Teachers’ views on the New Skills Agenda for Europe

Following preliminary consultation of the European Commission with various social partner organisations on “A New Skills Agenda for Europe”, an initiative to be launched in May 2016, ETUCE published the views of the professionals of the education sector. The views of the teacher unions are additional to the position of European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Brussels: European education social partners successfully adopt new work program at annual plenary meeting

On 19 February 2016, ETUCE and the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) conducted their annual plenary meeting 2015 within the European Sectoral Social Dialogue in Education (ESSDE). The meeting gathering about forty delegates from the two organisations had been postponed from November 2015 due to the security lock-down following the terror attacks in Paris.

EI/ETUCE Mission to Turkey

EGITIM SEN addressed the Director of EI/ETUCE, Martin Rømer, asking for an urgent mission to visit the South East of Turkey, where, since the month of October 2015, serious violations of Human and Trade Union Rights are taking place. After consultations with the EI/ETUCE Board members and the EI and ETUCE Secretariats, a mission was organised.

Strike of Lithuanian teachers starts on 22 February

Six teacher trade unions demand that the wages of teachers in Lithuania, which have been frozen for 8 years, would be restored to the level of pre-crisis. Furthermore, they request allocating 3.56 million Euros severance pay for teachers who are at the age of retirement but still at work to be able to leave the system. Teacher unions believe that teachers miss around 600 Litas (174 Euros) in their monthly payment. The unions also demand to reduce the number of pupils in classes and groups.

Hungarian teachers continue their fight to improve education

Following the demonstrations of students, teachers and parents all across Hungary on 3 February, teachers’ trade unions called a demonstration by 13 February 2016. Thousands of demonstrating teachers demanded systemic changes in education. Ms Piroska Gallone, President of PSZ (SEH) and Ms Zsuzsa Szabo, Vice President of the PSZ (SEH), the biggest Hungarian trade union for education, called the Hungarian government to stop ruining education through its reforms.

Finnish teachers on educational integration of refugees and immigrants

Teachers are essential in integrating migrant and refugee children in education. The Finnish member organization of ETUCE, OAJ which has over 120 000 members representing about 95% of the teachers in the country, recently launched an interesting publication on integrating refugees and migrants in education. The publication is entitled: Integration Compass (In Finnish: Kotoutumiskompassi). We asked Ms Päivi Lyhykäinen, OAJ Special Adviser for Education to explain us the impact and use of the publication in education.