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## EUNEC at work

### [Report and statements on 'Learning in the digital age'](#)

EUNEC has organized for its members a seminar on 'Learning in the digital age'. The event was hosted by the Greek National Council for Education and took place in Athens on 5-6 May 2014.

A full report is now available. Participating councils agreed on common statements on the topic.

The statements identify recent evolutions with impact on education and training.

First of all, the profile of the learners and their learning opportunities have drastically changed. Learning is no longer a monopoly of the school as an institution. Learning can be anywhere and at any time. Learning is a social activity; new and creative insights are the result of a dialogue between peers and experts, often on the basis of information provided by the internet. ICT enhances opportunities for personalized learning. In this deep shift the central debate on learning goes beyond the mastery of a specific software problem.

Secondly, radical and intrusive changes in the economy and the society impact on education. Learning is at the heart of 21st century knowledge societies.

Thirdly, ICT and new technology can be an answer to the need for cost effective and high quality education systems.

The OECD Innovative Learning Project, presented in Athens, describes the following characteristics of adequate learning that should all be integrated in the learning environment:

- make learning central, encourage engagement and stimulate learners to understand themselves (self-regulation)
- ensure that learning is social and collaborative
- be highly attuned to learners motivations and emotions
- be sensitive to individual differences in learning pace and prior learning
- be demanding for each learner without excessive overload
- use assessment consistent with its aims with a strong emphasis on formative feedback
- promote horizontal connectedness across activities in the school and out-of-school.

Challenges for education systems have to do with content and curriculum, with innovative school organization, with infrastructure and resources and with teachers' competences to develop innovative learning environments.

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[Upcoming event: EUNEC conference on 'Bridging the transitions between education and the labour market'](#)

On 20 and 21 October 2014, EUNEC is organizing in Prague for its members a conference on 'The transition between education and the labour market'.

This theme is relevant for different reasons:

- Young citizens paid a high price for the current economic crisis. From the second quarter of 2008 the youth unemployment rate has taken an upward trend peaking in 23.6 % in the first quarter of 2013. Another worrying phenomenon is the ongoing skills mismatch between competence levels of school leavers and the competences and competence levels needed in the learning economy.
- Transitions between education and labour market are a red line in the national education policies.
- The theme is high on the EU-agenda.

EUNEC decided to explore in depth the strategies that facilitate transitions between vocational education and training and the labour market. More specifically, this conference will consider alternative training pathways in the transition between learning and working, in partnership between education and employment. The focus will be on apprenticeships and work based learning in a broad sense.

We will also offer a panorama of programmes that try to ease the transition.

Key note presentations will be by CEDEFOP and OECD; good practices from Ireland, Germany, Czech Republic and Belgium will be presented.

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## European heartbeat

### [The new European Commission](#)

On 10 September 2014, president-elect Juncker unveiled his team and the new shape of the next European Commission.



### [Results of TALIS 2013](#)

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), first launched in 2008, asks teachers and schools about their working conditions and their learning environments.

The results of the 2013 edition show that more than nine out of ten teachers are satisfied with their jobs and nearly eight in ten would choose the teaching profession again. But fewer than one in three teachers believe teaching is a valued profession in society. Those countries where teachers feel valued tend to perform better in PISA.



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### [The Italian Presidency of the EU](#)

From 1 July 2014, the three presidencies of the European Council for the next 18 months (Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg) have one ultimate goal: fully overcoming the economic crisis and returning to a job rich growth, as well as seizing the opportunities of the digital economy.



### Education at a glance 2014

Education at a glance is the annual report by the OECD on the state of play and challenges faced by national education systems. It highlights the growing importance of investment in education for future growth and employment in the EU and for more inclusive European societies.



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## Members news

### FEILTE, the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence

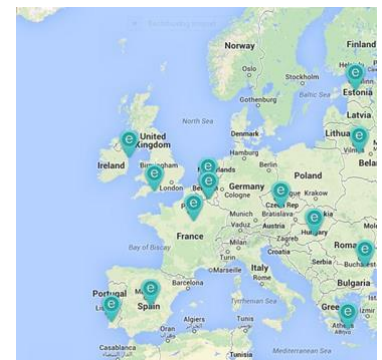
The Irish Teaching Council is organizing FEILTE on Saturday 4 October 2014. The theme of the event is 'Talking about teaching: Tearing down the walls'.

FEILTE will feature a mix of over 50 showcases and workshops spanning projects from across the education sector, demonstrating innovation happening in teaching and learning.

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### EUNEC members

EUNEC has 13 members in EU countries, and one member in Quebec. All contact details, websites, recent work is available at [www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu).



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