

Together on the way

Emerging occupational therapy practice in mainstream schools in Switzerland

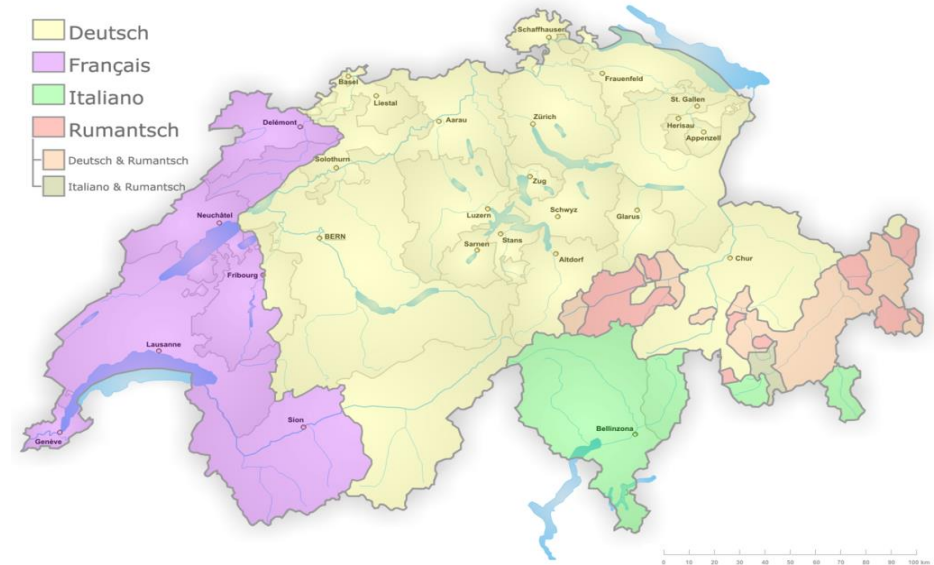
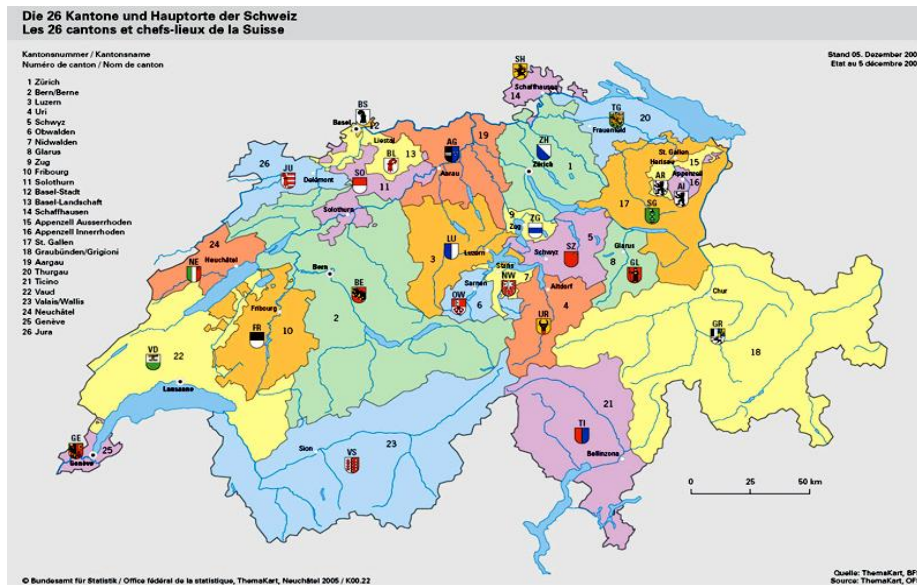
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Structural and cultural context



2300 communes
26 cantons
1 federal government

Four language regions:
German, French, Italian, Romansch

(Wikimedia commons 2016)

Education context

Changes in legislation in special need education 2006 until 2016



(UNESCO Welterbe Tektonik Arena Sardonja, 2016)



(Eidegnössische Konferenz der Erziehungsdirektoren 2013)

School based occupational therapy Enabling participation through occupation

Occupational therapists support children with special needs performing activities of daily life at school.

Enabling children to participate in educational and social aspects of being a student.

(Frolek, Clark & Chandler, 2013)



Study Design

Situatedness in a social, political and cultural context.

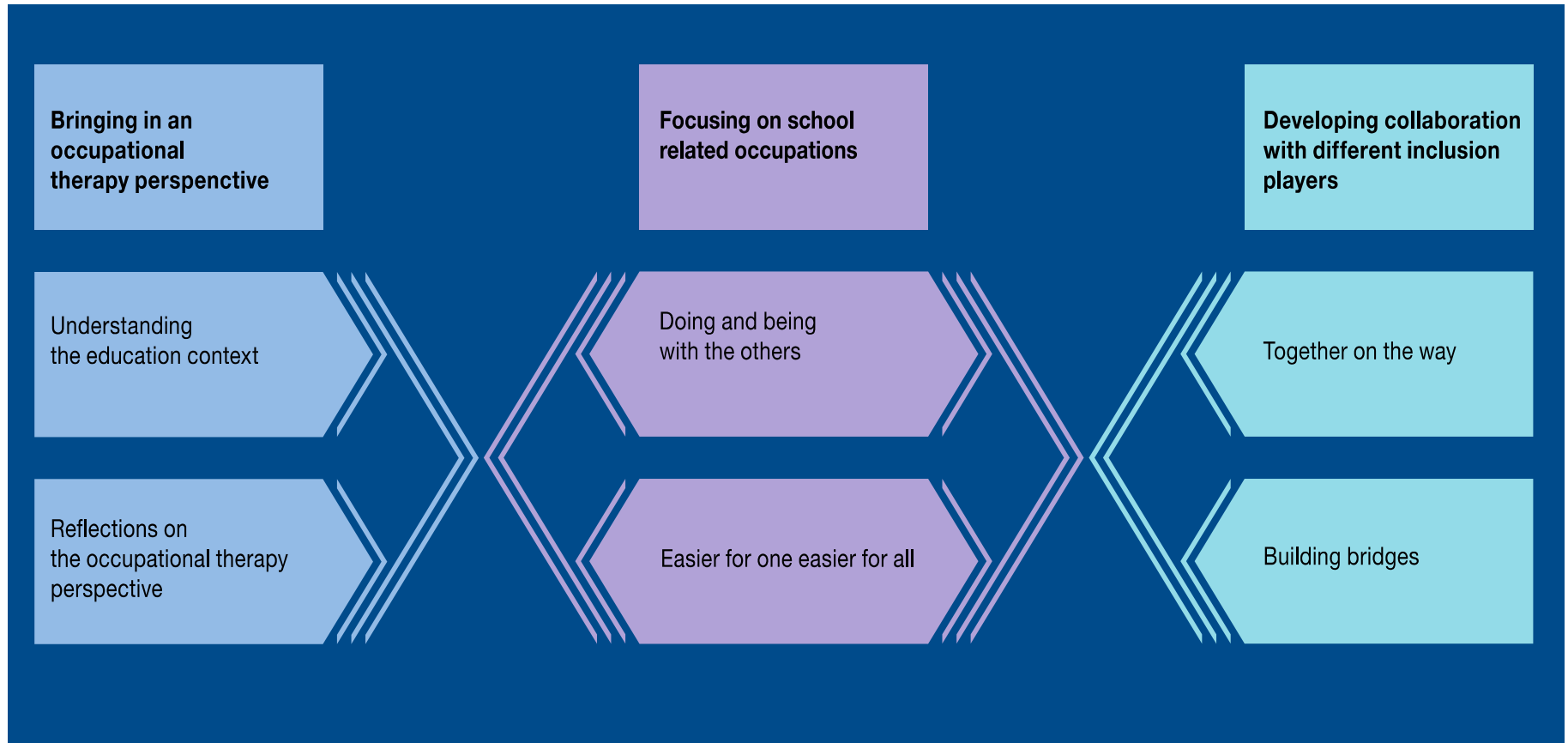
(Josephsson & Alsaker, 2015)

Narrative research designs give language to occupational therapists thought processes, thus proceeding to develop practice in a new context.

(Mattingly, 1991)



Findings





**Developing collaboration
with different inclusion
players**

Sue:

- «The most important thing, we have to go on the way with people...each setting is different and as therapist you can only observe, see what is there and work from there»

Together on the way

George's key question:

- «Who needs support, what kind of support can be considered, who renders the support, how is it implemented and who finances it?»

Building bridges



**Developing collaboration
with different inclusion
players**

Together on the way

Building bridges

- **Interventions are most effective when active collaboration can be developed**
- **Key factors:**
 - **flexibility in their approaches**
 - **naming things, which don't work**
- **Connect a larger support environment also outside the school**
- **Bridge the gap between home and school**
- **Bridge health and education system**

Further steps

Inter-professional approaches

Include children's perspective to develop practice

- Retrospective as young adults?



UNESCO Welterbe Tektonic Arena Sardona 2016

Same context different structure?

Thank you !

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