

ISSUE 10 · DECEMBRE 2021

NEWSLETTER

European Committee for Catholic Education

EDITORIAL

GUY SELDERSLAGH, SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear friends of the Catholic Education in Europe,

The level of occupancy in the intensive care units of our hospitals determines the pace at which our different European countries are successively sinking into the health night. Social relations are limited, family contacts sometimes difficult. Our pupils, teachers, headmasters and all the staff of our schools are hard hit by the successive measures aimed at limiting the growth of the pandemic, as it is not yet possible to eradicate it.

The current situation highlights how lucky we were to be in Athens during a brief respite.

"A time to sweep away the superfluous," says Carlo Ossola. "Of course there is night, but the trick is to watch for the dawn," he adds.

For it is in this night that hope arises. Christmas reminds us of this every year. This night of birth is a beginning, a new beginning. In the warmth of this unique night, Christmas invites us to listen to what beats at the heart of humanity.

It is in the expectation of this night from which hope will arise that, on behalf of the European Committee for Catholic Education, I wish you a very merry Christmas.

May 2022 also open for us, our families, our schools, a season of sunlight, the announcement of a springtime.

CONTENT

EDITORIAL

PAGE 01

CEEC ACTIVITIES

Our meetings

Our actions

PAGES 02 TO 03

NEWS

From Catholic Education in Europe and in the world

PAGES 04 TO 05

APPELS ET INFOS

Histoire, Education, Religion:
Publication de C. Mann

PAGE 06

CALENDAR

PAGE 07



CEEC ACTIVITIES

OUR MEETINGS

After a year and a half of virtual meetings, the Executive Board of the CEEC had the pleasure of meeting again in person on 15 September. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare the meeting of the Autumn General Assembly 2021 which took place on 22 and 23 October in Athens.

During this meeting, the GA members were delighted to meet the new national representatives of the Catholic schools within the CEEC, namely Mr Mats HANSÉN, Swedish representative; Ms Lilia KUZMIAK, member delegated on behalf of Reverend Father Petro MAIBA (Ukraine); Mr Pedro HUERTA, Secretary General of the Catholic schools in Spain; Ms Anne-Rigmor STOCK EVJE, Norwegian representative.

This meeting was also an opportunity to discover the Greek educational system and the reality of the Catholic schools in Greece where both Catholic and Orthodox pupils, pastoral and educational teams, and management live and work together. These schools are real examples of ecumenism which are particularly meaningful in a increasingly secularised society. In this context, Mgr. IERONYMOS, representative of the Orthodox Archbishop of all Greece, and Mgr. KONTIDIS, the Catholic Archbishop of Athens, both honoured us with their presence.

During the meeting, the members enjoyed the intervention of Mr Paul BARBER, Director of the Catholic Education Service and President of the OIEC, who presented the education system of England and Wales. In addition, thanks to the training given by Ignasi GRAU, the Director General of OIDEL, the members were familiarised with the international mechanisms of European institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union, and also became aware of the functioning of effective advocacy and the importance of educational pluralism.

Furthermore, the GA meeting was an opportunity to share and discover interesting and innovative initiatives, and to exchange and discuss the latest news from member and guest countries, their schools, but also from member associations and partners such as the representatives of OIEC, OIDEL or the OIEC permanent representative to the Council of Europe.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the election of Louis-Marie PIRON, representative of the French Catholic schools in the CEEC, as the future Secretary General. He will take up his post when Guy SELDERSLAGH retires on 1 July 2022.

Finally, the participants also (re)discovered the rich history and heritage of Athens and Greece, notably during the guided tour of the Acropolis and its museum, as well as the Orthodox Church. Our Greek hosts had also taken care to organise a special mass for our group in the Athens Catholic Cathedral.



SURVEY ON THE SITUATION OF SCHOOLS IN THE CONTEXT OF A HEALTH CRISIS

In July 2021, the CEEC launched a survey among its members to analyse the impact that the health crisis has had on Catholic schools in their country. This questionnaire is a continuation of a first survey carried out in June 2020 and which gave rise to two webinars (in English and French), the results and exchanges of which are still available to the CEEC Secretariat.

On the basis of the first results received, a preliminary analysis has already been presented at the CEEC GA in October 2021 (document available on request to the CEEC Secretariat). Several themes were addressed, including support for pupils and educational teams, the development of hybrid and new practices and their obstacles, but also learning losses, the well-being of pupils and the implementation of activities to create links. A more detailed report will be published and disseminated more widely in 2022.

CEEC ACTIVITIES

OUR ACTIONS

ERASMUS+ PROJECT " REMAINING CLOSE AT A DISTANCE "

In May 2021, the CEEC submitted its application to launch the Erasmus+ project " Remaining close at a distance ". This 3-year initiative aims at inviting school stakeholders to reflect on, provide and test tools that support community learning in a digitalised teaching context. The project is a collaboration between Dublin City University (DCU), Katholiek Onderwijs Vlaanderen, Institut Saint Stanislav, Secrétariat Général de l'Enseignement Catholique (SeGEC), Nederlandse Katholieke Schoolraad (NKSr), and the European Committee for Catholic Education (CEEC).

Although the project obtained a score of 70%, it was not selected. With the agreement of the GA members, the CEEC is going to rework the application with the other project partners with the hope that it will be selected next September.





NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN EUROPE

CONFERENCE: THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION IN ALBANIA

On 18 October, Guy SELDERSLAGH participated in a one-day conference entitled "Raising a child requires an entire village: the Educational Community in Albania". This initiative organised by the Albanian Commission for Catholic Education (KKESH) in Tirana, was attended by about 150 people. Sister Teuta BUKA, the national coordinator of KKESH who is also the representative of the Catholic schools in Albania within the CEEC, comes back to this event.

Where did you get the idea to organise such a reflexion day ?

Sr. Teuta: It all started on October 15, 2020, when Pope Francis called on all those involved in education to build a Global Compact on Education. KKESH took up the issue and decided to organise a large-scale event aimed not only at reflection but also at building together a National Educational Pact in Albania.

What was the preparatory process ?

Sr. Teuta: The first stage of preparation lasted from February to September 2021. It consisted of disseminating the Pact in schools and with a maximum of local partners. A second step was then initiated, namely to contact different institutions such as embassies, ministries, researchers, academics, parents, etc. Many responded to the call and participated in our conference.

Can you tell us more about the content of this day?

Sr Teuta : Of course. As I said, the KKESH was able to count on the support of several politicians, such as the Minister of Education, of Culture or of Health and Social Affairs, as well as on the presence of religious representatives such as Archbishop FREUDO, or the Apostolic Nuncio for Albania, His Excellency Luigi BONAZZI. During the morning conference, Monsignor ZANI, Secretary General of the Congregation for Catholic Education at the Vatican, spoke, as well as myself as the national coordinator of KKESH. Mr Erjon LLESHI, Ms Avis ANDONI and Ms Çiljeta DABERDAKU then gave a presentation which was followed by the intervention of Professor of Sociology Gjergj SINANI. In the afternoon, the participants worked in workshops, with the group of students from both Catholic and public schools in the centre. The discussions were very rich.

What do you think were the outcomes of this day? What can we learn from it and what are the prospects for the future of Albanian schools and elsewhere?

Sr. Teuta: Without a doubt, a key moment of this meeting was the signing of the National Education Pact by Albanian schools, municipalities and certain representatives of the Ministries. They committed themselves together to realise the concrete outputs and contributions of this day, ensuring that the pact is implemented and that the education of young people is promoted. This day was a real opportunity to bring together players from different levels and places, making concrete the Pact proposed by Pope Francis and not forgetting to give voice to young people in schools. We are confident and pleased with the resolutions taken for the future.



PUBLICATION: INCLUSION OF STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In Ireland, the Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools (AMCSS) & and the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) have published a new document for secondary schools entitled "Guidelines on the Inclusion of Students of Different Beliefs in Catholic Secondary Schools".

This document has been drafted by Dr. Aiveen MULLALY (Marino Institute of Education) and follows on from a document published in 2010 which detailed guidance on the inclusion of pupils of other faiths in Catholic secondary schools



Guidelines on the Inclusion of Students of Different Beliefs in Catholic Secondary Schools

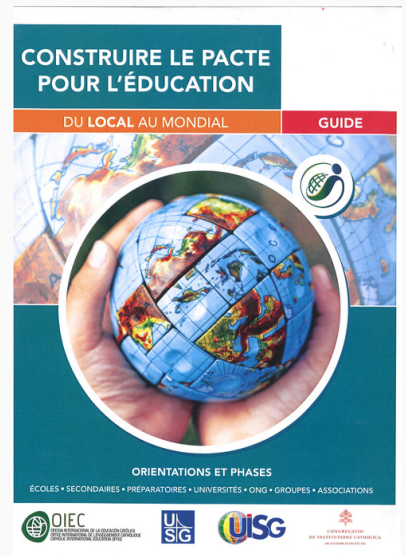
SECOND EDITION



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

CATHOLIC EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD

The International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) has also started to work on the Global Education Pact. In this context, several initiatives have been launched, including webinars, a guide entitled "Building the Pact for Education", etc. In this context, the "Planet Fraternity" project has developed greatly on all continents as it fully responds to what can be implemented with young people in the framework of the Global Compact on Education.



In collaboration with other Catholic organisations, the OIEC has also launched the Global Catholic Education (CGE) platform, which offers several academic articles and publications related to Catholic education.

Finally, the OIEC publishes a newsletter "Educatio Si" every four months, which aims at developing the spirit of the 2019 New York Congress. A future Congress is also planned (see "Calendar" below).



CALLS AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

HISTORY, EDUCATION, RELIGION: PUBLICATIONS

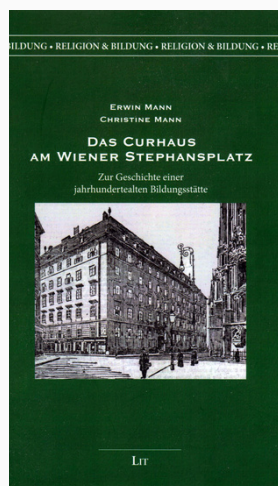
Our former President, Christine Mann, is passionate about history and had previously worked on a commemorative book published in three languages on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the CEEC. She is now involved in the Association of Friends of Religious Education, which she founded 20 years ago. This association is at the origin of a series of books published in five volumes, including the work entitled "Religious education at schools in Europe" by M. Rothgangel and M. Jäggle (V&R Unipress, Göttingen).

Recently, the Association of Friends of Religious Education has also been involved in the publication of other books, including three volumes entitled "Religion Education" published by Lit-Verlag. In the first volume, S. Dursun explores the relationship of young Muslim



university women to their religious traditions and how they interpret and develop them, while maintaining their membership of their religious community.

In the second volume, C. and E. Mann use the history of the "Curhaus" to show how the school system was built up and how the state gradually withdrew from the competence of the church and became the sole authority



responsible for education, recognising the competences of the church and the religious communities only in the area of religious education and denominational schools. This development took place in many European countries at about the same time and in

a more or less offensive manner. Since then, a school administration of its own has gradually developed.

A third volume will be published soon. It is a monograph in which C. and E. Mann describe the fate of the denominational schools in Vienna in 1938. The touching testimonies from the chronicles of the Catholic and Protestant schools also tell the story of the Jewish schools in Vienna between 1938 and 1945, a story that has been little known until now. Indeed, it is not only the history of the schools, but also and above all the history of men and women:



fighters and discouraged souls, resistance fighters and conformists, heroes and fearfals, victims and culprits, clear-sighted people anticipating the future and citizens who were deceived by the National Socialist regime.

Interested? These books are available in PDF format on the [Association's website](#). More information about the Association of Friends of Religious Education or the publications? Please do not hesitate to contact [Christine Mann](#).



CALENDAR

16 February 2021: CEEC Executive Board meeting

29-30 April 2022: CEEC General Assembly meeting in Vienna. This meeting is preceded by an international conference on 27-28 April on current issues facing Catholic education.

5-6 December 2022: CEEC General Assembly meeting in Marseille. This meeting is preceded by the OIEC Congress on 1, 2 and 3 December 2022 around the Mare Nostrum, cradle of humanity, crossroads of civilisations and symbol of the world's dysfunctions. Registration and information here. This congress will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the OIEC.

The CEEC secretariat sends you its best wishes
and wishes you a happy new year 2022



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