



Education and Culture DG

EUNEC newsletter September 2009

1 EUNEC Membership

EUNEC is pleased to welcome the National Council for Public Education (Hungary) as an associate member.

2 Members' news

A new president has been elected in the Portuguese education council. Congratulations to Ana Maria Bettencourt. We will be happy to meet her in Budapest. Thanks to the former president, professor Júlio Pedrosa de Jesus, who was an active and appreciated member of our meetings.

The Conseil de l'Éducation et de la Formation lost its president, Baudouin Duelz, who has been chosen as private secretary of the Minister of Compulsory Education. Marc Thommès is the acting president of the CEF.

Alain Bultot, staff member of the CEF, has also been chosen by the Minister of compulsory education of the French Community, to collaborate on qualifications in the field of education. He was a very precious collaborator for EUNEC, we'll miss him!

3 The innovative role of education in society

You can read the report of the EUNEC seminar in The Hague (17 and 18 May 2009) on the website www.eunec.eu.

4 Budapest, 12 October 2009: focus on education councils

The first day of the conference in Budapest will focus on the study mandated by EUNEC to the Catholic University of Louvain on education councils and advisory bodies in the European Union.

Presidents of education councils will participate at this event.

Presentation of the study results by the researchers

Panel of presidents: Presidents will be asked to react on statements prepared by the researchers and referring to the three dimensions in the legitimacy sheet (input, throughput, output).

Working groups. Participants will discuss the results of the study in smaller groups of about 10 persons from different education councils. Each group will have a facilitator (a member from the research team) and a reporter who will present short conclusions of the workshop in plenum after the discussion. Councils will try to position themselves on a scale prepared by the researchers: Where is the council positioned now? In which direction does it want to evolve?

5 Budapest, 13-14 October 2009: Lifelong Guidance

Challenges and new concepts for guidance. *What are relevant developments and new perspectives for guidance? The Lifelong Learning perspective? The shift towards learning outcomes and qualifications? Raising the qualification level and reducing the number of unqualified school leavers? What does this mean for guidance policies, instruments and key players? Two speeches on this subject, by Dr Raimo Vuorinen, coordinator of European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, from Finland, and by Simone Barthel, EUNEC president, from Belgium.*

The role of guidance at crucial transition moments. *How can guidance, at different transition moments in education and life, empower learners to*

- *manage their career paths and develop their competences in the context of a turbulent labour market?*
- *develop competences for personal development and active citizenship?*
- *manage a successful learning pathway rewarded with a qualification?*

What does this mean for guidance policies, instruments and key players?

A round table will provide examples of good practice. We will hear contributions from education councils from Flanders, Spain, Portugal, Wales and the Czech Republic.

A Hungarian guidance expert will present innovative practices in the field of guidance in Hungary.

The role of guidance and the learning pathways of vulnerable learners. How can guidance support the learning pathways, the well-being and the school success of youngsters at risk of unqualified school leaving and of low achievers? How can guidance support the acquisition and maintenance of key competences, life skills and professional competences of vulnerable groups adult learners?

Two workshops will try to answer those questions.

Participants at the conference will discuss and approve statements on lifelong guidance.

Presidents of education councils will participate at this event.

6 Follow-up of the results of the EUNEC conference on teacher training in Vilnius in October 2008

The CEF (Conseil de l'Éducation et de la Formation de la Communauté Française de Belgique) invited two speakers of the EUNEC conference in Vilnius, Gary Brace from the General Teaching Council in Wales, and Paul Holdsworth from the European Commission.

The statements of EUNEC were distributed among almost 120 experts participating at the event. In three workshops experts discussed how to use the statements on a practical field. In a second time the CEF will produce its own advice on the subject. Documents about this event are on the website www.cef.cfwb.be.

The Vlor (Flemish education council, Belgium) starts the work for a pro-active advice on teacher shortage and qualitative pitfalls in the functioning of teachers. The input of the conference in Vilnius will be taken into account in the preparation of this advice.

7 A large study on education councils and advisory bodies in Europe: news from the steering committee

The aim of this study is to find an answer to some initial questions : What are characteristics of an education council? Are there different typologies in different countries? How could we help a country in starting up its own education council?

The work done by the researchers up till now:

- Literature review, inventory
- Theoretical framework
- Fact sheets of education councils (to be finalized)
- Conceptual model
- In-depth case studies of councils in Portugal, Spain, Flanders, Netherlands, Greece and Estonia (to be finalized)

Next steps for the councils:

- Each council has to react of the information about itself
- Those remarks will be discussed during the first day of the conference in Budapest (working seminar 12 October 2009); the researchers will participate at the three days of the conference

Next steps of the study:

- Valorisation and policy recommendations (steering committee in January 2010)
- Dissemination of the results during a EUNEC conference in Brussels, October 2010
- Publication

8 State of Affairs of the European Education Policy

The EUNEC secretariat is preparing an up to date State of Affairs of the European Education Policy. This document will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting in Budapest on 12 October 2009. It will be published at the website soon (www.eunec.eu).

9 Remarks

You are kindly invited to send all questions and remarks on EUNEC and this newsletter to eunec@vlor.be

