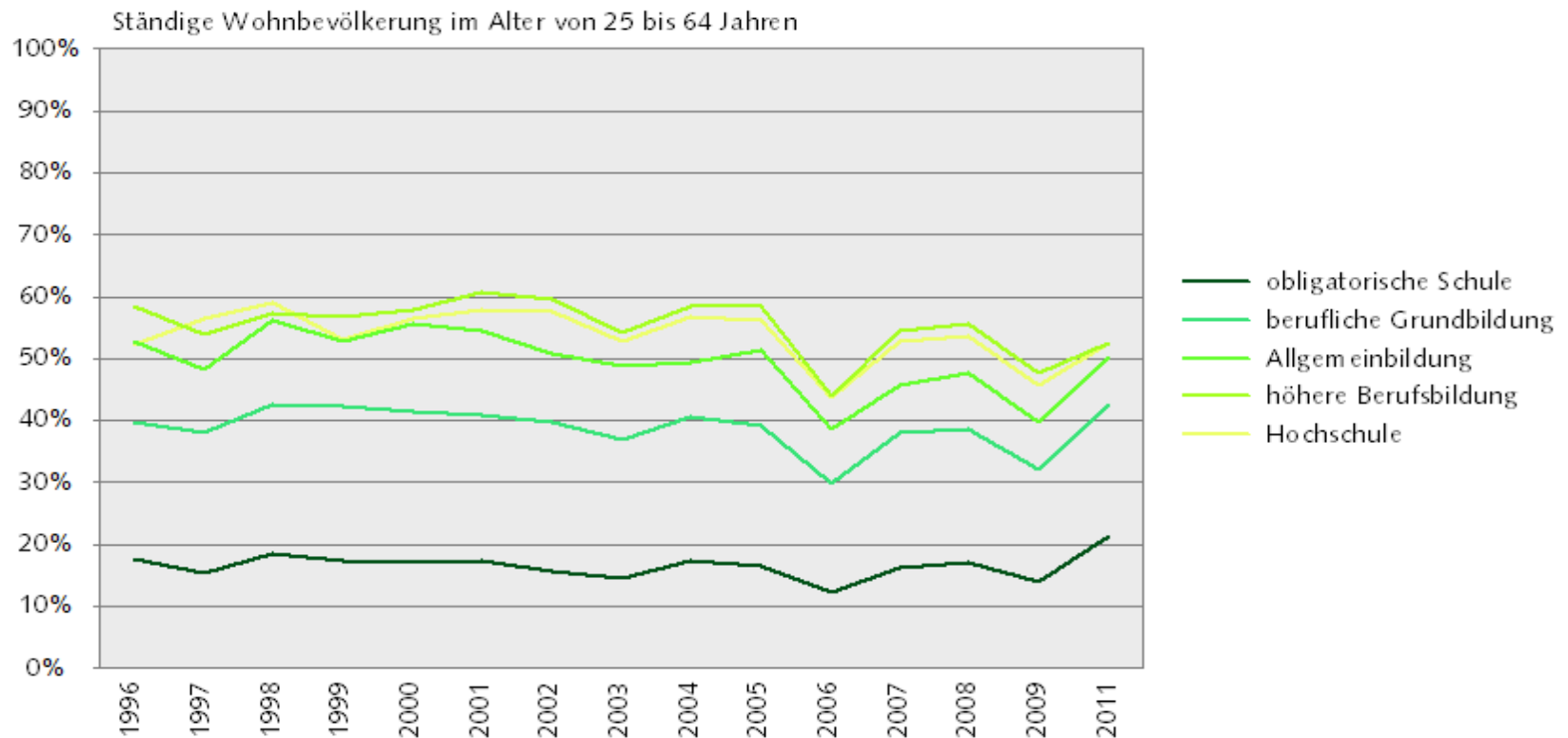
- For men and women
- For persons with disabilities
- For foreigners
- For individuals wishing to return to working life



Participation in continuing education and training: by education level

Entwicklung der Teilnahme an Weiterbildungskursen
nach Bildungsniveau, 1996-2011

G 9



Quelle : MZB 2011

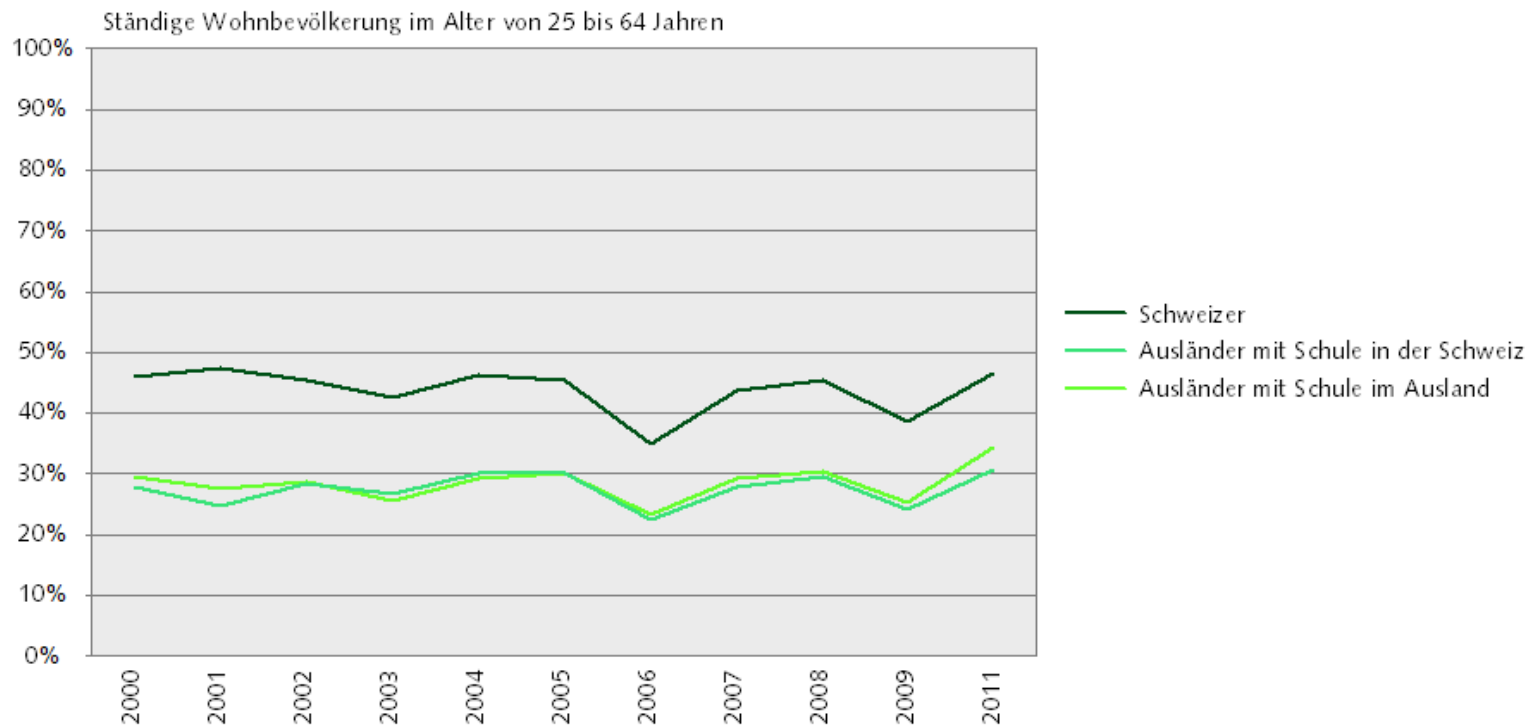
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Participation in continuing education and training: by citizenship

Entwicklung der Teilnahme an Weiterbildungskursen
nach Nationalität, 2000-2011

G 11



Quelle : MZB 2011

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Encouraging the acquisition of basic skills

- The Confederation and the cantons are committed to enabling adults to acquire and maintain basic skills. (Art. 14)
- Basic skills include: reading and writing; basic knowledge of mathematics, use of information and communication technologies. (Art. 13)
- Joint federal-cantonal support structure. Professional organisations are also involved.

Initial period 2017 – 2020: objectives

**Gain an overview
of existing courses**

**Identify supply
gaps**

**Increase
demand**

**Coordinate
educational
measures; provide
information,
consultancy and
mediation services**



**Clarify
interfaces**

**Identify good
practices**



Good Governance

- Switzerland has well-established mechanisms for broad-based consultation and decision-making involving a large number of stakeholders. It is not only **federal structures** that support this culture of participation. The concerns of the **cantons** are also taken into account in national developments.
- Other key stakeholders in CETA are **civil society** and **professional organisations**, which were also involved in the development of CETA. They continue to play a central role in implementation.



Achievements / Lessons learnt

The new Continuing Education and Training Act (CETA) ..

- integrates continuing education and training into the Swiss education system and makes it a topic of discussion!
- ... places the actors in the center (participants, providers, employers etc.)
- ... focuses on disadvantaged target groups
- ... is a beginning to respond to new societal challenges such as globalisation, digitalisation and upskilling
- enables new, regional support structures to improve equal opportunities
- ... inspired the first Swiss-wide campaign to improve attendance of basic-skills courses



Challenges

Knowledge gaps preventing effective policymaking: need to improve data basis



Reaching target groups



Coordination of measures





Summary

- **In General:** Completion of the legal basis for the education area
- **Content:** Legal anchoring of the importance of basic skills as a prerequisite for lifelong learning and other basic principles
- **Process:** Good Governance: hallmark of the development process and the implementation



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION
ANY QUESTIONS...?

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