ETUCE Calls Ministers to Improve the Status of Employees in Higher Education and Research in Europe

At the upcoming Bologna Ministerial Conference in Yerevan on 14-15 May 2015, 47 European Ministers responsible for higher education and research are to adopt a Ministerial Communiqué. ETUCE has been supportive to the implementation of the establishment of the European Higher Education Area and will be present at the Bologna Ministerial Conference.

Italy is facing a strike in the education sector

The Italian trade unions, among them the three ETUCE member organisations, oppose their government's current plans to reduce education workers' rights and to increase their workload without a corresponding wage increase. Apparently, the proposed amendments are to be made entirely without the trade unions being involved. The last collective agreement in Italian education expired in 2009. Instead of extending it, the Italian government had submitted to the Parliament a draft law to reform the education staffs working conditions.

General strike in the education sector of Kosovo

The Union of Education, Science and Culture of Kosovo (SBAHOK), member organisation of ETUCE in Kosovo, is organising a general strike in the pre-universities and universities, today, on 29 April 2015. This is an act against the intolerable delaying tactics of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo (MEST) towards completing the implementation of the collective agreement which was signed already a year ago.

22,000 demonstrated in Warsaw for better teachers' wages

ZNP, the Polish Teacher Union and an ETUCE member organisation, demonstrated in Warsaw on 18 April 2015. According to latest information from ZNP, more than 22,000 teachers and educational staff from all regions of Poland took part in the protest. The initiative to organise this protest came after the Minister of National Education Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska did not appear in the planned meeting with ZNP regarding the increase of teachers' wages.

Indefinite strikes in Germany's day-care centres after GEW's ballot

ETUCE's German member organisation GEW announced today the results of the ballot on indefinite strikes in the social and educational services. According to GEW, not less than 96.37% of their members voted in favour of this drastic but already inevitable step. At the same time, ver.di which is the second largest German trade union has reached 93.44% in this strike ballot.

9 May: Europe Day

On 9 May 2015 European citizens commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Schuman declaration when in 1950, Robert Schuman, France's foreign minister, sparked the creation of what is now the European Union by calling on France, Germany and other European countries to pool their production of coal and steel. In times when Europe again is struggling to find a common path and when solidarity seems to have been forgotten, ETUCE joins European citizens in celebrating the pioneers who sought to create a better future through a unified and solidary Europe.