



EUNEC-newsletter 3 April 2005

1 EUNEC conference Implementing change through Education and Training 2010 (Malta 9-10 May 2005)

On 9-10 May 2005, EUNEC organises, in cooperation with the National Curriculum Council (Malta), a conference on the implementation of educational change.

By publishing the report 'Education and training 2010', the European Union initiates a major reform in education systems. Education and training systems should by 2010 be more dynamic and responsive to the challenges of a knowledge driven economy and society. On the other hand, every country had trouble to implement an educational change, initiated by decision makers on the macro-level. A concept and an action plan for change is not enough to have a real impact in schools and in the classrooms.

If the Union really wants to let things change, then it is necessary to work out a workable concept on educational change. 'Education and training 2010' should get a second part in which the conditions for successful educational change are set out. Research on educational reform stresses the importance of the school team to make change happen in the classroom. These actors should be able to take the change as their own project that suits with the mission of the school, the school culture, the profile of the pupils and the broader environment. The school leader is seen as the major factor for successful change. If the local level is so crucial, how can a policy on a macro-level influence the readiness for change in school?

It would be useful for EUNEC to try to elaborate a clear concept on how educational change can be stimulated by the central government.

You find the programme of this conference on our website (www.eunec.org: Conferences – Conference Malta).

2 Executive Committee and General Assembly

The Executive Committee of EUNEC will meet in Malta on Sunday 8 May at 17.00 h. The General Assembly, with representatives of all the EUNEC members, will be hold on Tuesday 10 May on 14 h. On the agenda of the General Assembly, we notice the presentation of the annual report 2004, the approval of the EUNEC statements on implementation, the EUNEC publication on transparency of qualifications and the budget for 2005.

3 EUNEC publication 'Transparency of qualifications'

As result of the Leonardo project 'A transparency of qualifications. A service to all EU-citizens, EUNEC made a publication in French, English and Dutch. This publication is the synthesis of the conferences in Riga and Brussels. It also contains the EUNEC statements on this theme. All the participants of the conference in Brussels will receive a copy of this publication. You can download the texts of this publication (pdf) on our website. (www.eunec.org: Conferences, Conference Brussels, publication)

4 Application for a Socrates grant

On 18 March 2005, EUNEC sent an application for a Socrates grant (action 6.1.2 and 6.2) to the European Commission. With this new project 'Key competences and education for vulnerable groups', the education councils of EUNEC want to continue their efforts on European education cooperation.

On October the 25th 2004, Domenico Lenarduzzi, honorary director-general – European Commission Education, Youth and Culture, emphasized this theme at our conference 'A transparency of qualifications' in Brussels. Each European citizen has to be able to achieve the key competences. This is an absolute necessity in a knowledge-based society. EUNEC wants to inform about the effect of key competences on social cohesion and citizenship. Which competences are indispensable in a knowledge based society? Which cultural and historical elements are crucial for each European citizen? How can an education policy support vulnerable groups to achieve these key competences? What is the impact of youth culture in this process? What is the effect on teacher education?

5 European news

On the **Spring Top** (22-23 March 2005) the European Council relaunched the Lisbon strategy. Five years after the launch of the Lisbon strategy, the results are mixed. Alongside undeniable progress, there are shortcomings and obvious delays. Europe must renew the basis of its competitiveness, increase its growth potential and its productivity and strengthen social cohesion, placing the main emphasis on knowledge, innovation and the optimisation of human capital. To achieve these objectives, the Union must mobilise all appropriate national and Community resources in the strategy's three dimensions (economic, social and environmental). In the presidency conclusions, we find two references to education and training (nr. 34- 35).

In annex 1 of the Presidency Conclusions, you will also find the text of a **European Youth Pact**. Against the background of Europe's ageing population, the European Council sees a need for young Europeans to benefit from a set of policies and measures forming a fully integrated part of the Lisbon Strategy. The Youth Pact aims to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans, while facilitating the reconciliation of working life and family life.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/councils/bx20050322/index_en.htm

In support of the revitalisation of the Lisbon agenda to become the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010, the European Commission is organising a conference on **eLearning** which will take place in Brussels on 19-20 May 2005. The conference will bring together a cross section of the various stakeholders involved in eLearning in Europe, and will provide the perfect forum for sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and taking stock of the added value of using ICT in education and training.

<http://www.elearningconference.org>

On 22 March 2005, the Commission staff published a working paper: '**Progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training – 2005 Report**'. The report is written within the frame of the 'Open-method of co-ordination' and the 'Detailed work-programme on the follow-up of the objectives of education and training systems in Europe'. With this Commission Staff Working Paper, the Commission takes the temperature regarding the performance and progress of education and training systems in some 30 countries, with the aid of 29 indicators identified and endorsed by experts from the participating countries. The main section of the report is divided into ten chapters detailing the 29 indicators and five European benchmarks of average European

performance adopted by the Council. In each chapter an analysis is made of the most recent valid and comparable data, with the aim of measuring performance and progress and identifying instances of good policy practice. In areas, which are relevant for European benchmarks, the analysis, where possible, draws conclusions on the prospect of reaching the targets set for 2010.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/progressreport05.pdf>

On 9-11 March 2005, the Luxembourg EU presidency organised a symposium 'The Changing European Classroom – the Potential of Plurilingual Education'. At this symposium, policy-makers and decision-takers examined ways in which the increasing use of learning through a foreign language can be incorporated in the Member States' education systems. You can find all the documents of this conference on the site.

<http://www.men.lu/edu/fre/presidence/CLIL/>

From 24 until 31 April the **UNESCO** organises an **Education for All** week. While more and more children, youth and adults have a chance to learn, some 100 million children are still deprived of education. Three-quarters of them live in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. The majority of them are girls. In addition, 800 million adults worldwide, almost two-thirds of them women, are still illiterate. Yet, five years ago the international community pledged to provide Education for All by 2015. The EFA Week is intended to remind governments and the international community to keep their promise to achieve Education for All by 2015.

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=38509&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

6 Questions

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