



EUNEC seminar

11-12 June 2007
Estonian Education Forum
Tallinn (Estonia)

Schools of the future What kind of schools do we want in Europe tomorrow?

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.

Theme of the seminar

The European Council in spring 2005 noted that "Human capital is Europe's most important asset" and called upon Member States to "step up their efforts to raise the general standard of education and reduce the number of early school-leavers". It added that "Lifelong learning is a sine qua non if the Lisbon objectives are to be achieved" and called on Member States to "make lifelong learning an opportunity open to all in schools, businesses and households." The Commission Communication 'A broad-based innovation strategy for the European Union' noted that '**Education is a pre-condition** ... without education as a core policy, innovation will remain unsupported. It must promote talent and creativity from an early stage.

The European Council in spring 2006 concluded that "**education and training are critical factors** to develop the EU's long-term potential for **competitiveness** as well as for **social cohesion**" and that "**reforms** must also be stepped up to ensure high quality education systems which are both efficient and equitable". "National lifelong learning strategies should provide all citizens with the competences and qualifications they need."

The **school** is the place where most people in Europe gain most of the basic knowledge skills, and competences, and many of the fundamental attitudes and values that will carry them through their lives. It lies at the **centre** of efforts not only to improve the Union's competitiveness and social cohesion, but also to improve the life chances of each individual.

The strategy calls for Member States to adapt their education and training systems in response to new competence requirements and stressed the dual role of education and training: as a determining factor for each country's potential for **excellence, innovation and competitiveness** and as an integral part of the **social dimension** of Europe.

The **objective** of the EUNEC seminar is to organise an internal reflection on school education in the future. What will schools look like in the future? What big trends are most influential in shaping education and how might these unfold in coming years? What policy questions need to be tackled today to open up desirable pathways into the future?

The European Commission intends to launch in the near future a **public consultation** on possible **priorities** for European Union to give an incentive for the modernisation of school education. EUNEC was asked to co-ordinate reactions coming from the national education councils.

Conference place

Tallinn University
Uus Sadama 5
room U- 340
Tallinn

Hotel

Reval Hotel Central
Narva mnt 7C
10117 Tallinn, Estonia
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Programme

Sunday 10 June 2007

Venue of the participants - check-in in the hotel

19.00 EUNEC Executive Committee
(only for full members of EUNEC)

Monday 11 June 2007

- 09.00 Opening of the conference**
Simone Barthel, EUNEC president
Krista Loogma, chairwoman of the Estonian Education Forum
- 09.10 School Education in Europe – Future perspectives**
Tapio Saavala, European Commission
Questions
- 09.40 The future of Schooling in Europe – A reaction**
Peter Mortimore, OECD consultant *
Questions
- 10.40 Coffee break**
- 11.00 Debate with Mr. Saavala and Mr. Mortimore**
- 12.00 School modernisation in Estonia**
Tonas Lukas, minister of Education and Science (to be confirmed)
- 12.30 Lunch**
- 14.00 The role of the Estonian Education Forum in educational change**
Krista Loogma, chairwoman of the Estonian Education Forum
Olav Aarna, member of the board of the EEF
- 14.30 Subgroup working**
We want
- to learn from each other
 - to identify the main challenges for school education
 - to describe the role of Europe in this process
- 16.00 Coffee break**
- 16.30 Plenum**
Presentation of the results of the subgroup working
- 17.00 End of the working day**
- 18.30 Guided walk in Tallinn**
- 20.30 Conference dinner in restaurant Old Hanza**

Tuesday 12 June 2007

- 09.30 Workshop on the EUNEC reflections for the councils and the European Commission on the future of school education in Europe**
- 10.45 Coffee break**
- 11.15 Presentation of the draft programme of the EUNEC conference in Lisbon (8-10 October 2007)**
- 11.30 Debate on the EUNEC statements**
- 12.30 Lunch**

*CV - professor Peter Mortimore

Peter Mortimore's last full-time appointment was as Director of the Institute of Education and Pro-vice-chancellor of the University of London. He worked as a London school teacher, an HMI and a local authority officer prior to entering university teaching, research and administration - first at Lancaster and then in London.

Peter Mortimore has written widely on educational matters. He was the President of the British Educational Research Association from 1999 – 2001 and has undertaken many research projects, most notably on school effectiveness and improvement. He has also acted as a consultant to international projects in Denmark, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, US, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Since retirement from London University he has acted as a consultant for the OECD and was the chair and rapporteur of the OECD *Review of Quality and Equity* in Denmark in 2003 and of the OECD *Review of Equity in Education* in Norway in 2004. In 2006, he undertook a critique of current English educational policies for the National Union of Teachers. He writes a monthly education column for the Guardian Newspaper.