

## Equality Recommendations Proposed

The ETUCE Standing Committee for Equality proposed a set of recommendations in its last meeting on 2-3 June 2014. The recommendations shall be presented for adoption to the ETUCE Committee in October 2014. Recommended actions aim to identify and strengthen competences teachers and other education staff need for addressing diversity issues, to include migrants in education, and to support education staff dealing with disability and special needs education.



A wide range of equality issues were addressed in the committee meeting. While gender equality remains on top of the agenda, current developments in Europe call for teacher unions to discuss teaching competences framed by a broader understanding of equality. In many countries, society is growing more diverse in status and income. The European elections made the rise of right-wing political parties and extremist groups visible. In his opening address, ETUCE European Director Martin Rømer stressed the responsibility of teachers to fight for a democratic development in Europe and to give access to free and public education for all.

Under the heading “Mainstreaming Diversity and Tackling Inequalities”, three guest speakers provided valuable input which fostered the discussion in three working groups. Dan Taubmann, ETUCE representative to several OMC working groups and senior national officer at the University and College Union (UK), highlighted knowledge, skills, values, understanding and attitude teachers need to address diversity in their work. These competences should be included in initial teacher training and in professional development and managerial and team support. Rubina Boasman, independent consultant on social performance/global development management (The Netherlands), called on teachers to realise the key position they play. Creating equity involves a change in consciousness and goes beyond the curriculum. Education can enhance children to a better future, so failures ultimately result in missed opportunities in society. Teachers need to reconnect to their original role which is preparing someone for the next step in society. Francisca L. Castro, Regional Committee Member from the EI Asian-Pacific Region, spoke of the need of unions to be sensitive to their communities’ equality problems. Teachers must ask themselves for whom they teach. In the

Asia-Pacific Regions, inequality is connected to the cultural diversity in the region. More boys than girls attend school, and poverty and a lack of infrastructure force one third of children to work instead of attending school. Education plays an important role in addressing these issues and teacher unions should tackle these challenges.

### **Teacher trade unions in Europe and the United States call on President Obama and President of the European Commission Barroso to safeguard quality education in TTIP**

A common letter by Education International, ETUCE, AFT and NEA calls on US President Obama and President of the European Commission Barroso to safeguard quality education in TTIP.

The letter raises the common concerns that the inclusion of “private” adult learning and “other education services” into the scope of the TTIP agreement poses potentially serious risks for educational policy, for public schools and other educational institutions, and for teachers, students and communities in both the EU and the US.



Furthermore, the common message stresses that countries need to maintain the authority to appropriately provide for public goods like education and consequently the teachers unions are greatly concerned that the inclusion of education services in the TTIP negotiations will undermine the democratic decision making. [Read the letter >>>](#)

### **Urgent Action appeal for Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina**



EI called upon all its affiliates to support the member organisations in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina where the most disastrous floods in 120 years have badly affected the region.

EI and ETUCE wish to express their full solidarity with colleagues in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and urge member organisations from Europe and from around the world to join the efforts and to give donations to the Solidarity Fund.

Read the Action appeal letter [>>>](#)

## 103rd session of the International Labour Conference

From 28 May to 12 June representatives from workers' organisations, employers' organisations and governments convene for the tripartite dialogue in Geneva to review the implementation of



international labour standards and discuss employment issues. The delegation from the EI/ETUCE follows upon the cases concerning their member organisations and social dialogue and collective bargaining in the education sector. From Europe, amongst others, the cases of Greece regarding social security standards, Croatia concerning freedom of association and right to strike and Portugal concerning employment reforms are being debated.

Follow the conference and read up on the discussion at:

<http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/103/lang--en/index.htm>

More information available at: EI webpage