



EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## CONTEXT

Education and training are seen as key actors in the development of a knowledge society. And more recently, the role of education and training in strengthening a shared European identity is stressed. Therefore, both the EU and the member states put forward daring targets to energize the sectors of education and training making them more performing.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF EUNEC

In order to give these innovation policies a broad societal support, governments mobilize the educational and social-economic stakeholders such as representatives of school boards, teacher trade unions, parent and student organizations and social partners to participate actively in the conception and the implementation of policies and activities in education and training.

Therefore most of the member states have set up national or regional formal institutions of consideration and consultation, bringing together all these stakeholders or part of them, in some cases together with experts, to formulate their recommendations.

Education councils have diverse statutes, but they all function as an advisory body towards governments on future education policies.

In 1999, some councils decided to work together on European educational subjects, and, to encourage a closer and more intense cooperation, the education councils created in 2000 EUNEC, a **European network of national and regional education councils**, with the support and the help of the European Commission.



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

From 2008 until 2013, EUNEC was recognized and granted as European organisation acting at European level in the field of education and training under the Jean Monnet programme (DG EAC N° 28/07). Within this programme, EUNEC obtained two consecutive three year Framework Partnership agreements.

In 2014, EUNEC was granted under the Erasmus+ programme, Key Action 3 for civil society cooperation in the field of education and training. This grant allowed the network to continue its efforts to enhance cooperation on education and training in Europe and to aim for more sustainable results.

From 2015, EUNEC is no longer granted under Erasmus+, because of changes in the eligibility criteria. EUNEC continues its work and pursues its objectives, supported by member contributions.





EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## MISSION

EUNEC is convinced that all those involved in education (the European Commission, the governments of the Member States, the education councils, the stakeholders and all European citizens) can benefit from this European network where major evolutions in educational systems can be discussed thoroughly and prepared for a successful implementation.

EUNEC aims to discuss the findings of European policy documents in the field of education and training, to determine points of view 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 members and participants at national level. EUNEC has the objective that the councils should put the main international policy lines high on the national agenda.

### **EUNEC wants to work in two directions:**

EUNEC wants to disseminate and discuss – at the national and at the European level - documents, texts, studies... that are launched by the European Commission within the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Bologna process, the Copenhagen process, Education and Training 2020 and the upcoming frameworks, mainly the European Education Area. With sound and coherent statements, the members of EUNEC want to influence the discussions and the decisions on the major European issues in education and training both on the European and on the national level.



EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## TARGET GROUPS

Through the members, education councils, EUNEC reaches stakeholders, experts and policy makers in the field of education and training in Europe.

EUNEC members are education councils. An education council must meet the following criteria (Statutes, Chapter II, art. 6.1):

- The council operates as a permanent body
- The council acts independently from any single interest through the presence of a range of members from different social groups, political affiliations and/or academic perspectives.
- The council has as principal goal to provide advice on educational and training policy.
- The advisory role is embedded in the policy making process at the level where the main competences on education and/or training policy are attributed.

The composition of the education councils guarantees the involvement of all the principal stakeholders in education in a region/country. This way, EUNEC wants to reach all stakeholders (policy makers, social partners, parents, students, teachers, providers...) in education throughout the European Union and beyond.





EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## EUNEC MEMBERS IN 2022

Members are national councils, or regional councils, such as in Belgium where education and initial training are exclusively regional matters.

### Members of the Executive Committee and of the General Assembly

Those members are entitled to take part in all the activities of the network. They have a full responsibility in the network as described in part III and IV of the Statutes (competences of the general assembly and the executive committee).

FLEMISH COMMUNITY (BELGIUM): Vlaamse Onderwijsraad (VLOR)

FRENCH COMMUNITY (BELGIUM): Conseil de l'Education et de la Formation (CEF)

THE NETHERLANDS: Onderwijsraad

PORTUGAL: Conselho Nacional de Educação (CNE)

LITHUANIA: Lietovous svietimo taruba (LST), the Lithuanian Education Council

CYPRUS : Symvoulío Paideias, the Cyprus Education Council

SPAIN: Consejo Escolar del Estado (CEE)



EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

### Members of the General Assembly

Those members are entitled to take part in the general assembly, in the seminars and conferences and other initiatives they are invited to by the executive committee. They receive information produced by EUNEC on European, international and national policy lines.

QUEBEC: Conseil Supérieur de l'Education

MOROCCO: Superior Council for Education, Training and Research

FRANCE: CNESCO (Centre National d'Etude des Systèmes Scolaires)

IRELAND: Teaching Council

MALTA: Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes

HUNGARY: Public Education Council

ESTONIA: Public Education Forum





EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## YEARLY SEMINAR and ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### *Seminar 'Are our education systems fit for the future?'*

---

EUNEC held its yearly seminar in The Hague on 15 and 16 June 2022. The following questions guided the discussions:

- How can education systems be organized so that they can react in a flexible way to future developments?
- The governance and organization of education and of the education system.

The programme of the seminar:

- Plenary sessions, chaired by Mia Douterlungne, EUNEC secretary general
  - Welcome speech by Edith Hooge, President of the Education Council of the Netherlands
  - Educational systems and the core tasks of education: what can we learn from comparative research?, by Professor Herman van de Werforst, Professor of Sociology of Education at University of Amsterdam and European Institute, member of the Education Council of the Netherlands
  - Trends Shaping Education 2022, by Marc Fuster, OECD
  - The Impact of Policy Responses on Education Innovations, by Professor Saule Maciukaite-Zviniene, Head for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Professor for Innovation at Vilnius University and President of the Lithuanian Education Council
- Lunch



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- Design sessions in two rounds  
*In small groups we will discuss trends shaping education. Each group will delve into one trend to identify challenges to education systems and discuss possible responses to enhance their resilience, exchanging experiences and practices from participating countries.*
- Conclusions of the design sessions: pitches per group
- Social programme
  - The Hague inner city walk, guided by Raymond Kubben  
or
  - Walk at the Scheveningen beach, guided by Karin Westerbeek
- Dinner for all participants at the seminar in restaurant WATERREUS at Scheveningen

The seminar was attended by 35 participants, coming from 12 different countries.

A full report, as well as all presentations, is available at [Are our education systems fit for the future? | Eunec](#)

### *Anniversary celebration*

---

In the margins of the seminar, EUNEC invited its members as well as previous members, as well as possible future members, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the network.

The objectives were to:





## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- Celebrate 20 years of EUNEC;
- Enhance the visibility of education councils;
- Demonstrate the added value of structured independent policy advice.
- Emphasize the importance of cooperation between education councils at EU/international level;
- Enhance the visibility of EUNEC towards organizations that are not (yet) part of the network.

### The programme of the celebration:

- Welcome by Manuel Miguéns, President of EUNEC
- Introduction by Professor Marleen Brans, Public Governance Institute KULeuven
- Panel 1 Education Councils as institutions  
Moderator: Mia Douterlungne, EUNEC Secretary General  
Panel:
  - Elena Hadjidakou Cyprus Pedagogical Institute
  - Carine De Smet Flemish Education Council
  - Aistė Kairienė Lithuanian Education Council
  - Manuel Miguéns Portuguese Education Council
  - Maryse Lassonde Higher Council for Education (Québec)
- Coffee, followed by a musical and theatrical performance by high school students (Antonius College Gouda)
- Lunch (including a 'meet & greet' with students from the Antonius College)



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- Panel 2 Education Councils in the policy process  
Moderator: Mirjam van Leeuwen, secretary of the Education Council of the Netherlands  
Panel:
  - Jean-François Chesné Cnesco (France)
  - Phil Fox Irish Teaching Council
  - Raymond Kubben Education Council of the Netherlands
  - Juan Francisco Gutiérrez Jugo Spanish Education Council
- Perspectives. Remuntada for the future of EUNEC, by Manuel Miguéns, EUNEC president
- Closing drinks and networking possibilities





EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## DIGITAL EXCHANGE: ARE SHIFTS IN EDUCATION POLICY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC BECOMING SUSTAINABLE OR NOT?

After digital exchange sessions on how our councils and education systems dealt with the impact of the pandemic on education, and on the role of education councils for recovery (both in 2021), EUNEC members gathered again in a digital meeting to discuss shifts in education policy due to the pandemic: are they becoming sustainable or not?

The exchange was introduced by three member presentations:

- Presentation by the Portuguese Education Council (Conceição Gonçalves, Ana Rodrigues, Ercília Faria): "Education in Portugal: a few lessons learned from the pandemic" (Powerpoint: [Apresentação do PowerPoint \(eunec.eu\)](#)).
- Presentation of the recommendation of the Flemish Education Council (Carine De Smet) "Standing up for resilient education" (Powerpoint: [PowerPoint-presentatie \(eunec.eu\)](#)) . The following links refer to the summary of the Vlor recommendation: [Standing up for resilient education | Vlor](#)
- Short presentation of recent policy lines in Spain (Juanfran Gutierrez). (Text with links to relevant articles [changes\\_in\\_policy\\_after\\_the\\_covid\\_crisis\\_spain\\_pdf \(eunec.eu\)](#)).



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

### Main outcomes of the exchange:

- The need to base education policy on evidence (as also referred to in the EUNEC publication '[Education Councils in Europe. Going beyond the tensions](#)' | Eunec).
- The challenge of the lack of qualified teachers. As a possible response, the Irish Teaching Council is establishing a route for registration for students in teacher education (in the second half of their programme: it increases their work experience during initial teacher training, and it helps to supply the need for teachers; a condition is that it should not compromise their programme. During the pandemic, with more blended delivery, students showed more availability during the day, to take up teaching tasks. In Spain, a master degree for teachers was no longer required, given the shortage during the pandemic (in Spain, schools had been closed for three months).
- The need for education councils to strengthen our networking capacity in order to have more impact on ministers of education and influence on education policies.
- The need for education councils not only to impact on policy makers but also on learners.
- The prevalence of digital skills, with as a consequence impact on the standards of initial teachers education and continuous professional development.
  
-



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- The role of schools in 'care' for children became more obvious, in particular for pupils with special needs (reference to the 'July provision' in Ireland: [JulyProvision.com](https://www.julyprovision.com) – [Helping Connect Families with Teachers](#)).
- The importance of trying to tackle the above challenges together, over the countries, as the challenges are recognisable in all countries.
- According to some countries, blended education can be part of the answer. In Flanders, a decree is voted, allowing school to organize a certain percentage of the learning through interactive distance education.
- Reference to the Powerhead project, with guidelines for higher education institutions and for national/regional authorities on digital learning in higher education ([Powerhead | Vlor](#)).
- The digital transformation asks for an upgrade of the school curriculum and for an upgrade in the pre- and in-service training for teachers, as demonstrated by measures taken in Cyprus.
- An important role for the non-teaching staff in schools; they could take care of 'preparing' the computers, which is not solely the job of the teacher, but also of a professional in technology (reference to an upcoming recommendation from the Portuguese Education Council).
- Reference to the French philosopher Michel Serre, acknowledging the completely different relationships of young people to knowledge and information, compared to some decades ago. It is important that schools and teachers are aware of this shift.



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- The digital transformation will not solve all problems in education, as education and teaching is based on human interactions. If we do not introduce pedagogical and didactical innovation, the digital innovation will not bring solutions.
- It is important to bring nuance in the debate. Using technologies, following courses mainly online, is not always appreciated in education; there are differences between pupils/students from rural areas and from urban areas; there are specific challenges for vulnerable pupils/students (the Quebec Council has published a [report](#) on this) It appears that, in specific circumstances, online teaching can be very useful: for instance, during the snow storms in Quebec, teaching and learning remains possible thanks to online teaching.

A [report](#) of the exchange is available on the website.





EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

## NETWORKING BETWEEN MEMBERS FOR SHARED ACTIVITIES

EUNEC members regularly work together by means of bilateral contacts or in subgroups on specific themes in the field of education and training, according to their own national agenda or to the European agenda. Executive Committee meetings, General Assembly meetings and seminars are excellent occasions to see which colleagues from other education councils could offer help or work together on specific themes.

In order to prepare a specific event or a specific document, the members of the executive committee decide to organize temporary working groups: A working group (Flemish Education Council, Portuguese Education Council, Dutch Education Council) has finalized the programme for the seminar on the theme 'Are our education systems fit for the future?' and the anniversary celebration. Another working group (Flemish Education Council, Portuguese Education Council, Spanish Education Council, Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes Malta, Irish Teaching Council, Superior Council for Education, Training and Research Morocco and Higher Council for Education Quebec) worked on the preparation of the 2023 Spring seminar on the topic of enhancing stakeholder involvement in education policy making, in the countries and the regions.

Some examples of networking for shared activities:

- The Flemish Education Council and the Dutch Education Council have close contacts between staff members on thematic issues, following first contact during two exchange meetings.



EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- Several EUNEC members participate at transnational comparison conferences organized by Cnesco.
- There is a [bilateral cooperation agreement](#) between the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation (Québec) and the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, de la formation et de la recherche du Maroc.
- CNE (Conselho nacional de Educação, Portugal) closely works together with the CEE (Consejo Escolar del Estado, Spain) and has a bilateral agreement with the Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research, Morocco.
- Several EUNEC members meet within the framework of [CONFEMEN](#) (la Conférence de ministres de l'Education des Etats et Gouvernements de la francophonie).

## MANAGEMENT OF THE NETWORK

### *Organization of the network*

---

All the members of the organization are allowed to be represented in the **General Assembly**. The responsibilities of the General Assembly include the right to:

- amend the statutes;
- elect the President of the network;
- nominate and discharge the members of the Executive Committee





## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- determine the status of members and acceptance and exclusion of a member
- approve the budget and the annual account
- discuss and decide on matters concerning the operation, activities and working programme of the network;
- discuss and decide matters concerning the existence of the network;
- approve or amend the internal rules of procedure
- dissolve the organisation;

In 2022, the General Assembly met on 14 June and on 15 December. The minutes of these meetings are published at [www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu) (management section).

The **Executive Committee** is the board of the network. The Executive Committee has to prepare the proposals that are submitted to the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee must:

- implement the decisions of the General Assembly;
- announce the meetings of the General Assembly and the other network activities;
- approve new members
- appoint the auditor
- prepare the accounts after receiving the auditor's report
- decide on the budget
- take decisions in accordance with the statutes of the network, in accordance with the interests of the network or with the policy of the General Assembly;



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

- report to the General Assembly on its activities and its financial management
- nominate the Secretary General
- decide on the annual fees

At the same time, the Executive Committee is also a place of exchange and networking on the national and European priorities in the field of education, a place to discuss new European policy documents, a place where the state of affairs is presented.

Composition of the Executive Committee in 2022: Manuel Miguéns (president), Mia Douterlungne (general-secretary), Karin Westerbeek, Maria Emília Brederode Rodrigues dos Santos, Carine De Smet, Manuel Dony, Eleni Hadjidakou, Saule Maciukaite-Zviniene.

In 2022, the Executive Committee met on 14 June and on 22 November. The minutes of these meetings are published at [www.eunec.eu](http://www.eunec.eu) (management section).

In its meeting of 15 December 2022, the General Assembly renewed the mandates of Manuel Miguéns (president), Karin Westerbeek, Carine De Smet, Manuel Dony, Eleni Hadjidakou, Saule Maciukaite-Zviniene. The mandates of Mia Douterlungne and Maria Emília Brederode Rodrigues dos Santos came to an end.

The General Assembly appointed Kathleen Van Heurck (Flemish Education Council) as new Secretary General of EUNEC for a period of two year. New mandates as members of the Executive Committee have been agreed for Domingos Manuel Barros Fernandes (Portuguese



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

Education Council), and Encarnacion Corpus Cuenca Carion (Spanish Education Council).

During the same meeting, the General Assembly amended the articles of association to bring them in line with the Code of Companies and Associations, in the presence of Berquin notaries.

The **EUNEC secretariat** is composed by the President, the General Secretary, an expert and the secretary.

They coordinate the project and assume the daily management of the network; they keep the contact with the European institutions. They also represent the network in several European events organized in Brussels, where the secretariat is based.

In 2022, the presidency was taken up by the Portuguese Education Council; the General Secretariat and the secretariat are assumed by the Vlaamse Onderwijsraad (Belgium, Flemish Community).

### DAILY MANAGEMENT OF THE NETWORK

EUNEC activities are coordinated by the secretariat, based at the Flemish Education Council. This coordination includes

- the daily management of the network (accountancy, membership,...);
- communication with the target group and internal communication;
- networking;
- the organization of statutory meetings.



## EUNEC Year Book 2022

---

The activities include:

- The redaction of a document with an overview of main international policy lines in education and training put at the disposal of the members (for information, agenda setting, ..);
- A regular update of the EUNEC website;
- Representation of the network at international working groups and events related to education and training by the members (Education Summit, presidency events, ..) and a report of this participation.
- The possibility of cooperation between member councils on specific subjects, following networking at EUNEC meetings;
- Contacts with partner organizations and meetings with representatives of the European Commission (invitation for our events, attendance of their events, exchanges, ..);
- Answers to relevant stakeholder consultations;
- Reporting of meetings.





EUNEC Year Book 2022

**ANNUAL ACCOUNT 2022**

<b>EUNEC 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022</b>		
earnings		<b>22.198,51</b>
	Membership fees	22.000,00
	Bank interests	64,93
	Reimbursement Law Gazette	133,58
expenditure		<b>16.500,60</b>
	Seminar The Hague	9119,61
	Attendance meetings and conferences	2.355,96
	Postal costs	148,00
	Other costs (business cards, gift)	291,30
	Change statutes KLAW	636,41
	Auditor (including preparation change of statutes)	3.949,32
balance		<b>5.697,91</b>
	bank account balance 31/12/2021	39.765,27
	bank account balance 31/12/2022	45.463,18