

EFEE

THE EUROPEAN
FEDERATION OF
EDUCATION
EMPLOYERS



European Social Dialogue at cross-sectoral level and in the education sector

Social dialogue: a key component of the European social model

- **Objective (Art 151 TFEU)**: to improve European governance through the involvement of the social partners in decision-making and in the implementation process.
- **Short history**: Val Duchesse (1985), SP Agreement annexed to the Maastricht Protocol on Social Policy (1992), incorporation in the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997), current TFEU provisions Art 151-156:
 - the Union recognises and promotes the role of the social partners
 - Commission must consult the social partners before taking any action in the field of social policy
 - Social Partners (SP) can negotiate **agreements** which can have force of law or be implemented in accordance with their own specific procedures and practices and those of the MS
 - SP can also conclude **non-binding texts**
 - Process oriented texts: framework of actions, guidelines, codes of conduct, etc.
 - Joint opinions and tools: declarations, guides, handbooks etc.

Re-launch of Social Dialogue

- March 2015: Commission and Social Partners high-level event “**New start for social dialogue**” - promote inclusive growth and job creation
- June 2016: **Joint Statement** Social Partners and Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thyssen - involvement in EU policy making, European Semester process, and promote capacity building
- April 2017: launch of **European Pillar of Social Rights** – recognises SP’ right to be involved in the design and implementation of employment and social policies & law-making

Development of ESSDE

- ETUCE established in 1977, representing 131 teacher unions in 48 countries
- EFEE established in 2009, representing 40 organisations in 20 countries
- Commission decision of 20 May 1998 on establishment of sectoral social dialogue committees
- ESSDE was launched in 2010 under Articles 154-155 of the EU Treaty.

Aims and objectives of ESSDE

- Contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in Europe thereby focusing on the modernisation of the education sector, its managements and its teaching personnel.
- Focus our joint work on topics that have sufficient common ground for discussion and for initiatives with a clear added value for cooperation at European level.
- Advising the European Commission on initiatives relating to education and social policy.

Organisation of ESSDE

Working Groups

- 2 Working Groups + 1 Plenary meeting p/y
- Themes of the ESSDE work programme
- Specific Working Group for HE&R

Projects

- To study a topic more in depth, focused on peer learning among ETUCE/EFEE members
- Prepare Joint ESSDE Outcomes, such as Joint Declarations, Guidelines, Toolkits, Recommendations etc.

Work Programme 2016-2017: topics

- Cooperation with DG EAC
- Public/private developments in education
- Paris Declaration and facilitating integration
- Open and innovative education and training
- Supporting teachers, trainers and school leaders
- Making the teaching profession more attractive
- Vocational education and training and Apprenticeships
- Higher Education and Research
- High quality skills and competences
- Promotion of Social Dialogue
- Evaluation of ESSDE outcomes
- Communication Strategy

Work Programme: Projects (I)

- Promoting Decent Workplaces in the Education Sector for a Healthier Working Life (2015-2016)
- Outcomes:
 - Joint report with results from survey + case study visits (BE, FI, DE, ROE)
 - Joint Practical Guidelines & Joint Declaration on Preventing and combating psychosocial hazards in education
 - Cooperation with EU-OSHA on risk assessment tool

Work Programme: Projects (II)

- European Sectoral Social Partners in Education promoting the potentials of their dialogue through knowledge transfer and training (2015-2016)
 - Joint Statement on Promoting the potentials of ESSDE
- European Sectoral Social Partners in Education striving for sustainable influence on European education policy building through successful social dialogue (2017-2018)

Examples outcomes work programme 2010-2015 (I)

Recruitment & Retention

- Project & Joint Recommendations on recruitment and retention in the education sector

Self-evaluation

- Project & Joint Declaration on self-evaluation of schools and teachers

School Leadership

- Two projects on Leadership and Governance & Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership & Joint Declaration on School Leadership

Higher Education & Research

- Project & Joint Declaration on supporting early career researchers in higher education in Europe

Examples outcomes work programme 2010-2015 (II)

Joint replies:

- Joint position on the contribution of sectoral social dialogue to the strengthening of social dialogue (2015)
- Joint Statement on Professional Qualifications Directive (2012)
- Joint Declaration on Investment in Education (2011)

Concluding Comments

- Engagement with trade unions under ESSDE broadens the perspective of both sides – joint ownership of issues
- Debates and discussions are stimulating and informative. Agreement on final text of documents requires foresight and understanding of different perspectives driven by different needs
- Employer/Union engagement in ESSDE at European level creates positive effect on similar national debates
- Most often issues and concerns in home country are same as issues and concerns at European level
- We are all on the one road!

For further information, please have a look at our websites:

- EFEE: www.educationemployers.eu
- ETUCE: www.csee-etuice.org
- European
Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=480&langId=en&intPageId=1822>