



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Plenary meeting

12 November 2013

Minutes

Chair: David Simmonds (EFEE)

1. Welcome, approval of the draft agenda; approval of the minutes of the plenary meeting of 8 November 2012

The draft agenda was approved.

The draft minutes of the plenary meeting of 8 November 2012 were adopted.

2. Keynote speech on the Commission Communication "Opening up Education: Innovative teaching and learning for all through new Technologies and Open Educational Resources"

Ana Carla Pereira (ACP) presented the Commission initiative on "Opening up Education"¹, addressing the impact of technology on education, proposing 23 actions as regards Open Learning Environments, Open Educational Resources, Connectivity and Innovation, and promoting a concerted effort to seize the opportunities of the digital revolution².

Responding to delegates' questions and comments, ACP added that: even if it will be possible to deliver content anywhere/by anybody/to anybody, teachers will still be needed and their role will become even more sophisticated – and adequate support to teachers is therefore crucial; the new Erasmus+ programme will offer funding opportunities for fostering cooperation between relevant stakeholders in view of addressing the challenges put forward in OuE.

3. Update on High Level Meeting with Commissioner Vassiliou and European cross-industry and education social partners

Martin Rømer (MR) and Bianka Stege (BS) welcomed the Commission initiative for a new framework of strengthened cooperation between DG Education and Culture

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-859_en.htm

² <http://prezi.com/8ei8snj8tqrc/opening-up-education/>

and the social partners. It should give the opportunity to the latter to be more closely involved in policy developments at EU level.

The articulation with the work of the ESSDE will have to be clarified, and care should be given that the cooperation results in a win-win situation.

4. Priorities of the 2014-2015 Work Programme

A first exchange took place on the work programme for the next 2 years. It will have to be decided what to dedicate the 2 working groups to (the topics of higher education and public/private education were mentioned), and account should be taken of the abovementioned high level dialogue, as well as of the available resources – including the (limited) number of SSDC meetings allowed by the Commission.

In this context, Stefaan Ceuppens (SC) reminded the committee that the Commission can provide extra meetings if the social partners would engage in negotiation of an agreement.

The work programme will be further developed by the secretariats and discussed at the steering group meeting in January.

5. Feedback from the ESSDE Information seminar on Public and Private Education

Alexandra Rüdig (AR) and BS reported on the – interesting and useful – meeting of 5 November (see the separate minutes of this meeting). It was agreed that there is a need for precise definitions of the different concepts as a basis for decisions on which topics to develop further in the context of the ESSDE.

6. Joint Declaration on "Promotion of self-evaluation of schools and teachers" – Outcome of the EFEE/ETUCE project within Working Group 1 (Quality of education)

BS, MR and a number of delegates highlighted the added value of the joint project, including for understanding each other's positions and for trust building.

The resulting joint declaration was adopted (see annex). Due care should now be given to dissemination and implementation of the declaration. In this context, the importance of translation in as many languages as possible was stressed.

7. Final report of the project "Social Partners in education concerned about Violence in Schools: How to Prevent and Mitigate Third-Party Violence and Harassment in Schools" – Outcome of the ETUCE/EFEE project

Susan Flocken (SF) informed the committee that the "Implementation Guide for the Education Sector of the Multi-Sectoral Guidelines to Tackle Third-Party Violence and Harassment Related to Work" (see annex) had been endorsed by the respective decision bodies of EFEE and ETUCE. It was now adopted by the committee.

She also presented the first joint implementation report of the social partners of the education sector, which will be integrated in an overall report covering all signatory sectors. The joint report for the education sector was adopted (see annex).

8. Presentation by ETUCE and EFEE secretariats on current and future projects

a) Teacher unions preventing early school leaving through the use of ICT in education

SF updated the committee on this EAC-funded project, led by ETUCE in partnership with EFEE and OBESSU³. The final conference will take place in Bratislava on 28-29 November, where draft policy recommendations will be discussed. All project documents can be found on the dedicated project website⁴.

b) The development of the teaching profession in times of the economic crisis as a key task for social partners in education. Finding joint strategies to tighten the links between education and the labour market

AR presented the different elements of the work programme of the project, which aims at deepening a number of issues that were identified in the context of the joint Recruitment and Retention project, notably addressing the increasing (qualitative and quantitative) teacher shortages in many Member States. The report that was produced can be found in [annex](#).

The final conference will take place in Berlin on 13-14 November. It should result in a number of recommendations – even if not joint ones. These will hopefully provide inspiration for national social partners' action, and for the topic to be put back on the next work programme of the ESSDE.

c) Supporting early career researchers in higher education in Europe – and the role of employers and trade unions

Sarah Kik presented the new joint project that follows up to the work done in the context of Working Group 3 on higher education and research (see project outline in [annex](#)).

The trade unions stressed the importance of addressing the issue of casualization of employment in the sector, as well as the overall lack of social dialogue in higher education.

d) Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership

BS presented the objectives and work programme of this new joint project (see the project outline in [annex](#)). All those interested are invited to take part in the peer learning visits that will be organised in the context of the project.

9. AOB

On behalf of the committee, David Simmonds thanked Ilse Schaad warmly for her constructive contribution to the work of the ESSDE and wished her all the best for the future.

³ <http://www.obessu.org/>

⁴ http://www.elfe-eu.net/flx/english/elfe_structure/

Annexes

- Point 6 – Joint Declaration on "Promotion self-evaluation of schools and teachers"
- Point 7 – Implementation Guide for the Education Sector of the Multi-Sectoral Guidelines to Tackle Third-Party Violence and Harassment Related to Work
- Point 7 – Joint report from the Social Partners in the Education sector on the Implementation of the Multi-Sectoral Guidelines to Tackle Third-Party Violence and Harassment Related to Work
- Point 8b – Final report on The status and attractiveness of the teaching profession in times of the economic crisis as a key task for social partners in education (EN and FR)
- Point 8c – Project outline: Supporting early career researchers in higher education in Europe
- Point 8d – Project outline: Professional autonomy, accountability and efficient leadership

List of participants 12/11/2013

<u>Employers</u>	<u>Workers</u>
<p>EFEE Ms Ulla AHLBLAD-BORDI (FI) Ms Veronique FEIJEN (NL) Mr Ladislav HAAS (SK) Ms Sarah KIK (EU) Mr Michael MORIARTY (IE) Ms Petra NIEMINEN (FI) Ms Nina PÄRSSINEN (FI) Ms Maria PONTIERI (IT) Mr Ioannis SAVVIDES (CY) Ms Micheline SCIBERRAS (MT) Mr David SIMMONDS (UK) Mr Laszlo SOMOGYI (HU) Ms Malin SMIT (NO) Ms Bianka STEGE (EU)</p>	<p>ETUCE Ms Maria Lucia DAL PINO (IT) Mr Joao DIAS DA SILVA (PT) Ms Istvanne GALLO (HU) Ms Nina LAHTINEN (FI) Ms Dorte LANGE (DK) Ms Susan FLOCKEN (EU) Mr Andreas GEHRKE (DE) Mr Bastian Aagaard JEPPESEN (EU) Ms Monika KONCZYK (PL) Mr John MACGABHANN (IE) Mr Sandi MODRIJAN (SI) Ms Thea NESYBA (EU) Ms Vaike PARKEL (EE) Mr Igor RADEKA (HR) Mr Claude RIES (LU) Mr Albert RITZENTHALER (FR) Mr Martin RØMER (EU) Ms Alexandra RÜDIG (EU) Ms Ilse SCHAAD (DE) Mr Harald SKULBERG (NO) Ms Ilze TRAPENCIERE (LV) Ms Vajna TUNDE (HU)</p> <p>CESI Mr Claude HEISER (EU) Ms Aurélie QUINTIN (EU)</p> <p>EPSU Mr Jon RICHARDS (UK)</p>
<p>14 employers representatives (9 women, 5 men) (2 EU, 4 new MS, 7 old MS, 1 non-EU)</p>	<p>25 workers representatives (13 women, 12 men) (7 EU, 7 new MS, 10 old MS, 1 non-EU)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u> Mr Stefaan CEUPPENS (EMPL.B.1) Ms Ana Carla PEREIRA (EAC.A.3 – Skills and qualifications strategies; Multilingualism policy)</p>	