



EU CONVINCe

Newsletter

Issue 6/6

AS THE PROJECT ENDS, THE IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

[EU CONVINCe](#), a joint project (2018-2020) of ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education), EFEE (European Federation of Education Employers) and ESHA (European School Heads Association) on democratic citizenship and inclusive education, concluded its work with a [Closing Conference on 14-15 November 2019, in Warsaw, Poland](#). Around 100 participants from ETUCE, EFEE and ESHA member organisations gathered with other actors in education (including parents' and students' associations) to explore ways to turn the vision that has been developed in this project into reality and to share good practices for implementing democratic citizenship and inclusive education in different national contexts.

The project seeks to provide teachers, other education personnel, school leaders, education employers, as well as the education institution community as a whole with tools and methods to deliver inclusive quality education for all and to better deal with citizenship-related issues both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. In this aim, the EU CONVINCe Project has compiled **policy and practical outcomes, including platforms for sharing views on challenges and solutions for democratic citizenship and inclusive education.**

- The online questionnaire developed in the EU CONVINCe project collected the views of ETUCE, EFEE and ESHA members on the challenges and good practices related to civic and citizenship education. Combined with desk research, it also aimed to map and pair-up challenges and good practices related to promoting democratic citizenship and values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education, both within school-curricula (formal learning) and in extra-curricular activities (non-formal learning). **A detailed report on '[Challenges and good practices related to promoting citizenship and values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#)'** compiled by the project's researchers and published in July 2019, provides a comprehensive overview of such topics as civic education and democratic-school culture; teaching in multicultural learning contexts for intercultural dialogue; teaching controversial and sensitive issues; digital citizenship and E-safety; school-leadership and 'the whole school approach'; and inclusive education as a tool to prevent radicalisation, violence and extremism.
- The [EU CONVINCe Partners' Joint Statement on Education for Democratic Citizenship & EU Common Values](#), advocates for equipping teachers, school leaders, academics and other educational personnel with the skills and competences necessary to promote critical thinking, democratic values, civic engagement and innovative technologies. It also highlights the importance of a stronger involvement and networking of teachers and educators, school leaders, parents and learners within school life ('whole-school approach') so as to support more democratic learning environments to allow learners to experience democracy and mutual respect ('democratic school culture').
- The [EU CONVINCe Partners' Joint statement on Inclusive Schools Within the Context of Diverse Societies](#) underlines that a carefully built inclusive learning environment is the basis for education which meets the needs and interests of all learners and education personnel regardless of their background. The statement outlines the five key elements of inclusive schools within the context of diverse societies: a safe learning environment; prepared and supported teachers and other education personnel; committed school leadership; education authorities with a holistic perspective on education systems; and involvement and full commitment of all relevant stakeholders.
- **An online course [Citizenship and Human Rights Education for Change](#)** was created to help teachers, academics, school leaders, education trade unions and education employers to better deal with citizenship-related topics in a broad sense.

The e-learning course is built on successful and innovative tips, advice and good practices exchanged and discussed during the project. The course includes three modules: on Definitions and Frameworks, Specific Contexts and Issues, and The Whole School and a Rights-Based Approach To Education, and covers such issues as teaching in multicultural learning environments, teaching controversial and sensitive issues, inclusion and ICT, etc. All the materials of the course (except weekly discussions) are available to the public online.

- Several online platforms were created for exchanging the views and experiences on the challenges and opportunities of democratic citizenship and inclusive education, including the **Twitter account @ConvinceEu**. A **Facebook Group 'Schools for Inclusion'** was created as a networking system to exchange existing good practices of inclusive education and teaching democratic citizenship and human rights, and to discuss emerging challenges among education personnel, education trade unionists, school leadership, employers in education and other stakeholders in education.

For further information on the EU CONVINCe project please visit:

<https://www.csee-etuice.org/en/policy-issues/2433-education-and-democratic-citizenship>

Join **#EUConvince** (Twitter) and **#Schoolsforinclusion** (Facebook) to learn more about democratic citizenship and inclusive education and to share your experiences!



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More news is available on our website: csee-etuice.org



The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 132 Education Unions and 11 million teachers in all countries of Europe, 4.2 million teachers in the EU, from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International, the global federation of teacher unions.

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