

**Portrait of the
Swiss Council for Educational Research
(*CORECHED*)**

The Swiss Council for Educational Research (*CORECHED*) was established in the early 1990s and brings together all major parties involved in educational research in Switzerland with the objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between researchers, policymakers and administrators. *CORECHED* is funded and supported by various central federal and cantonal authorities responsible for educational research: the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER), the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) and the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK).

An evaluation in 1997 led to *CORECHED*'s first reorganization, in which its structures and decision-making processes were streamlined. A financing agreement was reached with its parent institutions EDK, SER, and OPET in 1999, providing a sound funding basis for *CORECHED*'s operations over the long term.

The revised statutes in effect since 2001 set out *CORECHED*'s new organisation and structures and define its functions and responsibilities. The central element of the new organisation involved the creation of the Steering Group, which serves as the executive body of *CORECHED* and is comprised of representatives of the institutions that fund *CORECHED* (EDK, SER and OPET), all of whom have voting rights. The Steering Group was later expanded to include the Vice President of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO) and the President of the Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE). The former *CORECHED* Advisory Board was comprised of a larger number of representatives from research, public administration and professional associations and served as a consultative body. This consultative body was disbanded following a review of *CORECHED*'s functional processes. There are plans to replace it in the future with panels of experts that are constituted on an ad hoc basis.

The operational activities of *CORECHED* are conducted by the Swiss Coordination Centre for Research in Education (SCCRE) in Aarau. The Secretariat of *CORECHED* performs administrative duties and is involved in the preparation and performance of most of the business activities. This includes the timely formulation of key priorities and issues concerning the field of education, as well as the actual drafting of concrete proposals. A website launched in the latter half of 2002 (www.coreched.ch) documents ongoing activities in three languages and makes *CORECHED*'s actions fully transparent to the interested public.

CORECHED has operated on an annual regular budget of 250,000 francs since 2001.

Tasks and activities

CORECHED's key functions are to survey and document the current state of educational research on a regular basis and to initiate research projects at the national and international level. As stated in its statutes, *CORECHED* is tasked to coordinate educational research policy and to work towards improving collaboration among educational policymakers, educational administrators, educational practitioners and educational researchers. This includes the following tasks in particular:

- Assessing the current situation and current developments in all fields of educational research
- Identification of problems in the education system that can be addressed or resolved through educational research
- Promotion of national educational research (initiation, coordination and support of research activities)
- Conduct requirements analyses regarding Swiss participation in international projects

- Validation of educational research outcomes (research promotion)
- Ensuring the flow of information between educational researchers and policymakers

Evaluation of educational research

Political and administrative entities are major commissioners of research in the disciplines of education sciences (pedagogy, psychology, educational sociology, educational economics), as government departmental research, evaluations and advisory-oriented research account for a substantial share of educational research output in Switzerland in comparison with basic research output. The growing importance of educational research for policymakers and administrators, and for the continued development of the education system in general, underscores the necessity of continually monitoring the current situation in research, surveying the general research landscape and highlighting any deficiencies or gaps in research. Such surveys are useful in establishing a basis for coordinated and politically relevant research policies that are not only conducive to basic research activities but also ensure that steering and governance knowledge required by policymakers and administrators is generated. The Steering Group of *CORECHED* has therefore set the monitoring and documentation of educational research as its top priority in its strategic planning for the next four years.

Problem definition

CORECHED also serves as a platform for identifying urgent problems in the education system that can be addressed or resolved through educational research. This primarily involves early identification of potential new problem areas and the establishment of priorities by the entities represented in *CORECHED*. Concrete research issues can then be discussed, from which new research might be initiated.

Promotion of national and international educational research projects

CORECHED has supported or co-financed several projects in the field of educational research during the past several years. Some of these projects allowed more extensive research to be conducted or involved special sub-studies within the framework of larger research projects. *CORECHED* has also supported short research reports exploring issues of relevance to education and educational policy or in response to requests from Swiss Parliament.

Validation and promotion of Swiss research

The validation of the results of educational research is another important issue for *CORECHED*. *CORECHED* promotes scientific publications, supports the publication activity of Swiss researchers by providing grants for translations into English and encourages participation in international congresses in foreign countries by providing financial assistance.

The «*CORECHED* Award for Educational Research» was introduced in 2003. The first researchers to receive this award had been screened by an external jury, and the awards were presented by the president of the EDK and the head of the EDI at a ceremony held in the spring of 2005. This research award will be conferred every two years in the future.

For further information:

CORECHED Office

Swiss Coordination Centre for Research in Education (SCCRE)
Entfelderstrasse 61
5000 Aarau

Tel +41 (0)62 835 23 90
Fax +41 (0)62 835 23 99

info@coreched.ch

www.coreched.ch