



EUNEC Seminar

The Hague, The Netherlands, 18-19 May 2009

THE INNOVATIVE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SOCIETY

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 and mobility 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.

From 2008 EUNEC has been **subsidised** as **European Association acting at European level in the field of education** (Jean Monnet programme). This seminar is organised with the support of this grant.

Context and definition of the problem

At a European level, there is an ongoing debate on the innovation of education and training systems. The European year for innovation and creativity calls upon education systems to consider their role in shaping the society of tomorrow. Creativity and innovation in society and education / training are seen as key elements in the recovery strategies facing the economic crisis.

For EUNEC this is not a new theme. At several conferences we discussed the innovative role of the education/training system and the contribution stakeholders can play in stimulating this debate. A concrete feature of that ongoing debate is the framework the European Commission presented on the 16th of December 2008, 'Updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training'.

The Commission proposes that European cooperation in education and training should address four strategic challenges in the years to 2020:

- Make lifelong learning and learner mobility a reality
- Improve the quality and efficiency of provision and outcomes
- Promote equity and active citizenship
- Enhance innovation and creativity at all levels of education and training.

During this seminar, EUNEC wants to focus on education and training challenged by major changes in society. What are these demands ? How can we imagine them? How can education deal with societal demands in a creative and innovative way? What choices and priorities should be put on the education agenda? And who makes those choices? How can we involve schools and teachers in that creative process of societal renewal ? What is the role of decision makers at a national / regional level ? What kind of decisions should be left to the policy making capacity of the school and the local community ?

To discover how we should imagine the future, the OECD will inform us about the methodology of future thinking.

Education councils will present how they answer the following questions:

- How to pick up societal demands and how to translate them into education policy?
- How to enhance the innovative role of education in society?

Participants at the seminar will discuss in workshops on how innovation can be implemented

- at curriculum level and at school level (embedding schools in an innovative regional societal context and network) and
- at policy level (educational authorities creating conditions for educational reform; the involvement of stakeholders in creating a support for educational reform and the role of education councils).

An expert from the European Commission will comment the updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, focusing on the four strategic challenges in the years to 2020.

Objectives of the seminar

to discuss European and OECD policies regarding the European cooperation in education and training up to 2020;

to learn from each other about the issues and achievements in enhancing the innovative role of education in society

The conclusions presented by the different rapporteurs will be the basis for a report with conclusions to be sent to European officials and OECD.

Draft Programme

Sunday 17 May 2009

Venue of the participants - Check-in at the hotel

Hotel Carlton Ambassador, Sophialaan 2, 2514 JP The Hague,
www.carlton.nl/ambassador

17.00 h EUNEC Executive Committee (only for EUNEC members of the Executive Committee)

Monday 18 May 2009

9.15 h Opening session

Simone Barthel – President of EUNEC

9.30 – 10.15 h Key note speech: How to imagine the future? The methodology of future thinking.

Dr Henno Theisens, OECD analyst

10.15 – 11.15 h Round table with representatives of EU education councils

Questions to be answered:

WHAT? Picking up societal demands and translate them into education policy.

HOW? Enhancing the innovative role of education in society.

Input from education councils:

Nederlandse Onderwijsraad, Prof. G.T.M ten Dam, hoogleraar onderwijskunde, Universiteit Amsterdam, vice-president van de Nederlandse Onderwijsraad

Conseil de l'Education et de la Formation, speaker to be confirmed

Conselho Nacional de Educação, Prof. Júlio Pedrosa, president of the CNE

11.15 h Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 h Workshop on the implementation of innovation in the curriculum and at school level

Facilitator: Mr Robin Widdowson, QCA

13.00 – 14.00 h lunch

14.00 – 15.30 h Workshop on the implementation of innovation at policy level

*Facilitator: **Prof. A.M.L. Van Wieringen**, hoogleraar onderwijskunde, voorzitter van de Nederlandse Onderwijsraad*

15.30 – 15.45 h Coffee break

15.45 – 16.45 h Imagining the future of European education policy

European Commission presenting the updated strategic framework, speaker to be confirmed

16.45 – 17.45 h Debate: place and role of the councils and of EUNEC in the future of European education policy

18.00 h Cook workshop

Tuesday 19 May 2009

9.30 – 11.00 h Conclusions: What did we learn? Statement discussion

11.00 – 12.30 h EUNEC General Assembly (for full and associate members)

12.30 h Lunch

14.00 – 17.00 h Study on Education Councils and Advisory Bodies in the EU (for members of the EUNEC Steering Committee)

