



ETUCE Newsletter

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ETUCE Public Hearing: The Future of Quality Education in Europe

Join the European Culmination event of the Unite for Quality Education campaign in Brussels on 22 September 2014!

On 22 September 2014, the EI initiative Unite for Quality Education Campaign reaches its peak in the European Region. On this special day, ETUCE is organising a Public Hearing on the Future of Quality Education, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels, to celebrate one year of campaign activities.



The hearing is the European region's culmination event of the EI initiative Unite for Quality Education and links to the global campaign culmination event at the United Nation General Assembly in New York in October 2014.

Preceding this event in the morning of 22 September 2014, is the final conference of the ETUCE project '[Development of Teacher Union Expertise in Exiting the Crisis through Quality Education](#)'. In the first screening of the project film-documentary, participants have the opportunity to see the real impact that austerity measures and budget cuts in the education sector have on quality education in Europe as well as on teacher trade unions and society as a whole.

On that day, one year will have passed since the launch of the EI/ETUCE initiative Unite for Quality Education. Since then, member organisations have mobilised their affiliates with a view to promote the teacher union vision of quality education and to support high quality education for all as one of the fundamental pillars of a just and equitable society. Strong actions were organised by teacher trade unions throughout Europe to promote the [10 ETUCE key messages on "What is needed to improve the Quality of Education in Europe?"](#), adopted by the ETUCE Committee on 23-24 October 2013. Besides, ETUCE member organisations' campaign work has tied in with the election of the European Parliament in May 2014. Thanks to teacher unions' advocacy work, many members of the European Parliament pledged for the ETUCE 10 key messages.

On 22 September 2014, we join in the European region culmination event of the EI/ETUCE initiative Unite for Quality Education, to take stock of a year of campaign activities, to discuss about the Future of Quality Education, and to ask European decision-makers courage and long-term solutions to defend and enhance quality education. The hearing is an important occasion to share with MEPs, high-level European Commission representatives and other stakeholders in education visions on the future of quality education, challenged by a still fragile recovery from the economic crisis, and the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Coming Up: ETUCE Conference *on teacher union actions on gender equality in times of austerity*

The closing conference of the ETUCE project [Promoting gender equality within teacher trade unions and in the teaching profession II – Implementing and reinforcing teacher trade union actions on gender equality in times of austerity](#) convenes in

Sofia on 25 and 26 September 2014. The event provides teacher union representatives and union experts on gender equality the opportunity to discuss and amend practical guidelines for the promotion of gender equality in the education sector and within teacher union structures. These are founded on the debates of the gender equality seminar that ETUCE held in Utrecht in May this year following the results of the online survey



among ETUCE member organisations. The survey analysed the actual impact of the crisis on gender equality in the education sector and within national teacher union structures. Major highlights of the Sofia conference are the presentation of the complete survey results by the project expert, Angelike Striedinger, University of Vienna and the panel discussion with leading gender equality experts from social partners in education and other stakeholders in Europe.

[Read the Agenda>>>](#)

ETUCE opinion on European Parliament reports on implementation

The European Parliament is fully back to work. Its Committees have been formed anew. One of the first topics they addressed, is the fundamental issue of the European Semester for economic policy coordination: the implementation of 2014 priorities. In August, the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) issued a [Draft Report on the implementation of the European Semester](#) and the Employment Committee of the European Parliament (EMPL) [commented](#) on it.



Both Committees welcomed the recommendations of the European Commission to the countries in the European Semester to **priorities and preserve growth-enhancing expenditure in education**. This corresponds to the recent [ETUCE Position on the 2014-2015 Country Specific Recommendations \(CSR\)](#), which also denounces the severe under-financing of education in many Member States and demands that any recommendation targeting education and training should go hand in hand with **appropriate sustainable public funding**, with a stronger **focus on quality education**.

The [Draft Report](#) of the Committee on Economic Affairs clearly recognise that structural reforms for growth and jobs must be complemented by longer-term investment in education and skills, research and development, and resource efficiency. The report however stresses that in all these fields private investment is more beneficial to growth than public investment.

The ETUCE Secretariat positively notes that the [Draft Opinion](#) issued by the Employment Committee clearly denounces that more than 20 Member States have reduced education expenditure as a percentage of GDP, thereby jeopardizing their growth potential. It also criticises the fact that not all the Member States have involved their national social partners in the European Semester process.

Back in July, ETUCE member organisations had addressed a [message on Investing on Education](#), asking European leaders to prioritise investments in education as the only way to increase potential economic growth in Europe and to reduce social inequalities. The message was issued at a time when EU institutions were designing their future strategic priorities, and received positive feedback from both the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU and from the European Commission.

Following this message, ETUCE member organisations began to lobby their national governments to consider education as one of the main growth-enhancing investments, and to be involved into the various steps of the European Semester.

Positioning School Leadership in the Agenda for School Reforms

EPNoSL is organizing its next Peer Learning Activity (PLA) in Nice, France. Interested stakeholders are welcomed to join the event that will be attended by members of the wider school leadership community, including policy makers, educational leaders (school principals and head teachers, and teacher educators), researchers, representatives of professional associations, parents, and students.

The next EPNoSL Peer Learning Activity (PLA) will take place in Nice, France on 25-26 September 2014.



The PLA intends to promote the implementation of the priorities for the development of School Leadership and to stimulate knowledge exchange between policymakers, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders towards enhancing school leadership for equity and learning. Specifically, the discussions in the context of the PLA are expected to contribute to:

The validation of reflection tools for school leadership policy design and implementation.
The consolidation of case studies on school leadership good practices.

The development of place-relevant action plans on school leadership.

Click here for more information [>>>](#)

High level conference on Roma inclusion



The European Commission convenes a high level international conference in Brussels on 2 and 3 October 2014 to take stock of progress and lessons learned in integrating Roma at local level with the support of the ROMACT programme. Roma are the largest and one of the oldest minority groups in Europe. Today, Roma are the ethnic group experiencing the highest levels of poverty and social exclusion across Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Despite policy and legislation in

support of minority rights, the Roma continue to be excluded from fully participating in economic, social, political and cultural life and from enjoying a standard of living and well-being that is considered normal in the society in which they live. [The ROMACT Programme](#) is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, implemented with the support of the Council of Europe Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion, in order to promote the inclusion of Roma at local and regional level.

For more information click here

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=987&furtherEvents=yes>

New Brochure: Can Europe still be saved?

In the new brochure “Can Europe still be saved?” leading representatives of German trade unions explore the fault lines and the austerity-policy orientation of Europe from different angles.

Leading German trade union representatives find that the debate on the future of Europe cannot be limited to national level but has to be a European level discussion. Their analysis demands **for an offensive EU-policy** and shows that austerity policy does not stand uncontradicted. Opposition is increasing in trade unions and in civil society.

[Download the English edition.](#)

