



ETUCE Newsletter

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 Education International

ETUCE Committee adopts the support package to Ukraine

The ETUCE Committee expressed strong solidarity with the ETUCE members and their affiliates in Ukraine and unanimously supported the call to provide moral, political and financial support to our colleagues.

The Committee endorsed the concrete actions which were suggested by the secretariat, being:

- The dissemination of information on developments in Ukraine to all member organisations of EI worldwide
- The continuous advocating in international fora for the inclusive democratic development of Ukraine through an open and transparent social dialogue and to highlight the importance of education as a mean to stabilise and develop democracy in Ukraine
- To encourage and support the participation of representatives of our Ukraine members in conventions and events organised by EI/ETUCE and its member organisations
- To support STESU financially in relocating and re-establishing normal office functions, since the union's central office was destroyed during the confrontation with the police forces
- To assist STESU and VPONU through capacity building projects by setting up both multilateral and bilateral projects to be coordinated by EI to ensure complementarity and avoid overlapping



Teaching Profession Now and in Future - Passing on Cultural Values

On 14-15 April 2014, the ETUCE Committee convened to debate on the major challenges and issues currently at stake in the education sector in Europe. Bringing the future priorities for teacher unions in Europe into focus, the Committee members decided that the ETUCE Special conference on 25-26 November 2014 in Vienna will have the theme "*The Future of the Teaching Profession*".

Against this background, the presentation by **Ricardo Ferreira** from DG Education and Culture on the European Commission's [Opening Up Education communication](#), which seeks to prize open education resources for innovative teaching approaches, triggered a passionate discussion in favour of quality education, teacher training and working conditions. This cumulated into clear support for the ETUCE statement regarding the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations and a call of actions to national teacher unions to request that education be excluded from this transatlantic agreement.



Mr. Christian Welz from EUROFOUND gave a shocking insight into the change caused by the crisis and the EU's Economic Governance Regime on Wage Setting Mechanisms. In the wake, the committee members endorsed the various actions organised in the frame of the EI/ETUCE campaign "Unite for Education – Better Quality Education for a better world", e.g. the pledge request towards candidates running for the European Parliament elections.

With regards to actions of solidarity, the ETUCE Committee decided to financially support its Ukrainian member organisation STESU. More details on this decision are to follow.

The Committee also adopted the recommendations on the promotion of healthy and safe working conditions in education in times of the economic crisis and the guidelines on how to prevent early school leaving through the use of ICT in education.

Resulting from the Status of Women Committee, the ETUCE Committee welcomed the organisation of three side-workshops on higher education, equal opportunities and the crisis impact on education, accompanied by an exhibition on teacher unions' actions in the frame of the Unite for Quality Education campaign. In particular, the ETUCE Committee congratulated the chair of the Status of Women Committee, Gitta Franke-Zöllmer, for her order of merit, the Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse, which was bestowed upon her by the Federal Republic of Germany for her committed work on gender equality in education.

Successful: Learning more about the dual VET system in Austria

On 7 - 9 April 2014, 25 vocational education and training (VET) experts of ETUCE member organisations from 17 countries met in Vienna for a ETUCE - ETUI training seminar on *The role of the teachers' trade unions in quality assurance in all forms of Vocational Education and Training*.

The seminar focused on the Austrian dual system in vocational education and training which is recognised as one of the most successful VET systems in Europe as it



contributes to a high youth employment rate. The participants discussed the importance of linking VET programmes to the labour market with a view to decrease unemployment rates in Europe, especially in times of crisis.

In the frame of the seminar, the participants visited two VET schools. The first school, [HLA Baden](#), focused on the hotel and tourism sector. The second school, [lbs Neunkirchen](#), is orientated towards the metal sector and industry. This visit was very illustrative and provided an insight into the Austrian VET system. The seminar participants had the opportunity to talk to the students and teachers to learn more about their experiences and concerns.

Both visits were very impressive and showed how important it is to provide a positive environment between teachers and pupils, well-established contact between schools and industries, and teacher training. The participants also emphasised that the visits evoked new ideas to implement in their countries.

Online consultation on teaching and learning 21st century skills

KeyCoNet, the European schoolnet's key competences network, invites teachers, head teachers, parents, students and other education stakeholders to participate in an online public consultation on 21st century skills and competence-based teaching and learning in schools.



The survey examines which school strategies are used to adopt a competence-based approach, and which obstacles schools encounter. In addition, it looks at which teaching and learning methods students most appreciate engaging in when they develop their competences, and how they are assessed.

[KeyCoNet's public consultation](#) is online until 16 June 2014 and available in 12 EU languages. The public feedback will complement the expert analysis which is being carried out in parallel, and will be used to further improve and qualify the network's recommendations for policy and practice. These recommendations are due to be published in October 2014, and to be presented at the KeyCoNet's final conference in Greece.

Portugal: Trade unions' role in defining and delivering quality education, FNE-CEDEFOP study-visit on the role of social dialogue

ETUCE affiliates from Portugal - FNE (Federação Nacional da Educação) in cooperation with CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training) organised a study-visit in Porto (PT) from 24 to 28 March 2014, as part of the EI/ETUCE Campaign Unite for Quality Education.

15 education experts from 13 European countries gathered to discuss the topic of “Social dialogue in the definition and implementation of knowledge, skills and competences”. During the four days, participants had the opportunity to visit companies, colleges, research centres and schools with the aim to learn about the Portuguese experience and share their visions regarding social dialogue and at national level.

Portugal experienced a national financial collapse in 2011, and was the third Euro-zone country to receive a bail-out. In July and August 2011, the new Portuguese government announced cuts on state spending and an increase of austerity measures. According to FNE, the cuts seriously affected the functioning schools, the quality of education and the social support to students and their respective families.



The aim of this action organised by FNE and CEDEFOP was to promote the culture of peer learning, observation, and mutual learning based on the sharing of experiences. Moreover the study visit sought to encourage a discussion about education and how to develop quality approaches, transparency of education and training systems.

ETUC Women’s Committee, 10-11 April 2014

The women delegates from the national trade union confederations and European trade union federations discussed amongst other topics, the ETUC campaign towards the elections of the European Parliament and the new ETUC Resolution on gender equality. The latter is to be presented for adoption to the ETUC Executive Committee in June this year.



With a clear majority, the delegates elected Mrs Rosanna Ruscito from FIT CISL, Italy, for the post of substitute to the ETUC Women’s Committee Presidium. ETUCE affiliates will have the opportunity to meet her personally at the upcoming ETUCE seminar on promoting gender equality in teacher unions in Utrecht on 7 May 2014 where Rosanna will be giving a presentation.

Analysing this year’s results of the annual ETUC 8 March survey, it is evident that a change regarding gender equality in trade unions is badly needed, with the female trade union affiliation rising disproportionately to the male affiliation and women remaining underrepresented at leadership level (number of women in trade unions: 19.350,285). The participants welcomed the outcome of the qualitative part of the survey, which showed that trade unions in Europe had focused on trade union action concerning violence against women. It showed an overall positive picture of trade unions engaging in this topic, covering both prevention of workplace and domestic incidents of violent acts

against women. Underlining this result, the presentations from Jane Pillinger, ETUC study on Bargaining for Equal Pay, Christine Jakob, EPSU study on the public services, and Juan Luis Barbolla Casas, European Commission, confirmed the picture of women being disproportionately represented in leadership and paid affecting other areas of life such as well-being, family and healthy ageing.

Irish teacher unions host Education International's second World Women's Conference

400 participants convened in Dublin on 7 – 9 April 2014 for (e)quality education. Following the conference motto, from words to action, female leaders in education and teacher unions from around the world gathered to tackle some of the biggest challenges for gender equality in education.



The conference successfully highlighted the impact that quality education for girls and women not only makes on improving the lives of individual students, but on how it strengthens families, communities and society as a whole.

Manifold workshops provided opportunities to collaborate on practices that have improved equality for women and men in teacher unions, and to underline the importance of gender equality in education.

Treating participants to an intermezzo of folk music by Irish students in the decorative Dublin town hall on the second day, the conference culminated in high spirits with the participants jointly raising their voices in singing at the close of the conference.

Read more on the Conference website[>>>](#)