



**EUNEC - CNE conference  
associated with the Portuguese presidency of the EU**

**Conselho Nacional de Educação  
Lisbon - 8-10 October 2007**

**EVIDENCE BASED EDUCATION POLICY  
STEPS TO EQUITY IN EDUCATION**

EUNEC is the **European Network of Education Councils**. Its members advise the governments of their countries on education and training. EUNEC aims to discuss the findings and recommendations of all European projects in education and training, to determine standpoints and to formulate statements on these issues. EUNEC wants to disseminate these statements pro-actively towards the European Commission, relevant DGs and other actors at European level, and to promote action by EUNEC's members and participants at national level. EUNEC also has the objective that the councils should put internationalisation, mobility and Europeanization high on the national agenda, that they should recommend and support a European policy in education and training towards all relevant stakeholders: ministry of education (and employment), sectoral and branch organisations, providers and other actors.

In 2007 EUNEC is **subsidized as European Association acting at European level in the field of education** (Call for proposals DG EAC NO. 26/06). This seminar is organised with the support of this grant. This conference takes place in Lisbon in the context of the **Portuguese presidency** of the European Union. EUNEC will be their host on Monday evening. The Conselho Nacional de Educação organises this event together with the EUNEC secretariat.

The Executive Committee of EUNEC decided to link two current European education issues during this conference. On Monday we will deal with the theme of '**Evidence based education policy**'. The theme was elaborated during a symposium in Frankfurt in March 2007 and the European Commission plans a communication on this issue in autumn 2007. EUNEC wants to get a better view on the content of this concept and to examine the role of education councils on this theme. On Tuesday and Wednesday we will exchange ideas on the issue of **equity in education**, based on research by the OECD. The OECD will present the results of their study, the European Commission will explain its point of view and we will discuss how education councils can move the equity in education agenda forward. We also foresee time for a presentation of examples of good practice.

**Conference place**

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# **Monday 8 October 2007**

## **EUNEC – CNE Seminar**

### **Evidence-based policy making in the field of education**

Thematically linked to the Symposium "Knowledge for Action" held during Germany's EU Presidency and to the OECD publication "Research and Evidence in Educational Policy-Making: New Challenges", this Seminar aims to discuss how education research impacts on the fields of policy making and practice.

The seminar will explore issues underlying the use of research and evaluation in educational policy making. It will be an opportunity to deepen the reflection on the tools used by the Open Method of Coordination:

- mutual learning among Member States, resulting from reciprocal analyses of the respective policies
- monitoring progress of each Member State towards common objectives

#### **9.30 h        Opening session**

**Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues**, Minister of Education

**Julio Pedrosa**, President of CNE

**Simone Barthel**, President of EUNEC – Chair of the seminar

#### **10.00 h        Keynote conference: Challenges of evidence-based policy making in the field of Education**

**Rui Santos**, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

#### **10.30 h        Coffee Break**

#### **10.45 h        Panel session: Perspectives on Evidence, Policy and Practice in the field of Education**

**Chair: Dr Mark Rickinson**, Educational Research Consultant - Research Fellow, University of Oxford

**David-Pascal Dion**, European Commission:

Towards more knowledge based policy and practice in education and training

**Tracey Burns**, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI):

The OECD and Evidence-based Policy Research in Education

**Hans-Peter Füssel**, German Institute for International Education Research:

Evidence-based policy in Germany: the example of the National Report 'Education in Germany – 2006'

#### **12.00 h        Debate**

#### **12.30 h        Lunch**

**14.30 h      Towards more evidence based education**

**Prof. Dr. R.J. Bosker**, Onderwijsraad (The Netherlands)

**15.00 h      Panel session: Evidence based Education Policy and national advisory bodies**

**Konrado Mugerza** (Spain)

**Carmel Borg** (Malta)

**Alain Bultot** (Belgium – French Community)

**Egle Pranckuniene** (Lithuania)

**Manuel Miguéns** (Portugal)

**Moderator: Margarida Marques**, Head of Office of the European Commission Representation in Portugal

**16.30 h      Debate**

**17.30 h      Conclusion**

**20.00 h      Conference dinner**

# **Tuesday 9 October 2007**

## **EUNEC – CNE seminar**

### **Steps to Equity in Education**

The conference will discuss the outcomes of the OECD thematic review 'No More Failures – Ten Steps to Equity in Education' (foreseen for September 2007) and examine a set of policy levers focused on fair and inclusive design, practices and resources. It will discuss key issues for equity in education, such as early childhood interventions, school choice or secondary education structures, measures to reduce dropout rates, financial or strategic policies countries have adopted or may envisage putting in place to enhance equity in their education systems. The conference will debate how to raise policy awareness of equity in education issues and how policies for equity in education can be best supported.

The Equity in Education Thematic Review of the OECD aims to draw policy lessons on how to improve equity in education by looking at specific equity challenges countries are facing. These include equity in compulsory education and variability in results across students and schools, early school leaving, different educational pathways and how they might be having an impact on equity, and the integration of migrants and minorities in the education system. Ten countries were participating in the activity - Belgium (Flemish region), Finland, France, Hungary, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Each participating country prepared an analytical report on equity in education. Additionally, five of the countries (Finland, Hungary, Norway, Spain and Sweden) opted for the full-scale thematic review strand, which included a country visit by an OECD review team and the preparation of a Country Note. All strands of work feed into the preparation of a final comparative report.

Using evidence from the OECD research to discuss key recommendations on equity in education and to help education councils to advise their governments is a concrete application of the subject of the first day (evidence based policy).

#### **9.30 h        Opening session**

**Julio Pedrosa**, President of CNE

**Mia Douterl lungne**, general secretary of EUNEC – seminar chair

#### **9.45 h        No More failures – Ten Steps to Equity in Education**

Summary of the OECD thematic review and policy recommendations

**Beatrix Pont**, analyst in the Directorate for Education of the OECD

#### **10.45 h        Coffee Break**

#### **11.00 h        Monitoring progress in the field of equity in education**

**Maria Hrabinska**, European Commission DG EAC Unit E5 – Statistics and Indicators

#### **11.30 h        Equity and the problem of early school leavers in Portugal**

**Clara Correia**, National Agency for Qualification (Portugal)

#### **12.00 h        Questions**

**12.30 h      Lunch**

**14.30 h – 17.30 h: Round tables of good practice**

Starting from the OECD recommendations, the objective of these round tables is to explore examples of good practice and to exchange ideas on equity on education. Representatives of EUNEC member councils will explore one aspect of good practice in their country, followed by a dialogue with the audience.

**14.30 h      Round table 1: DESIGN**

**Chair: Mia Douterl lungne**

1. Limit early tracking and streaming and postpone academic selection
2. Manage school choice so as to contain the risks to equity
3. In upper secondary education, provide attractive alternatives, remove dead ends and prevent dropouts
4. Offer second chances to gain from education

**Reijo Laukkanen** (Finland)

**Jaromir Coufalik** (Czech Republic)

**Sharon Cousins** (Northern Ireland)

**15.30 h      Round table 2: PRACTICES**

**Chair: Simone Barthel**

5. Identify and provide systematic help to those who fall behind at school and reduce year repetition.
6. Strengthen the links between school and home to help disadvantaged parents help their children
7. Respond to diversity and provide for the successful inclusion of migrants and minorities with mainstream education

**Maria Emilia Brederode – Ana Maria Betencourt** (Portugal)

**Marit Granheim** (Norway)

**Matei Cerkez** (Romania)

**16.30 h      Round table 3: RESOURCING**

**Chair: Mia Douterlungne**

8. Provide strong education for all, giving priority to early childhood provision and basic schooling
9. Direct resources to the students with the greatest needs, so that poorer communities have at least the same level of provision as those better-off and schools in difficulty are supported.
10. Set concrete targets for more equity, particularly related to low school attainment and dropouts

**Olav Aarna** (Estonia)

**Roos Herpelinck** (Belgium – Flemish Community)

**Björn Sandstrom** (Sweden)

**17.30 h      Conclusion**

**Free evening in Lisbon**

## **Wednesday 10 October**

### **Education councils and policy making** **How can education councils move the education agenda forward?**

Education councils act as 'go-between' in discussions on different elements of policy making:

- new societal needs;
- new educational needs;
- insights and findings from educational research;
- recommendations of international think tanks as the OECD...

We will search for effective models and strategies for education councils to influence, broaden and deepen the political decision making (both from the viewpoint of stakeholders and scientific research). The central question is how education councils can put new issues (such as equity in education) on the political agenda and how they can offer public support for educational change.

**9.00 h      Participative decision making**

**Ann Demeulemeester**, president of the Flemish Education Council  
**Julio Pedrosa**, president of the Portuguese Education Council

**Debate**

**10.30 h      Coffee break**

**10.45 h      Proposal of conclusions and statements of the EUNEC conference**

**12.30 h      Lunch**