Education trade unions adopt ambitious priorities for education and the future of Europe

At the ETUCE Special Conference in Athens, Greece, on 27-28 November 2018, the European education trade union movement kicks off new priorities for shaping the future of Europe and the role of education trade unions. 300 education trade union delegates from 132 national education trade unions at all levels of education from 51 European countries debated and voted on several resolutions to face the challenges teachers and other education personnel are confronted with and to put forward their vision for quality education as a landmark for fairer European societies as a vital prerequisite for democracy.

Education social partners committed to enhance the attractiveness of the teaching profession

On 19 November 2018, European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in Education (ESSDE) delegates gathered in Brussels to conduct their annual Plenary meeting, with the support of the European Commission. EFEE President, Michael Moriarty, chaired the meeting. The meeting focused on: evaluating activities carried out jointly in the frame of the current ESSDE Work Programme 2018-2019; supporting teachers and trainers by increasing the attractiveness of VET and apprenticeships; supporting recruitment, retention and development of teaching professions; following-up on strategies for implementing previously adopted joint documents.

It is time to share prosperity: equal access to quality education at the core of the 2019 European Semester

The Annual Growth Survey (AGS) 2019, published on 21 November 2018, sets out the EU’s general economic and social priorities and offers policy guidance to EU governments for the following year. While acknowledging the six-year long uninterrupted growth of Europe’s economy, this year’s AGS recognises that not everybody benefitted from it on equal terms. Prioritising the need to address growing inequalities, the Commission warns about the vulnerability of the European economy to global instability and medium to long-term challenges. Thus, the focus for 2019 still remains on socio-economic resilience, macro-economic stability and sound public finances.

Belgium: education trade unions and employers mobilising for the integration of migrants and refugees

On 7-8 November 2018, the third case study visit of the project “European Sectoral Social Partners in Education promoting effective integration of
migrants and refugees in education” took place in Belgium, organised with the support of ETUCE member organisation in Belgium, ACOD-Onderwijs, partner to this project. The visit aimed at identifying challenges, concrete solutions and joint social partners’ initiatives for effectively integrating migrants and refugees in education. ETUCE and EFEE representatives, the research expert accompanying the project and a project advisory group representative from Cyprus had the opportunity to familiarize with good practices and challenges in the Flemish education system regarding policies of inclusion and integration. 

Ukraine: TUESWU’s talks with Ministry of Education

Following the protest actions organised by trade unions early in October all over the country, the President of the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine (TUESWU), Georgiy Trukhanov, met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Pavlo Khobzei, in the buildings of the Ministry of Education on 1 November 2018.

The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 132 Education Trade Unions and 11 million teachers in all countries of Europe, 4.2 million teachers in the EU, from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International, the global federation of teacher unions.

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