



PRESS RELEASE

The 2020 ETUCE Conference: Representing more than 11 million teachers and education personnel

23 November 2020

*On 1 and 2 December 2020 the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) will hold its quadrennial Conference: **Campaigning to enhance the teaching profession for solidarity, democracy, equality and sustainability.** For the first time in its history, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this important Conference will be organised online. Member Organisations across the European region will gather virtually, discuss and take important decisions to represent the realities and challenges of more than 11 million teachers and other education personnel.*

The COVID-19 crisis has heavily impacted people's lives, their work and education systems in general. In the education sector, the crisis has aggravated and brought challenges to the foreground which had existed long before, such as growing inequalities, decreasing public funding in the sector, market mechanisms undermining quality education and social dialogue and collective bargaining, lack of comprehensive national digitalisation programmes as well as increasing pressure on teachers and other education personnel, just to name a few.

Building on trade union solidarity the ETUCE Conference is the opportunity for ETUCE member organisations to discuss and adopt strategies on how to address these existing and future challenges of the teaching profession. The delegates will identify ways in which education trade unions in Europe can embrace social change in vital areas such as environmentally sustainable development, active democratic citizenship, equality and inclusion.

Invited guest speakers such as Maryia Gabriel – European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Vivianne Hoffmann – Deputy Director-General for DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC), Dr. Stefanie Hubig, President of the Council of Education Ministers of Germany, David Edwards – General Secretary of Education International, will enrich the conference with their views on teachers and education trade unions taking the lead in campaigning to enhance the teaching profession.

Central points of decision at this virtual ETUCE 2020 Conference are the elections of the ETUCE President, ETUCE Vice-Presidents and ETUCE Committee members for the upcoming four years' term of office as well as constitutional decisions and the main conference resolution and the ETUCE Work programme next to the budget for the years 2021 – 2024. The main resolution to be adopted at the Conference concerns the commitment of education trade unions to actively engage in social change based on fairness, equal opportunities, quality education and strong social dialogue. It regards the need to maintain the trade union fight for the core principles of democracy, solidarity, equality, sustainability and respect for trade union and human rights in the context of the pandemic and in a climate of neo-liberal policies and polarising nationalist discourse.

[View the Conference website here.](#)

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The **European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)** represents 132 Education Trade 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.

