

Newsletter

September 2011

EUNEC statements on 'Bildung in a lifelong learning perspective'

EUNEC, the European Network of Education Councils, organized a seminar on the theme of Bildung in Budapest, on 9-10 May 2011, with the participation of participants coming from 13 different European countries.



"Education and training are on a crossroad. Is it all about learning to compete? Or is it also about learning how to live happily? Choosing one of both directions is not an option"

(from the EUNEC statements)

Why this theme? Stakeholders in Education and Training have been witnessing an enhanced emphasis on the functional approach of Education and Training, that seem to have as main objective to prepare young people for life in society, to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. As a consequence, European policy documents put emphasis on tools, competences, measurable outcomes.

The need for a debate is thus urgent, and even more urgent in a context of crisis where economic returns of education are stressed and where more than ever young people need to make choices.

Debates during the seminar started from the 18th century definition of the concept of Bildung, a **humanistic ideal concept of the human being.**

This concept can be linked to existing policy lines, which makes it possible to put it in practice and to implement it taking into account current objectives and benchmarks.

The statements on Bildung are an important output of the seminar. The text is the result of the input from experts on specific subthemes, and of discussions in small working groups leading to a common understanding of the concept of Bildung.

EUNEC is convinced that the functional approach of Education and Training and the attention for the peda-

gogical mission can go hand in hand, are synergistic.

Bildung can be considered as a regulative principle, a challenging motive for Education and Training. In this context, the role of teachers and schools is crucial. Schools have to formulate a clear educational vision reflecting the values of the school, so that the teacher is not left alone and can lean on the vision of the school.

Bildung is an all encompassing concept, which starts at birth (importance of the early years) and never ends (importance of lifelong learning).

This concept will have to be constantly redefined in interaction with the changing challenges from society.

The statements have been sent proactively towards the European Commission, the European Parliament, to education stakeholders represented in EUNEC

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A full report of the EUNEC seminar on 'Bildung in a lifelong learning perspective' is now available. Please find it at www.eunec.eu or ask a copy at eunec@vlor.be

Upcoming event: The EUNEC seminar on 'New skills for new jobs. New challenges for vocational education and training in the 21st century'

"You can't do today's job with yesterday's methods and expect to be in business tomorrow."

(from the website of YDreams, unknown author)

The next EUNEC conference will take place in Lisbon on 24 until 26 October 2011. The event will be kindly hosted by the CNE, the Portuguese Education Council.

Vocational Education and Training are at the center of the international and national education policy. Recently, we saw the development of the flagship initiative 'New skills for new jobs' in the slipstream of the Education and Training 2020 Framework and the overall Europe 2020 Strategy. The modernization agenda was given a strong impetus by the education ministers in the Bruges Declaration of 7 December 2010. They endorsed an impressive list of commitments, both at European and national level.

In 2010, the OECD published the results of its programme 'Learning for Jobs', which shows that, despite of the diversity of learning arrangements, national systems face common challenges: the adaptability of contents to a fast changing work reality, the

balance between the needs of students, employers and education and training provisions, skills required for VET teachers and trainers, the most effective models for engaging employers and unions, ..

The draft programme foresees presentations from EU as well as from OECD on their road maps to modernization of VET. There will be conferences by Portuguese experts in VET, and by a representative of a creative enterprise. As always during EUNEC meetings, there will be plenty of room for debate and exchange of experiences in small working groups. Member councils will try to identify the most urgent measures regarding VET, and work on recommendations on the modernization of VET.

The more theoretical part of the event will be counterbalanced by a visit to a vocational school in the neighbourhood of Lisbon.

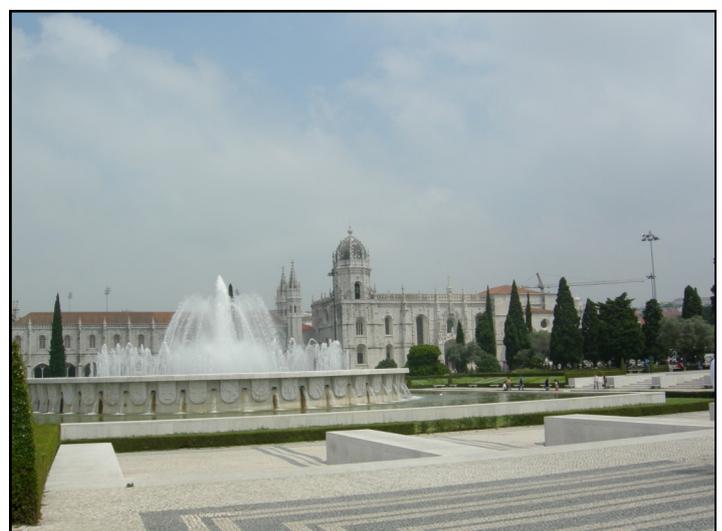
In the margins of the conference, EUNEC will organize an executive committee meeting and its yearly general assembly meeting.



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

"Irrespective of age, gender, socio-economic background, ethnicity, all EU citizens should have the opportunity to acquire and develop the mix of knowledge, skills and aptitudes they need to succeed in the labour market"

From the European Commission Communication, 'An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs', November 2010



EUNEC participates at the fourth Stakeholders forum on priority areas of the second ET 2020 cycle

Since 2008, the European Commission has been organizing an annual stakeholders' forum on EU cooperation in Education and Training. The purpose of the forum is to gather a broad group of European level stakeholders and social partners to discuss European cooperation in Education and Training mainly on topics of transversal nature. The forums are organized by the European Commission with the support of the EUCIS-LLL, the European Civil Society Platform

on Lifelong Learning. The fourth Forum will be held in Hotel Bloom in Brussels, on 26 and 27 September 2011, and will try to collect stakeholders' views on progress made during the first cycle of Education and Training 2020 and to make concrete proposals on the priority areas in the second cycle.

The messages of this Forum will be used by the Commission in drafting its proposal for the

2012 Joint Progress Report on the implementation of ET 2020, to be adopted by the Council and the Commission in February 2012.

EUNEC president Simone Barthel, and Roos Herpelinck, expert from the Flemish Education Council, will participate at the event.



EUNEC is working on a reaction on the consultation on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive

EUNEC is participating in a consultation process concerning the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC).

This Directive, adopted in 2005, sets the rules for mutual recognition of professional qualifications between Member States; it consolidated and simplified 15 previous Directives.

The teaching profession is one of the professions covered by this legislation, under which each application for professional qualifications to be recognized abroad is examined by the competent authority of the host Member State on a case-by-case basis.

Almost half of the 40.000 decisions taken by Member States from 2007 to 2010 concerned the mobility of primary and secondary school teachers.

The reform of the system of recognition of professional qualifications as a means to facilitate mobility is one of the priority actions proposed by the Commission in the Single Market Act. With the view to preparing this reform, the Commission wishes to consult stakeholders on new approaches to mobility, on ways to build on achievements and on the modernisation of the automatic recognition.

In March 2010, the Commission launched an evaluation of the Directive which mobilised many stakeholders: around two hundred competent authorities drew up experience reports in 2010 and around four hundred participants gave their views in a public consultation in early 2011. EUNEC also sent a reaction.

The present Green Paper builds on this evaluation.

It presents new ideas for facilitating mobility in the Single Market, such as the European Professional Card; it explores ways to build on achievements and it sets out the options for the modernisation of automatic recognition. A broad consultation on these ideas will help the Commission to assess the various options for the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive.

A legislative proposal to modernise the Directive is planned for the end of 2011

Moreover, in order to give feedback to the reactions on this consultation, the Commission is organizing a public conference on this subject on 7 November 2011. All interested parties, individuals or organisations, are welcome to react at the consultation and to participate at the conference.

You can find the EUNEC reaction at the consultation from March 2010 at www.eunec.eu

Kunstaan 6 bus 6
1210 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 227 13 70
Fax: +32 2 219 81 18
E-mail: eunec@vlor.be
<http://www.eunec.eu>



EUNEC is working on a new website and on tools to optimize its communication

Thanks to the financial support of the Jean Monnet programme of the European Commission, EUNEC will be able to modernize its website, as part as a broader optimization of its communication and dissemination strategy.

The work is in progress. The new website is supposed to be operational by the end of 2011.

The main objective of the action is



to better inform our members and to enhance the visibility of EUNEC towards stakeholders, partner organizations, European institutions, and national, regional and local authorities in the field of Education and Training.

EUNEC is a learning network of Education Councils; the new website will have to reflect this spirit and objectives.

Through the website, EUNEC wants to inform more actively about activities and outcomes of the network (conferences, consultations, meetings, research, overview of policy lines), about activities of our member organizations, and about important initiatives of the EU, OECD and related international organizations.

We want the new website to be more user friendly, so that we can attract more visitors interested by educational subjects.



Other communication tools are being reconsidered or developed: a new logo, newsletters linked to the website, a magazine.

EUNEC participates at international events

EUNEC participated at the launch of the OECD Publication 'Education at a glance 2011'. The launch was hosted by Mr Truczinsky, Director General Education and Training at the European Commission at Madou Building in Brussels.

The publication, containing over 500 pages of statistical data on education, is very relevant for the EU, as 22 out of the 27 Member States of the EU are also OECD Member.

Barbara Ishinger, Director Education at OECD, and Eric Chardonner, policy analyst OECD, presented the report. Three key messages appear:

The expansion of all levels of education has contributed to fundamental change in OECD societies.

The Labour Market continues to signal a strong demand for tertiary graduates. Maintaining quality in higher education is important.

The crisis reinforces the impact of good education.

'Education must remain a top priority for the EU, even in a tough economic climate'
Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth at the Launch of Education at a glance 2011

