ETUCE celebrates World Teachers’ Day: “For quality education, we need highly-qualified teachers”

Today, 5 October 2018, ETUCE, European Region of Education International is celebrating World Teachers’ Day. This year’s motto is “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher”. Indeed, in Europe, the question of qualifications and training is of big concern as qualified teachers are increasingly reporting that they do not feel adequately prepared or trained. They face many demands related, for example, to competence development, individual teaching approaches for recently arrived migrants and special needs children, and teaching with new technologies.

Teacher training is a crucial matter of social dialogue in the education sector

At the ETUCE Conference ‘Strengthening the capacity of education trade unions to represent teachers’ professional needs in social dialogue’ held in Brussels on 19-20 September 2018, ETUCE member organisations expressed their commitment to ensuring that teachers are provided with a wide range of high quality initial and continuous professional training opportunities, as well as with an adequate early career support.

Trade Unions need to double their efforts in organising higher education and research staff and ensuring democratic institutional governance

More than 30 delegates representing 22 European countries attended the biannual meeting of the ETUCE Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) which took place on 10-11 September 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia. The meeting was organised with the support of the ETUCE member organisation in Estonia, UNIVERSITAS.

European and national social partners meet in Serbia to promote the integration of migrants and refugees in education

From the 26-28 September 2018, the second case-study visit of the project “European Sectoral Social Partners in Education promoting effective integration of migrants and refugees in education” took place in Serbia,
which was organised with the support of the ETUCE member organisation in Serbia, Teacher Union of Serbia (TUS), a partner to the project. The visit aimed at identifying challenges, concrete solutions and joint social partners’ initiatives put in place to effectively integrate migrants and refugees in education. >>>

The Netherlands: No reasons yet to change Code Red
After several vocal protest actions and strikes the situation in primary education has not yet improved in the Netherlands. As a consequence, another regional strike, the fifth in row, is taking place today on 12 September 2018 in the South West region of the Netherlands as announced by AOb. >>>

Cyprus: The school community stands up against unilateral government decision
After the strike of 13 July 2018, OELMEK, POED and OLTEK, ETUCE member organisations in Cyprus, continue denouncing the unilateral decisions taken by the Cypriot government with a 48-hour strike on 18-19 September 2018. Joined by the whole school community, the education trade unions reported the success of this protest action. The action followed the ultimatum the Cypriot government had given to the unions to accept the below proposals: >>>

Poland: #EnoughisEnough demonstration
Last Saturday, on 22 September 2018, All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) to which one of the ETUCE member organisations in Poland, ZNP, is affiliated, organised in Warsaw the demonstration “Poland Needs a Pay Rise” as a part of the European Campaign “Europe needs a Pay Rise”. Among other things, the main demands of the demonstration were: >>>

Kosovo: Warning strike in front of the buildings of the government
On Saturday, 8 September 2018, ETUCE member organisation, the Union of Education, Science and Culture of Kosovo (SBASHK), staged a warning strike to demand a pay rise for teachers in front of the buildings of the Government of Kosovo. According to the education trade union, the government did not keep its promises to increase teachers’ and other education personnel’s salaries: The government had not adjusted the position of education personnel in the salary ranking which the Bill on Salaries in the public sector determines. >>>
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.

e-mail: secretariat@csee-etuce.org
Phone: +32 (0)2 224 06 92

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