



ETUCE Newsletter

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ETUCE Culmination event of the Unite for Quality Education Campaign: join the European event in Brussels on 22 September 2014!

On 22 September 2014, the **EI/ETUCE initiative [Unite for Quality Education](#)** Campaign will reach its peak in the European Region. On this special day, ETUCE is organising a **Public Hearing on the Future of Quality Education**, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels, to celebrate one year of Campaign activities. As the European region's **culmination event of the EI/ETUCE initiative [Unite for Quality Education](#)**, the hearing links to the culmination event of the global campaign that takes place in New York at the United Nation General Assembly in October 2014.



UNITE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
Better education for a better world

In the morning, the final conference of the project '*Development of Teacher Union Expertise in Exiting the Crisis through Quality Education*' is held. Through the **first screening of the ETUCE project film-documentary**, participants have the opportunity to look in depth into the real impact that austerity measures and budget cuts in the education sector have on quality education in Europe as well as on teacher trade unions and society as a whole.

On that day, one year will have passed since the launch of the EI/ETUCE initiative Unite for Quality Education. Since then, Member organisations have mobilised with a view to promote the teacher union vision of quality education and to support high quality education for all as one of the fundamental pillars of a just and equitable society. [Strong actions](#) were organised by teacher trade unions throughout Europe to promote the [10 ETUCE key messages on "What is needed to improve the Quality of Education in Europe?"](#), adopted by the ETUCE Committee on 23-24 October 2013. Besides, ETUCE member organisations' campaign work has tied in with the **election of the European Parliament** in May 2014. Thanks to teacher unions' advocacy work, many members of the European Parliament have [pledged](#) for the ETUCE 10 key messages.

On 22 September 2014, we join in the European region culmination event of the EI/ETUCE initiative *Unite for Quality Education*, to take stock of a year of campaign activities, to discuss about the ***Future of Quality Education***, and to ask European decision-makers courage and long-term solutions to defend and enhance quality education. The hearing will be an important occasion to share with MEPs, high-level European Commission representatives and other stakeholders in education visions on the future of quality education, challenged by a still fragile recovery from the **economic crisis**, and the negotiations on the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**.

Quality Education in Europe – still a long way to go. Soon an ETUCE film documentary to state it

On 22 September 2014 ETUCE's final conference of the project "Development of teacher unions' expertise on exiting the crisis through quality education" is taking place in conjunction with the European culmination event of the **ETUCE/EI global initiative *Unite for Quality Education***. The aim of the project has been to produce a film that looks in depth into the real impact that budget cuts in the education sector have on the school community and on society in general. It also shows how teacher trade unions have reacted to the economic crisis.



To this end, since the beginning of March, the ETUCE, together with external film experts and guided by the Project Advisory Group members (OLME – Greece, TUI – Ireland, FLC-CGIL – Italy, FNE – Portugal and FECCOO – Spain) has conducted five country visits around Europe.

The first visit in Athens showed the severe situation in the country and in the education system. The film team carried on in Madrid, Rome and Porto. During these shootings, the film team interviewed precarious teachers with uncertain salary, students without any form of financial support forced to drop education, or parents putting themselves on the frontline to grant pupils safe and clean school environments. Despite the institutional emphasis on growth and economic recovery, these countries are still facing tremendous obstacles in their education systems, which should be of a great concern for all the industrial sectors. Cut-backs in the education systems are strongly jeopardizing the future of the European society.

The last country-visit in Dublin demonstrated how Ireland has benefited from a strong social dialogue where social partners in education and the government have incessantly negotiated for solutions, throughout all the difficult years of economic and financial crisis.

The cuts and downturns in the education systems have affected everyday people and made the prospects and opportunities for the younger generations more unclear. Many European Member States have not realised the crucial role that education plays to reply to the crisis and develop a brighter future for the younger generations. This ETUCE film-documentary is a wake-up call for the politicians in the EU countries and a new way forward for quality education.

ETUCE Guidelines to the EC’s public consultation on modalities for investment protection and ISDS in TTIP

The European Commission runs a public consultation on investment protection and investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in TTIP until 6 July 2014. ETUCE strongly encourage all member organisations to respond to the consultation. Therefore, ETUCE has drafted a set of guidelines to the European Commission’s public consultation on modalities for investment protection and ISDS in TTIP. [LINK](#)



The public consultation was launched after very substantial criticisms on investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in TTIP – the granting of legal rights to private investors to sue governments before arbitration panels. As a result, foreign investors are given legal rights to challenge any regulatory or policy measure of the host-state it feels violates its rights to access a market.

The European Commission runs this public consultation in all official EU languages.

Successful ETUCE round table meetings on the potentials of social dialogue in Slovenia and Croatia

On 4th and 5th June 2014, ETUCE held its second and third round table meeting within the project “Promoting the potentials of the European sectoral social dialogue in education by addressing new challenges and exploring experience and knowledge”. The meetings took place in Ljubljana and Zagreb and therefore raised discussions on the status of social dialogue in education respectively in Slovenia and Croatia.



Both round table meetings were carried out together with ETUCE’s affiliates and project partners in the two countries, the Education and Science Trade Union of Slovenia, ESTUS, and the Independent Union of Research and Higher Education Employees of Croatia, IURHEEC. In both countries the meetings gathered participants from other organisations and representatives from the national Education Ministries. Among others, Slovenian State Secretary, Aljus Pertinac and the Croatian Assistant Minister for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education, Sabina Glasovac, as well as EFEE’s recently elected President Michael Moriarty and Christian Welz from Eurofound contributed with highly interesting presentations to the successful meetings which launched vital debates among participants.

The meetings were useful for ETUCE and its member organisations in Slovenia and Croatia as it gave an insight on the current situation in the education social dialogue in each country. Like in Bucharest where the first round table meeting was held, the meetings revealed a deep concern about the status quo of education social dialogue and the developments or rather the lack of developments within the education sector in Slovenia and Croatia. Especially in Croatia the situation appeared to be far more complicated and problematic. The meetings proved the importance and need to focus more on requirements to promote the education social dialogue at national and European level. ETUCE hopes that the overall outcome of the project will generate solutions to the current challenges that the social dialogue in education faces.

Conference on homophobic and Transphobic School bullying in Europe



On 10 and 11 June 2014, European stakeholders in the field of education and discrimination prevention convened in Athens to exchange good practices and identify barriers and challenges concerning the prevention of bullying in schools, in particular on grounds of homophobia and transphobia. The event was organised jointly by the NGOs Smile of the Child and ILGA-Europe under auspices of the Greek Presidency. The conference accompanied the launch of the

European Anti-bullying Network, which strives for a common EU strategy on bullying. In its work on anti-discrimination and the prevention of violence and harassment against teachers, ETUCE has in the past developed joint initiatives with other stakeholders such as ILGA-Europe on homophobic bullying in education as well as setting up concrete and practical guidelines for the prevention of cyber-harassment.

Find the joint ETUC-ETUCE-ILGA-Europe statement here: [link](#)

More information on the ETUCE work on the prevention of teachers' cyber-harassment: [link to the cyber-harassment project](#)