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 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-etuce.org