

Host country briefing: Switzerland

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Getting started – a small quiz

	Hungary	Switzerland	Norway	UK	Germany
Highest mountain	Which country has the smallest mountain?				
Mobile Phones per 1000 inhabitants	Which country has the most mobile phones per 1000 inhabitants?				
% of population older than 65	Which country has by far the highest % of population older than 65?				
Area	Which country has the third largest area?				

Switzerland – some facts

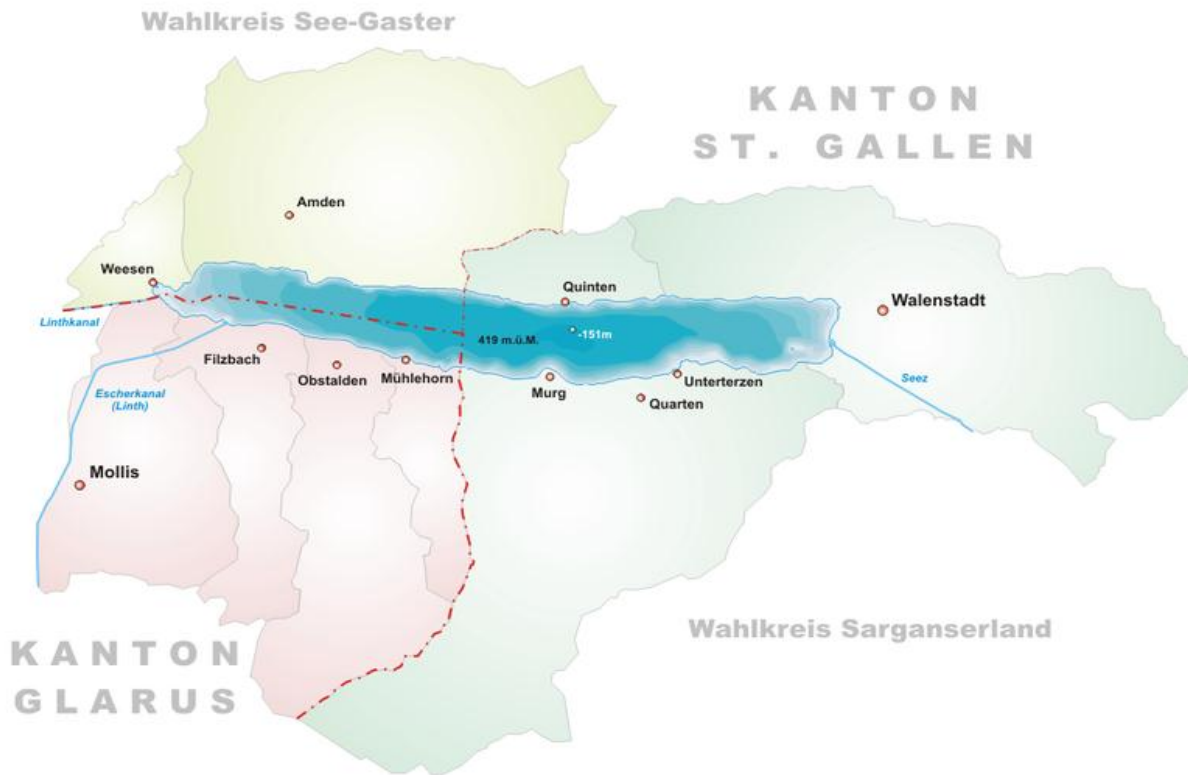


Walensee

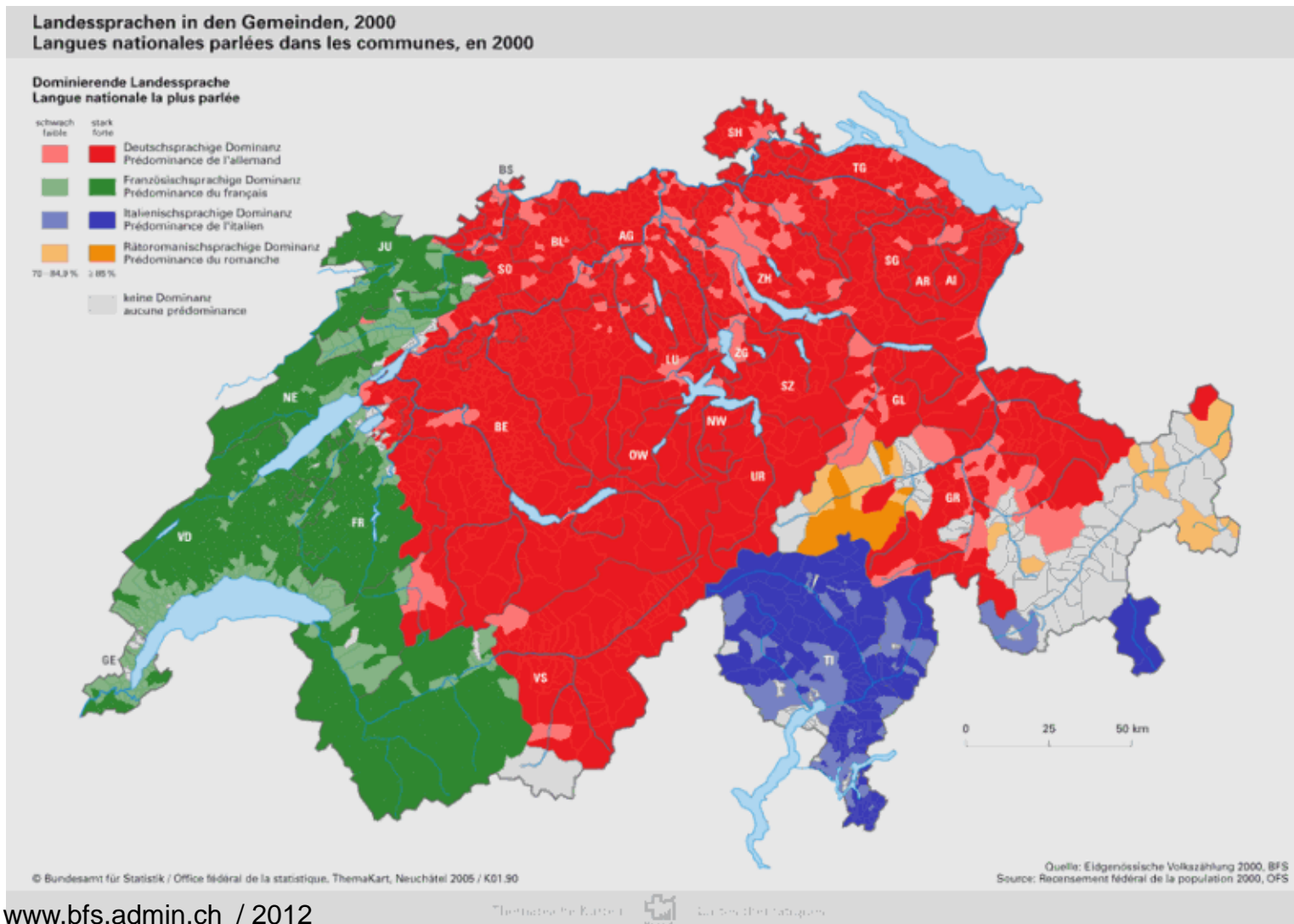
Area: 24 km²

151 meters deep

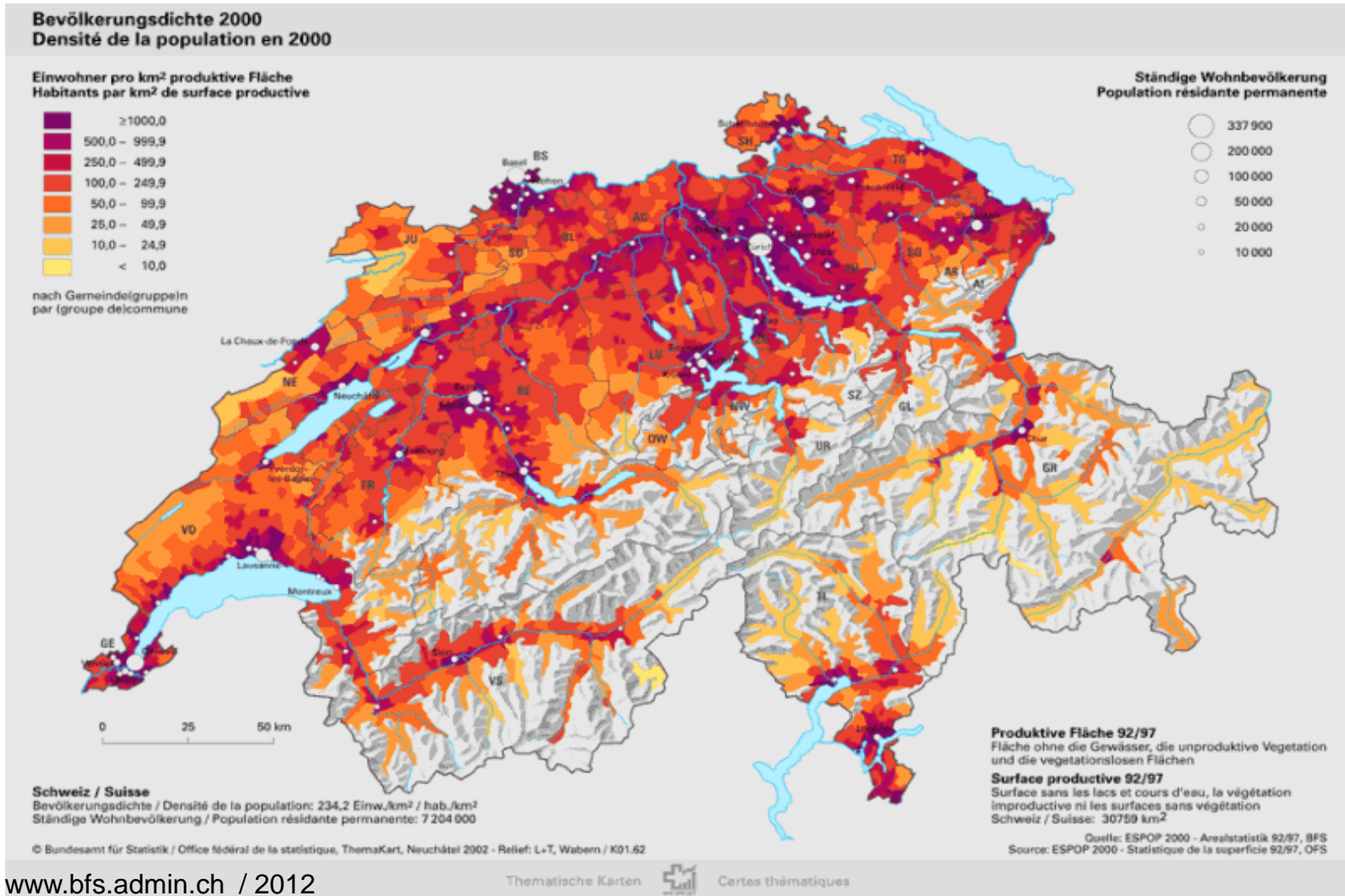
In 1951 one ton of German
munition was plunged



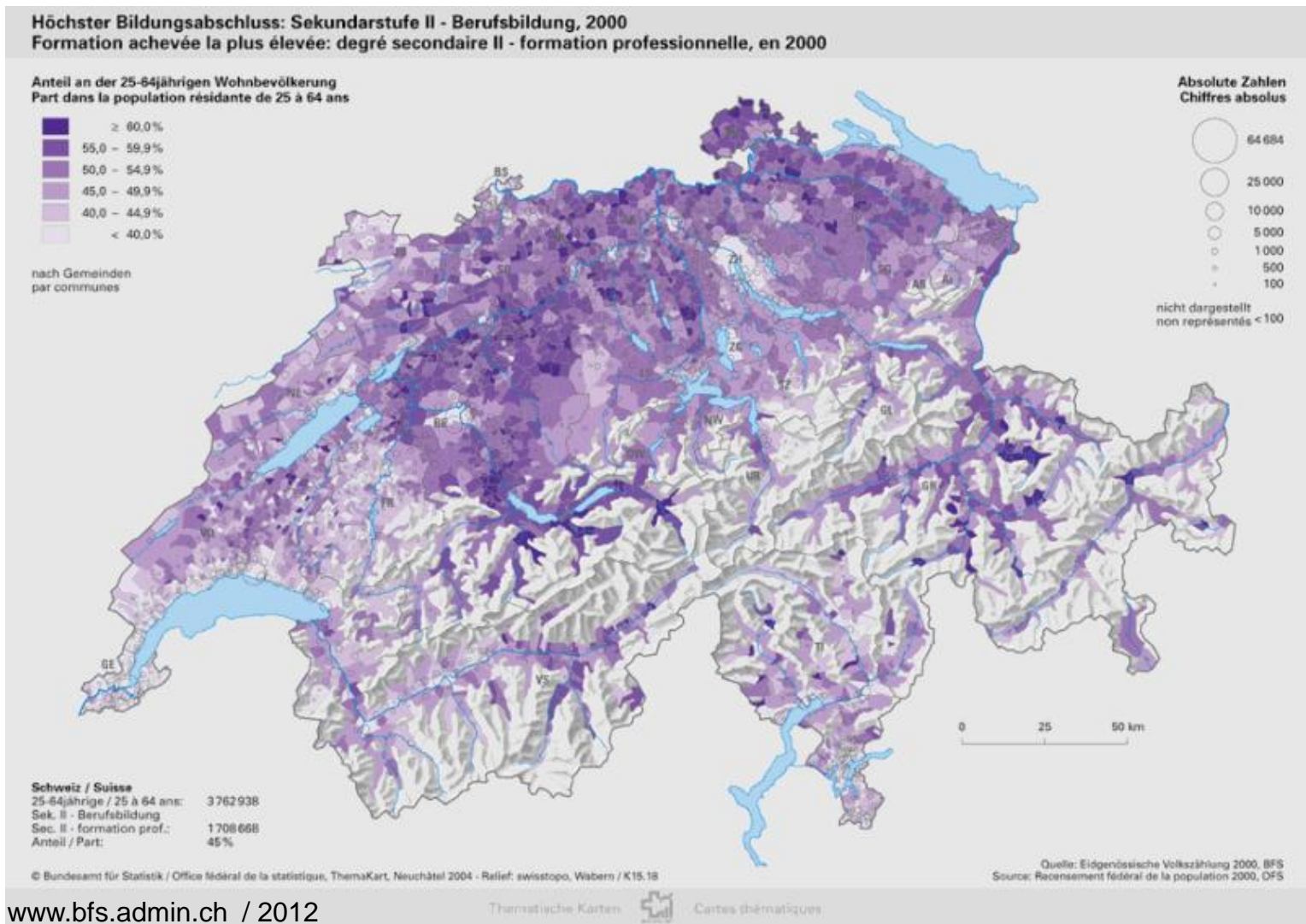
4 national languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh



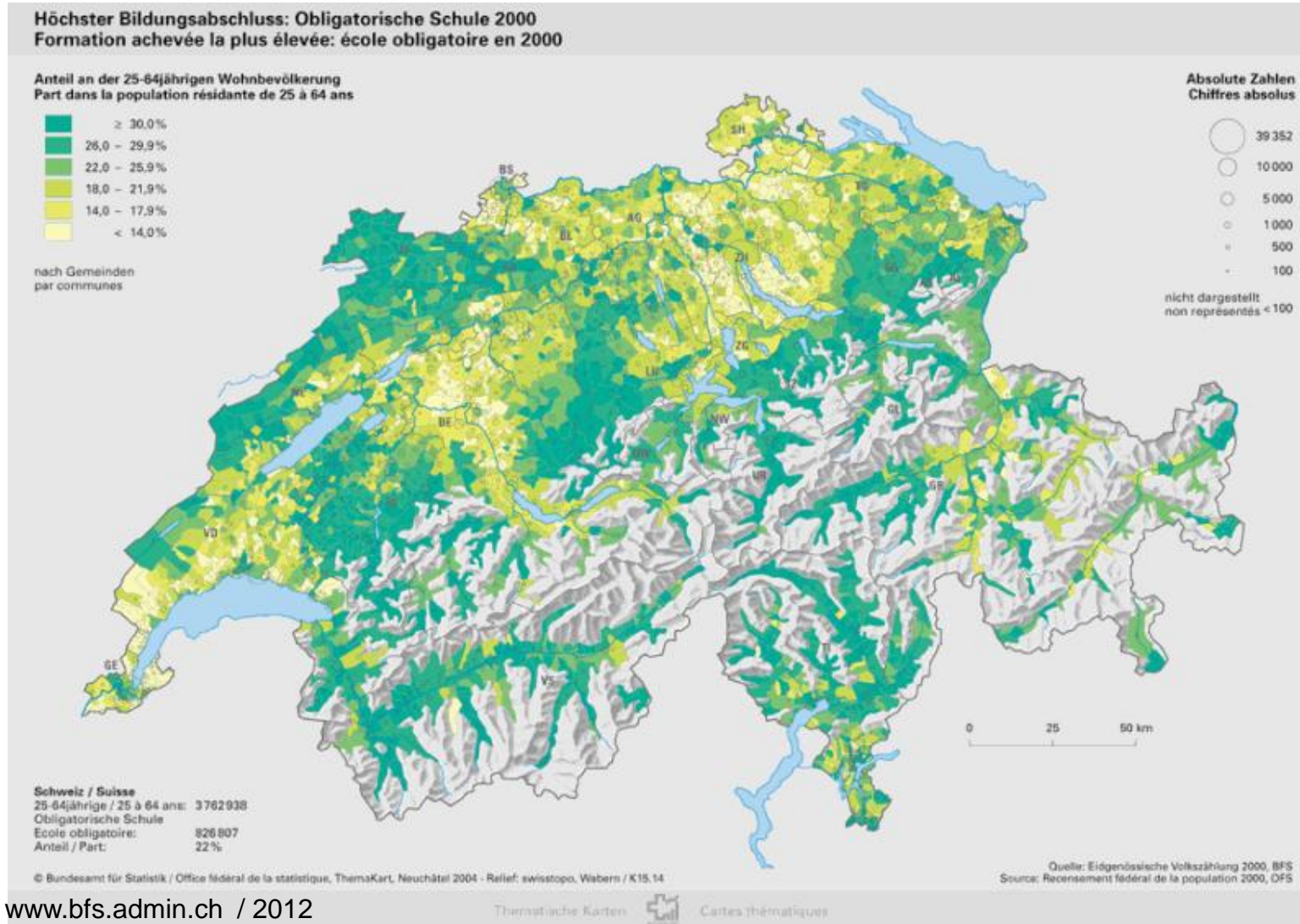
Density of population



Percentage of population with a vocational degree

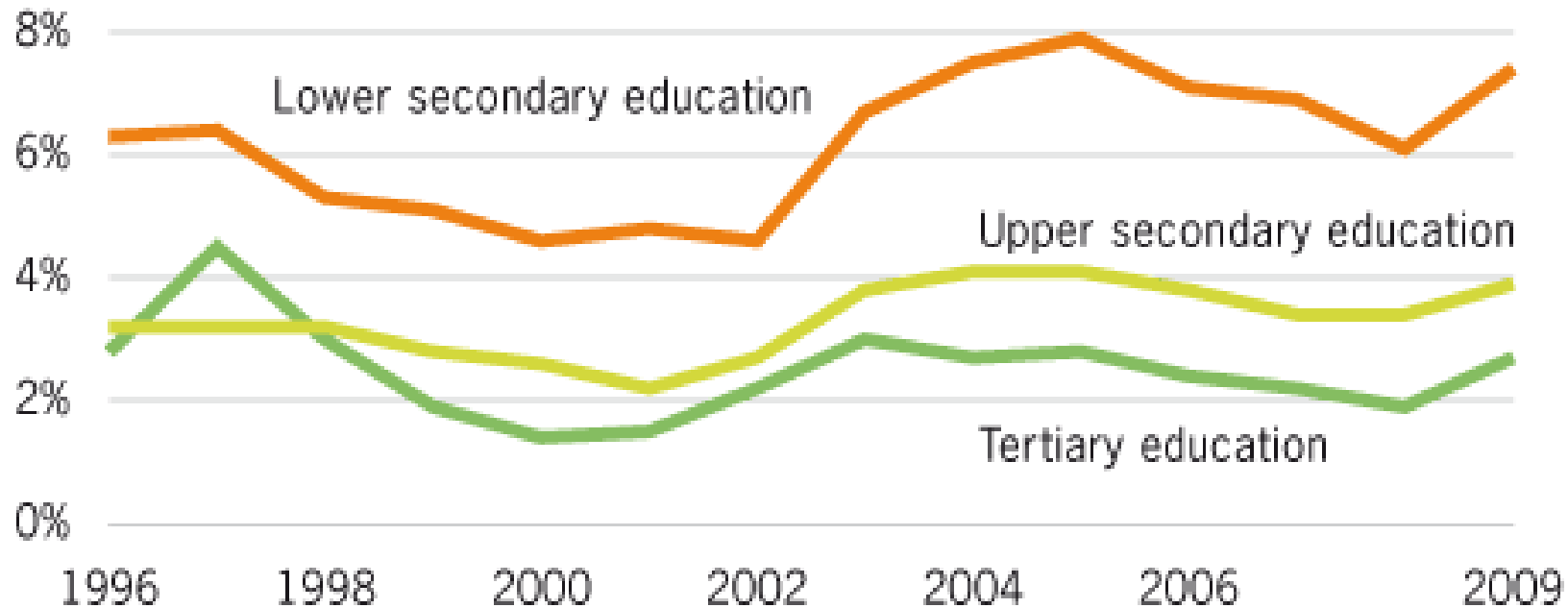


Percentage of population with only compulsory education



Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate by level of education



Overall unemployment rate at the moment: 3.1 percent

Adult Learning in Switzerland

- Participation rate: **40%** (formal and non-formal education)
= about 2.6 million people per year

Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
53%	40%	24%

- If informal learning is included: participation rate is at **77 %**
- 80% of lessons are attended at private providers, 20% at public providers: **adult learning in Switzerland is a dynamic, highly competitive market**
- Top 3 topics AL: languages, management and computer skills

Basic Skills in Switzerland: challenges

1. Course offer: Country-wide, easy to access course offer
2. Demand: Stimulating demand: Still no “big awareness raising campaign”, reach the hard to reach
3. Quality: training basic skills trainers
4. Federal structure: No national strategy, no coordination body
5. Funding: Only 12 of the cantons have an explicit budget for basic skills, no national budget

Training the trainers

- Teacher trainings available in literacy, numeracy and language (non-formal: lead to private certificates)
- No official qualification requirements for basic skills teachers
- No integrated national framework for training teachers in basic skills
- Ongoing **debates**:
 - specialists or generalists (basic skills teachers)?
 - What competencies? What competencies do teachers need to work in the workplace?
 - How long should a teacher training take?
 - Formal or non formal qualification?

Basic Skills in Switzerland: recent developments

1. Focus on “basic skills” rather than “Illiteracy”. Debate: modularisation or integration?
2. Generally more cooperation between players in the field – the BS community is growing
3. “Workplace basic skills” as one of the hot topics (Project GO)
4. More projects and more research

Basic Skills in Switzerland: policy level

- Draft of national Law on Adult Educations contains articles regarding the promotion of basic skills
 - Will not come into effect before 2015
 - Limited financial resources
 - No “national strategy”, state to “support” Cantons
- Federal office of culture issued a support framework to fight illiteracy (2011 -2014)
 - Focus: improve know-how transfer, improve quality, awareness raising for literacy
 - Annual Budget: 1 Million for organisations and projects

Contact

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