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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**

Swiss Delegation, Side Event Oct. 26th

CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review 2017, Suwon



Swiss Delegation

- Andrea Ernst; **State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI**
- Benedikt Feldges; President of the **Intercantonal Conference for Continuing Education and Training**
- Bernhard Grämiger; Director of the **Swiss Federation for Adult Learning SVEB**



Swiss Context

- 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 and Training (CET) is mainly organised on a private basis and is individually responsible. State intervention is not in the foreground
- CET 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

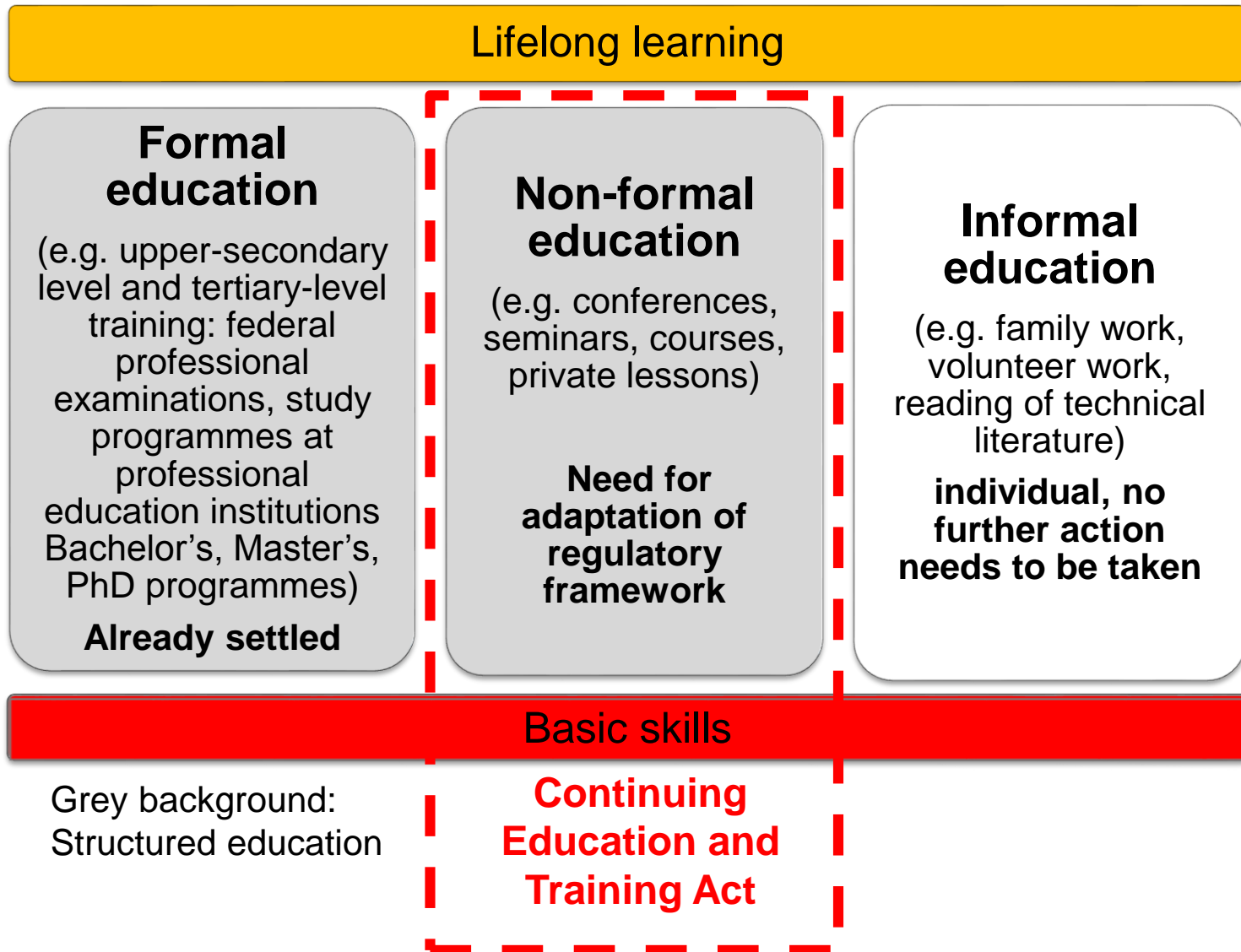


Needs

- Positioning of continuing education and training sector within 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



Concept



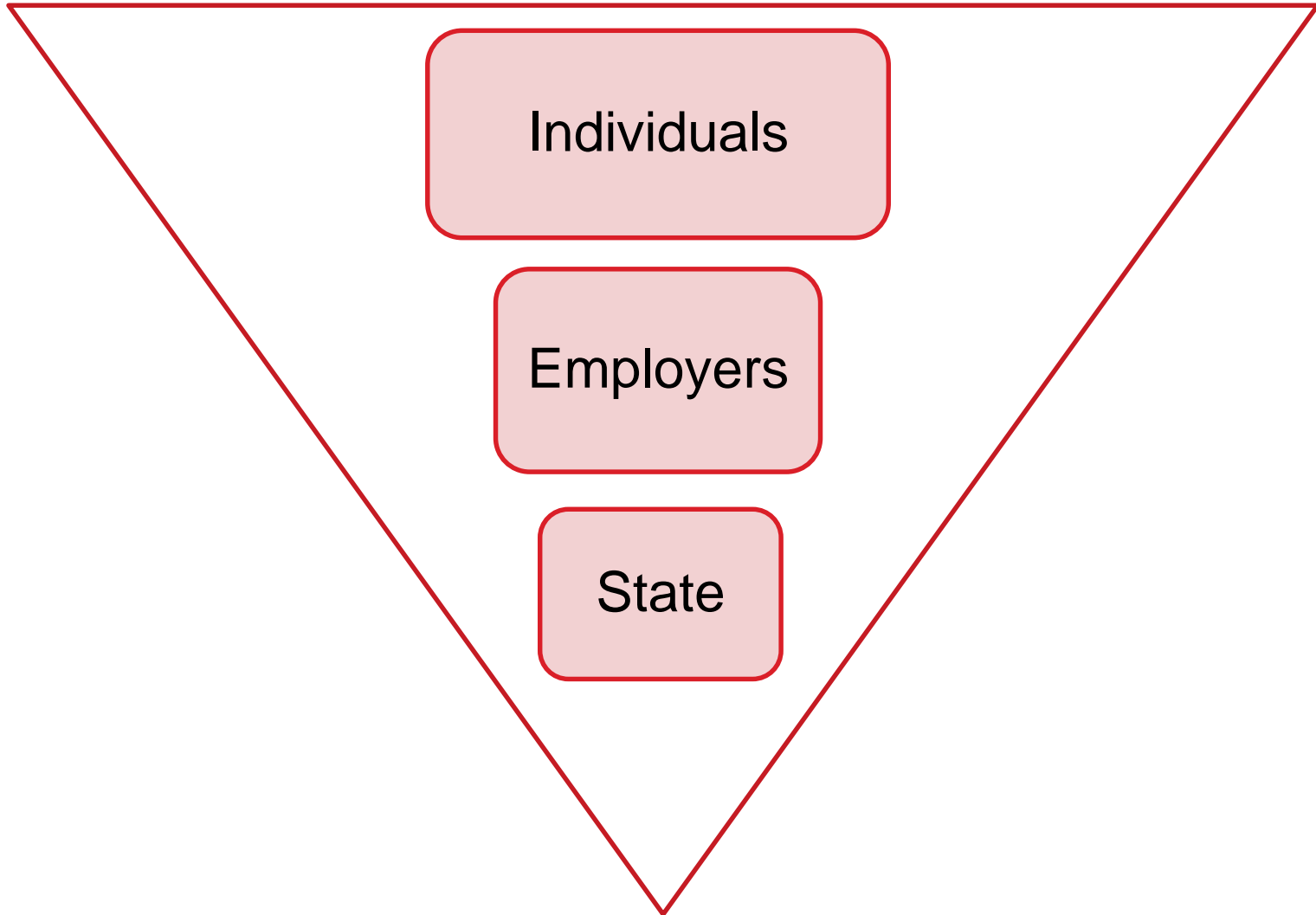


Content of CETA: Basic principles

- ✓ 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

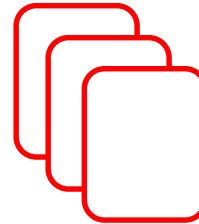




Quality



- 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:

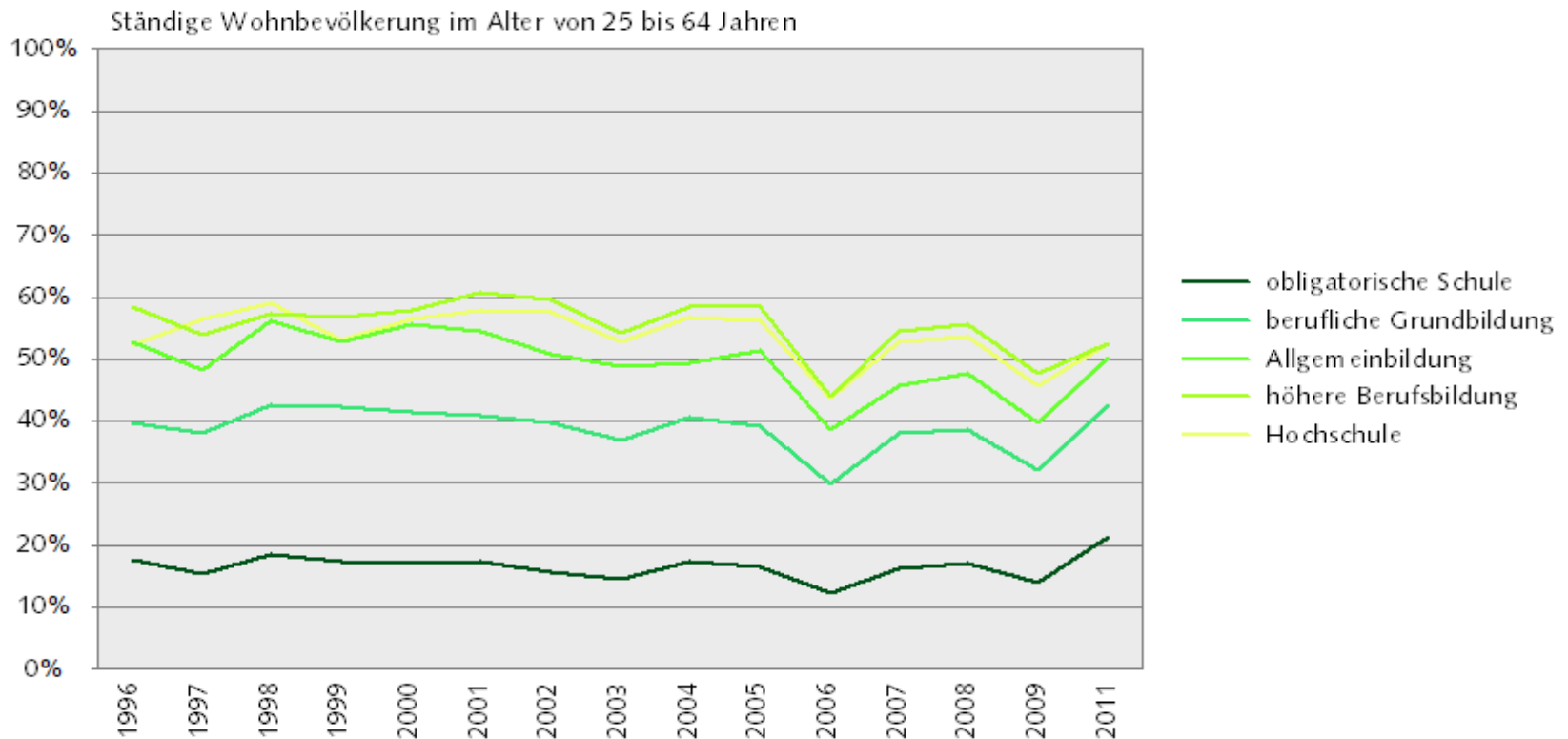
- For men and women
- For persons with disabilities
- For foreigners
- For individuals wishing to return to working life



Participation in continuing education and training: by education level

Entwicklung der Teilnahme an Weiterbildungskursen
nach Bildungsniveau, 1996-2011

G 9



Quelle : MZB 2011

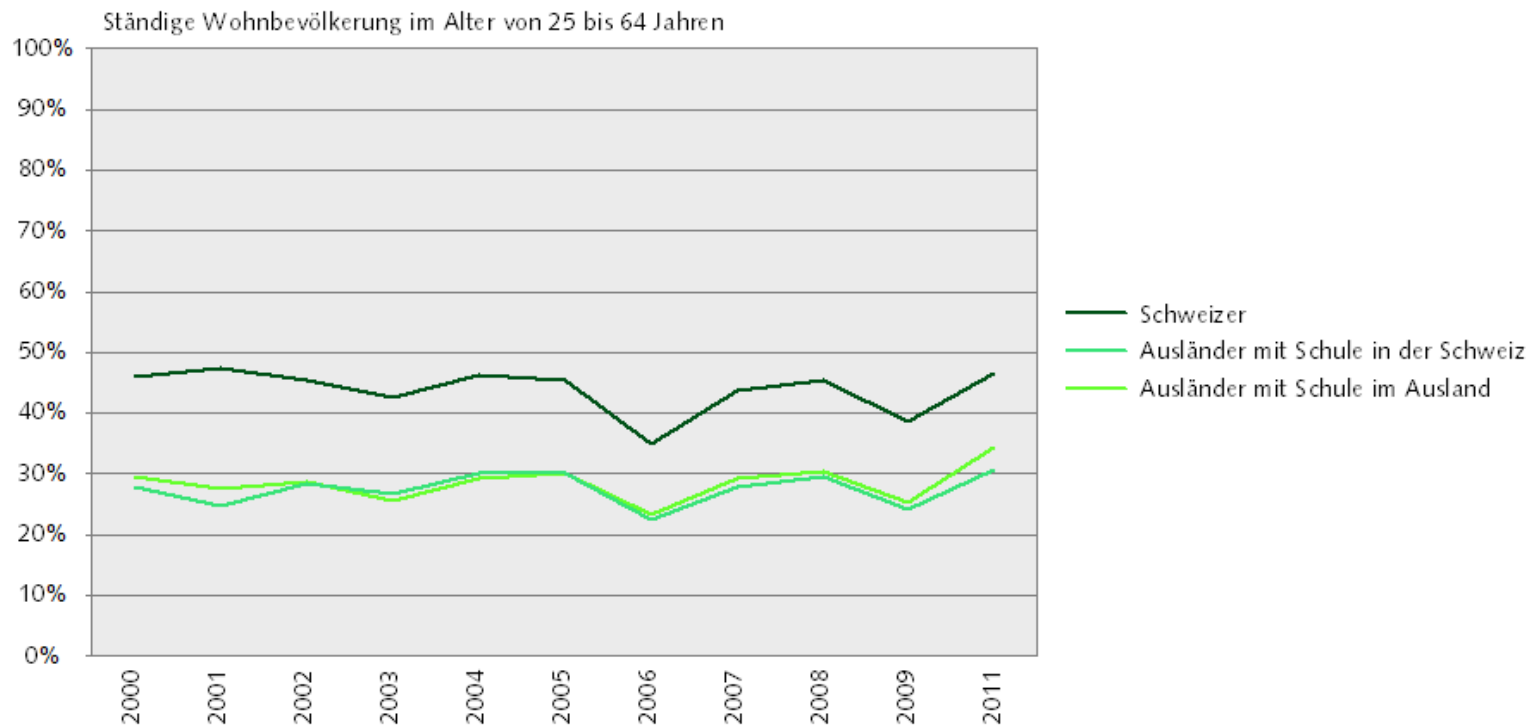
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Participation in continuing education and training: by citizenship

Entwicklung der Teilnahme an Weiterbildungskursen nach Nationalität, 2000-2011

G 11



Quelle : MZB 2011

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Competition

- Public service providers must not distort competition. → They have to charge **cost-covering prices** for their courses. Exceptions are possible if this is in the public interest.
- Basic principle: **continuing education and training is organised by the private sector**, the state only acts in a subsidiary capacity



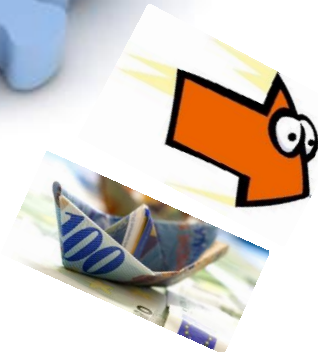
Encouraging the acquisition of basic skills

- 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.



Finances

**Continuing Education
and Training Act (CETA)
SERI**



Cantons

Support programmes to help adults to acquire basic skills



CET organisations

Provision of information,
coordination of activities, quality
control and improvement

Policy research

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.



Role of the cantons

The cantons are responsible for implementation of the new Continuing Education and Training Act (CETA). They also provide at least 50% of all state funding in support of continuing education and training.

The cantons are responsible for:

- Coordinating continuing education and training activities
- Establishing and maintaining support structures for courses enabling adults to acquire basic skills
- Raising public awareness of the importance of access to continuing education and training
- Supervising state-subsidised courses



Implementation

The Intercantonal Conference on Continuing Education and Training (IKW) is a body comprised of cantonal officials responsible for continuing education and training. IKW helps the cantons to implement CET-related measures.

Measures:

- Establishment and maintenance of a national database of all courses enabling adults to acquire basic skills
- Swiss-wide grassroots campaign 'Simply better!' to increase participation in basic skills courses
- Coordination of activities relating to CET, exchange of good practices and representation of cantonal interests



'Simply better!' campaign



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Good Governance

Culture of involving Stakeholders:

- **federal structures** support culture of participation
- concerns of the **cantons** are taken into account in national developments.
- **civil society** and **professional organisations** are also involved in development and 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!
- ... 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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