



# ETUCE Newsletter

January 2014 Issue 1



## **Eurydice Network published a new report: Education and Training in Europe 2020 - Responses from the EU Member States.**

The report presents a focused comparative analysis of national responses to the Europe 2020 priorities in the field of education and training. It concentrates on recent and forthcoming national reforms across several thematic areas that have a direct relevance to the Europe 2020 strategy: early school leaving, higher education, youth employment and vocational education and training and lifelong learning.



The report reflects the prominent place of Education and Training in the Europe 2020 strategy. A headline target has been set for education which specifies twin goals on early school leaving and higher education attainment, while under the European semester of economic governance, the key messages of the Annual Growth Survey as well as an increasing number of Country-specific Recommendations have strong links with education and training.

The [report](#) is available in English on the Eurydice website

## **New ETUCE Project: Development of teacher unions' expertise on exiting the crisis through quality education**



In December 2013, a new ETUCE project was launched to tackle the issue of '*Developing teacher unions' expertise on exiting the crisis through quality education*', with the objective of addressing the global EU policy aim of exiting from the crisis through improved expertise in industrial relations and social dialogue. The project consists of a comparative case study analysis to be conducted in 5 crisis-affected countries: Greece, Ireland, Italy,

Portugal and Spain. Project partners from these countries are: OLME (Greece), TUI (Ireland), FLC-CGIL (Italy), FNE (Portugal) and FECCOO (Spain). Their representatives constitute the project Advisory Group. In the occasion of their first meeting in December they shared the need and willingness to enhance their mutual expertise through the identification and exchange of good practices put in place by teacher unions to face the effects of the crisis in the 5 hardest-hit countries.

For an innovative implementation of the project, one of the project products is a film enabling all ETUCE members to share and spread the gathered information. The film can be seen as an important tool to give a real and clear picture of the difficult living and working conditions of people who are still hit by the crisis; and to highlight what can be done by showing teacher unions' responses to addressing the crisis' harsh consequences.

The film will be presented at the final project Conference in October 2014, where the results from best-practice findings and case studies will be shared. The project Conference will include a hearing on the future of quality education in Europe with the participation of members and of representatives of the European Parliament and of the European Commission.

**New ETUCE Project: Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge**

From this week to the end of 2014 ETUCE will be working on a new social dialogue project: *"Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge"*. The aim of the project is to expand the knowledge of the social partners in a number of selected countries in the area of industrial relations with the long-term goal to further promote the ESSDE. Our belief is that training can help to strengthen the social partners' national dialogue as well as their commitment towards the important work at European level.



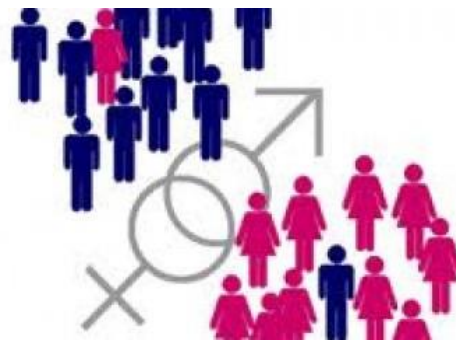
To deepen the understanding and to promote the potentials of the ESSDE it is essential to help the social partners to deal with the increasingly pressing issues within the scope of the European employment and social policy and in particular with the EU 2020 strategies for Growth and Employment. With the help from our social partners ETUCE is convinced that the outcome of the project will support the future work of education employers and teacher trade unions at European and national level.

The project will involve social partners in education in Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, Slovakia, Montenegro and Lithuania. ETUCE will organise six round table meetings in each of the participating countries with the aim of an effective exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer. Furthermore social partners will be asked to provide information during the main project phase. The project

findings will be shared and discussed at the Final conference in Brussels on 12/13 November 2014. ETUCE is looking forward to start on the new project in cooperation with our Member Organisations and eventually to share best practices in the important field of social dialogue.

**New 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**

In 2014, ETUCE is turning towards the issue of participation and leadership of women and men in teacher unions and in the teaching profession. Striving for quality education, the project aims to implement and reinforce teacher trade union actions on gender equality in particular in times of austerity. It seeks to continue to improve national teacher trade unions' understanding of gender equality issues and to promote teacher union action on ensuring



gender equality within the unions' own structures and in the education profession especially in the economic crisis. This project therefore wishes to continue the work that ETUCE and its member organisations have achieved in this field. It wishes to further support the implementation of the ETUCE Action Plan on Gender Equality as well as the recommendations of the ETUCE Standing Committee for Equality through the ETUCE member organisations.

The specific objectives are:

1. Aiming at quality education, continue to raise awareness amongst ETUCE member organisations on gender equality issues in teacher unions and in the teaching profession as well as on major EU priorities, policies and instruments in the field by establishing an online platform on equality issues (SharePoint group)
2. Analyse the actual gender equality situation and the impact of the crisis thereon in the education sector and within national teacher unions' structures in the EU/EFTA and candidate countries.
3. Support teacher trade unions in further implementing and monitoring the ETUC-UNICE/UEAPME-CEEP framework of actions on gender equality and the ETUC Charter of Gender Mainstreaming in trade unions in the education sector at national, regional and local levels.
4. Assess the implementation of the ETUCE Action Plan on Gender and supporting the ETUCE member organisation in carrying out further actions on gender equality in the particular context of austerity

The project is planned and carried out by an advisory group. The advisory group members will support the activity with their expertise and knowledge and help to develop the online survey. They will actively contribute to the project seminar and to the project closing conference. The project is accompanied by a project expert who will assist the advisory group in setting up the survey and carry out the analysis of the collected data. ETUCE selected Angelika Striedinger from the University of Vienna as the project expert via a call for tender. An online platform (SharePoint-group) for representatives from ETUCE member organisations who are responsible for gender equality issues serves as an online network for dissemination of the project developments and results. It is regularly updated with relevant information on gender equality issues.

To fulfil the objectives within the project period, several activities have been planned during the one year project period. These activities include an online survey, a seminar and a final project conference. ETUCE will develop a set of practical guidelines supporting the ETUCE member organisation in carrying out further actions on gender equality in teacher unions and the teaching profession in the particular context of austerity.

### **Austerity stripping away Europe's human rights, watchdog says.**

“Many governments in Europe imposing austerity measures have forgotten about their human rights obligations, especially the social and economic rights of the most vulnerable, the need to ensure access to justice, and the right to equal treatment. Regrettably, international lenders have also neglected to incorporate human rights considerations into many of their



assistance programmes,” said today Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, while releasing a research paper about the impact of the economic crisis on the protection of human rights. Cuts in child and family benefits, health care and education have also added a strain on millions of families. An increasing number of children are dropping out of school to find employment and support their families, risking life-long setbacks in educational achievement, and providing the conditions for job insecurity coupled with the re-emergence of child labour and exploitation. The Commissioner stresses the urgent need to reinvigorate the European social model based on the foundations of human dignity, intergenerational solidarity and access to justice for all. "Governments should focus on reducing youth and long-term unemployment as a priority and on upholding social protection floors for basic income and health care during the crisis. Effective access to justice for all must be guaranteed during economic downturns by maintaining the judiciary and the legal aid system." Furthermore, governments should carry out systematic human rights and equality impact assessments of social and economic policies and budgets, especially as regards vulnerable groups of people.

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### **Montenegro: LGBT in curricula**

Center for civic education and LGBT Forum Progress have, with the support of Council of Europe, published a book "Montenegrin educational policy and sexual orientation: representation of LGBT topics in school curricula and textbooks" by the author mr Aleksandar Sasa Zekovic.



The book "Montenegrin educational policy and sexual orientation : representation of LGBT topics in school curricula and textbooks" represents one of the most detailed and comprehensive analysis of the school curricula and textbooks in the region and it offers guidelines on how to integrate human rights in the educational curricula with more quality.

We express our interest for cooperation in the field of education with LGBT and other non-governmental organizations, government agencies, academic community, researchers and students.

The book in Montenegrin is available on the following link:

<http://media.lgbtprogres.me/2013/10/lgbt-udzbenici.pdf>