

Newsletter

EUNEC welcomes a new member: the 'Haut Conseil de l'Education' (France)

EUNEC has the pleasure and the honour to welcome the 'Haut Conseil de l'Education' from France as a member of the executive committee.

Mr Alain Bouvier, member of the HCE, participated at the EUNEC conference in The Hague in spring 2009 in order to observe the work and the functioning of the network. After a period of deliberation, the president of HCE, Mr Bruno Racine, confirmed that his Council would become, as from 2010, a member of the EUNEC executive committee.

Mr Christian Vulliez represented his council for the first time during the executive committee meeting on 27 September in Brussels.

The HCE was established by Article 14 of the 'Loi d'orientation et de programme pour l'avenir de l'école' (23 April 2005). At the request of the Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research, he may issue recommendations and make proposals on pedagogy, curriculum, organization and outcomes of the education system and of teacher training.

The Council presents to the President of the Republic an annual report of the results of the education system, as well as from experiments in the field. To this end, the HCE is assisted by an advisory committee composed of qualified persons chosen among representatives of trade unions, professional associations, parents, students, and all other persons active in the field of education.

EUNEC is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

www.hce.education.fr



The full report of the **EUNEC seminar on education and training in a period of economic crisis** (Limassol, Cyprus) is now available at www.eunec.eu.

For printed copies, please contact eunec@vlor.be.

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EUNEC executive committee meeting in Brussels (27 September 2010)

Representatives of ten education councils, from 9 EU countries, gathered in Brussels in order to discuss the future work programme of the network. They reflected on the main policy lines of

international organisations, relevant for education stakeholders.

Member councils presented an overview of priorities and relevant developments in their country.

Members reported on the international events they attended as representatives of the network.

Please read the minutes of this meeting at www.eunec.eu.

Overview of the main policy lines in education and training

The mission of EUNEC

- Please send your comments and questions to eunec@vlor.be

The Belgian Presidency of the EU: EUNEC takes part

The executive committee of EUNEC has been invited to take part in the conference **'Breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Social inclusion in and through education'** in Ghent on 27-29 September. Our members were active in several workshops: on early childhood education and care; on pupils at risk of social exclusion: overcoming school failure and reducing school dropout; on lifelong learning pathways and partnerships to tackle educational disadvantage; on low skilled adult learners and on education for active citizenship.

"The right to education is based on human dignity and not on talents"

Professor Ides Nicaise, at 'Het Pand', Ghent, 28 September 2010

EUNEC president Simone Barthel was present at the **'Youth on the move'** conference in Antwerp on 5 and 6 October.

The EUNEC executive committee will participate at the conference on **'Quality assurance and transparency as interface between Vocational Education and Training, Schools and Higher Education to enhance mobility and to support easier pathways to lifelong learning'** in Bruges on 6 December.

Read more on www.education2010.be.



"There is a strong political will to improve educational and employment opportunities for our young people, who are particularly exposed in the harsh economic climate we face today. This is coupled with a shared commitment to see mobility become an opportunity for all, not just the preserve of a few."

Jan Truszczyński, European Commission, Director General for Education and Culture



EUNEC anniversary conference on 1-2-3 December in Brussels

At the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the network, EUNEC is organizing a conference on **'Participation and stakeholder involvement in education policy making'**. The conference will be the occasion to launch the report of a study executed by the Public Management Institute of the Catholic University of Louvain, with the support of the Jean Monnet Programme of the European Commission: **'Education councils in the EU: balancing expertise, societal input and political control in the construction of policy advice'**.

For more information about this event, please contact eunec@vlor.be.

The conference is hosted by the Vlor (Flemish Education Council) and the CEF (Conseil de l'Éducation et de la Formation de la Communauté française). Prof. dr. Marleen Brans and researcher Jan Van Damme will highlight the recommendations drawn from the results of this study.

Participants will be welcomed by Pascal Smet, Flemish Minister of Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels, and, during the Belgian Presidency, president of the European Council for Education, Youth and Culture.

Key note speeches will present the view of the European Commission on stakeholder participation; a presentation by EUCIS LLL president Gina Ebner will complete this view.

There will be academic input on trends in participative policy making in Europe, and examples of good practices from EUNEC member countries.

On the third day of the conference, past and present presidents of EUNEC will reflect on the past, present and future challenges for education councils.

European Commission launches public consultation on the future of EU funding programmes

On 15 September 2010, the European Commission started a public consultation on EU funding programmes in education, training and youth. The purpose of the consultation is to gather views from public and private organisations, local and regional authorities, ministries, relevant stakeholders in the field of education and training and any other organisation or individual involved or interested in education and training within the EU and in on EU countries. Views are sought regarding the ration-

ale, the scope, the operational objectives and the design of the future programme. Participants are asked for views on the development and design of the programmes and how they can contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the flagship initiatives 'Youth on the move' and 'Agenda for new skills and jobs'.

There are 3 separate consultations. EUNEC members will respond to the consultations on the future education and

training programme (to replace the current Lifelong Learning Programme that will run until 31 December 2013). Two other consultations are organized on the future youth programme (to replace the current Youth in Action programme) and on an international higher education programme (to replace the current Erasmus Mundus programme).

More information at http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2538_en.htm



EUNEC participates at international events

On 23 September, EUNEC participated at the Grundtvig Tenth Anniversary Conference on 'European Cooperation in Adult learning. Shaping the Future'. Grundtvig beneficiaries and adult education experts met in Copenhagen. Commissioner Vassiliou participated at the conference: 'Grundtvig gives adults of all ages a second chance to gain skills and qualifications which will improve their job prospects and personal development.'

Representatives from the CNE, the Conselho Nacional de Educação (member of the EUNEC executive committee) took part at the conference on 'Combating poverty and social exclusion during the economic crisis and beyond: a multi-level governance approach', organized by European Movement International in Lisbon on 15-16 October. The aim of the conference was to

bring together civil society actors, local and national European public authorities to discuss European solidarity and cohesion.

In the light of the 2020 horizon and in the context of the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, stakeholders debated on the post-crisis challenges and evaluated the need for a flexible form of governance, able to respond to change.

The EUNEC secretariat represented the network on the **Third European Stakeholder Forum**, organised by the European Commission and EUCIS LLL, in cooperation with the European Youth Forum, in Brussels, on 28 and 29 October. This event was organised with the aim of consulting European stakeholders on the future of the programmes Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus and other International cooperation actions in

higher education and training. It is linked to the public consultation on the same topic.

Manuel Miguéns, secretary general of the Conselho Nacional de Educação (Portugal), will speak at the Eurochild annual conference in Orebro (Sweden) on 'Brighter futures. Building effective partnerships to end child poverty'. He will represent the views of EUNEC during a panel debate on 5 November on the added value of EU action on child poverty.

"Europe could break into pieces if we don't provide for social cohesion and increase the fight against inequalities, and therefore the EU should play a key role in delivering solutions."

Jo Leinen, Vice-President of the European Movement International



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Overview of main policy lines in education and training

At the Executive Committee meeting of 27 September in Brussels, the EUNEC secretariat presented a new overview of recent developments in policy lines in education and training in Europe.

This document contains summaries and links to European policy lines. News from the Belgian Presidency of the EU; a summary of the Council Conclusions of 17-18 June 2010 finalising the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Furthermore, the document provides information on new policy lines in specific fields within education and training: Focus on the communication from the European Commission on 'A new impetus for European cooperation in Vocational

Education and Training to support the Europe 2020 Strategy'.

The document also gives an overview of recent international studies and reports on a variety of subjects, amongst others: gender differences in educational outcomes; youth access to culture.

Relevant developments in other policy domains (culture, youth) are followed up, with special attention for the new 'Youth on the move' flagship initiative and the communication of the European Commission from 15 September on this subject.

News about interesting OECD studies and reports, a.o. The international migration outlook; Assessing the effects of ICT in education; Social capital, human capital and health;

the nature of learning; education at a glance 2010.

Finally, the document refers to recent UNESCO work: Concept paper on Marginalization; Concept paper on the impact of the economic and financial crisis on education; Early childhood and family policy; The World conference on early childhood care and education.

The document reports on the state of affairs of the consultation process of the World Bank, developing a new Education Strategy.

Read the full document with interesting links on www.eunec.eu

The mission of EUNEC

is to enhance the participation of stakeholders within national and European policy making. EUNEC has the overall objective to exchange information and share experiences of good practice of interactivity between policy makers and stakeholders on the main educational policy matters, relevant for national and European policy making.

EUNEC wants to be a **learning network for education councils**.

For any further information please contact the EUNEC secretariat (Carine De Smet, eunec@vlor.be).



Representatives from Education Councils from Hungary, Cyprus and Lithuania at the EUNEC executive committee meeting in Limassol