



## EUNEC-newsletter 14 October 2007

### 1 EUNEC Membership

EUNEC is pleased to welcome a new official member. The **Swedish National Agency for School Improvement (Myndigheten för skolutveckling)** is registered as associate member. Delegations of Greece, Norway, Austria, Finland, Northern-Ireland and Wales participated in the EUNEC conference in Lisbon. They are searching for the possibility to join EUNEC, although there are not always advisory bodies or education councils in these countries.

### 2 Executive Committee

The EUNEC **Executive Committee** met on October the 7<sup>th</sup> in Lisbon (Portugal). The Committee evaluated the daily working of the network and discussed the priorities for the annual plan 2008. You can find the **minutes** of this meeting on the website ([www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu)).

### 3 EUNEC participation in the European consultation 'Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century'

On January the 19<sup>th</sup> EUNEC was invited by the European Commission on the meeting of the Platform of European Stakeholder organisations on School Education. The European Commission clarified on this meeting its intention to launch a public consultation on possible priorities for the Union to give an incentive for **modernisation** of school education.

EUNEC organised on 11-12 June 2007 in Tallinn (Estonia) a **seminar** to prepare this consultation. Tapio Saavala of the European Commission presented the perspectives of the European Commission for School Education in Europe. Professor Peter Mortimore gave a personal reaction on these ideas and the participants had a very interesting debate with the two speakers. The **report** of the seminar can be downloaded on the EUNEC website ([www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu)).

You can find the official EUNEC **answer** on the consultation on the website too. Some EUNEC member councils also responded in their own name to the consultation.

On 2-3 November 2007 the Portuguese European presidency and the Commission organise the conference "**Schools facing up to New Challenges**" in Lisbon. Simone Barthel, president of EUNEC, Krista Loogma from the Estonian Education Forum which hosted the EUNEC meeting on this subject and Egle Pranckuniene of the Lithuanian education Council will represent EUNEC at this conference.

#### 4 EUNEC conference in Lisbon (8-10 October 2007)

On 8-10 October 2007 EUNEC organised a conference in co-operation with the Portuguese Education Council and the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union. This conference dealt with two important themes: **evidence based education policy** and **equity in education**. More than 80 participants out of 19 countries participated in this conference.

Based on the Commission Staff Working document 'Towards more knowledge-based policy and practice in education and training', EUNEC exchanged on 8 October views on the principle of '**Evidence based Education Policy**'.

On 9 October the conference focused on the outcomes of the OECD thematic review '**No More Failures – Ten steps to equity in Education**' (publication foreseen for October 2007). This review examines a set of policy levers focused on fair and inclusive design, practices and resources. The conference also covered the monitoring work of the Commission on the progress in the field of equity in education and the problem of early school leavers in Portugal. In the afternoon, EUNEC organised a peer learning session on equity in education with examples of good practice in Northern Ireland, the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Romania, Portugal, Flanders, Estonia and Sweden.

On 10 October, the EUNEC members reflected on **education councils and policy making**. Two concrete examples (Portugal and Flanders) illustrated how education councils can move the education agenda forward. The conference was concluded by the editing of the EUNEC statements on evidence based policy making and equity in education.

You can download the programme, the powerpoint presentations and the conference conclusions on the website ([www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu)). The report of the conference will be published during the month of December.

#### 5 A State of affairs European education policy

It is not easy to keep up with all the activities in the European education policy. For that reason, the EUNEC secretariat made a **State of affairs (September 2007)** of all the running processes in the European education policy. You can find this document on our website. ([www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu) – EUNEC documents – State of Affairs)

1. Summary of the initiatives of the European Commission (2007-2008)
  - A coherent framework for indicators and benchmarks
  - Framework for the European survey on language competences
  - London Communiqué (higher education)
  - Public consultation 'Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century'
  - Improving the quality of teacher education
  - Multilingualism (consultation, report, recommendations of the High Level Group)
  - Action plan Adult Learning
  - Expected documents (end 2007-2008)
2. The Portuguese Presidency of the EU
  - Priorities
  - Calendar
3. Other events
  - CEDEFOP conference 'The shift towards learning outcomes'

## 6 EUNEC website

The old website address [www.eunec.org](http://www.eunec.org) is no longer valid. The new address is [www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu). Please adapt this change in your bookmarks.

## 7 Questions

You can send all questions and remarks on EUNEC and this newsletter to [eunec@vlor.be](mailto:eunec@vlor.be)