



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

**TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
TO REGIONAL OFFICES
TO REGIONAL COMMITTEES**

Brussels, 30 July 2014

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President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

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INVITATION: "High Quality Early Childhood Education Conference", 24-25 November, Vienna, Austria

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite your organization to the "***High Quality Early Childhood Education Conference***", which will take place in Vienna, Austria from 24-25 November 2014 at the Austria Center Vienna. The conference is jointly organized by Education International (EI) and the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), EI's European Region. It comes immediately before the ETUCE Special Conference, taking place at the same venue, from 26 to 27 November.

The aim of the conference is to create a platform for member organizations to share their experiences, organizing strategies, as well as inform about the latest developments and challenges affecting the ECE sector. The Cape Town EI World Congress in 2011 adopted an Early Childhood Education Strategy Paper in order to address the unique issues and challenges faced by this sector. This conference will thus provide an opportunity for member organisations to assess the extent to which the ECE Strategy has been implemented and come up with concrete actions for addressing the continuing challenges.

As far as the European region is concerned, the conference is also following up on the adoption of the 10-Key-Messages of the Unite for Quality Education campaign. It is essential to deal in particular with the quality provision of early childhood education. Furthermore, ETUCE member organizations adopted a policy paper on Early Childhood Education at the ETUCE Conference in Budapest in 2012. As the policy paper is under implementation, the conference will give an opportunity to European and global member organizations to share experiences on the following issues in the sector:

- Conditions for the provision of quality ECE
- Effects of the financial and economic crisis in the ECE sector – privatization
- Current developments in the ECE sector at global level
- Decent work for early childhood education personnel

On day one, the conference will specifically discuss privatization trends in ECE and how these can be tackled by education unions. The second day will be dedicated to discussing developments occurring at global level, including the ILO Policy Guidelines on the Promotion of Decent Work for Early Childhood Education Personnel. The conference will develop concrete recommendations for EI/ETUCE and member organisations to undertake to address ECE challenges in the coming years.

Languages

Interpretation will be provided by the European Commission. The working languages of the conference are English, French, Spanish, German and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation is expected to be provided in those languages, subject to the availability of interpreters.

Who can participate?

We kindly invite experts and policy makers of teacher trade unions working on ECE to apply. The general rule for the selection of participants to the Conference will be on a first-come-first served basis, taking into account geographical and gender balance.

Venue

AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA
Bruno- Kreisky-Platz 1
A -1220 Wien
Austria



Registration process

Participants from the European region are invited to sign up through the on-line registration system. Please click on the participants section on the Special Conference webpage to access the on-line registration system (<http://etuceconference2014.org/index.php/en/>). Notification of participants must be undertaken on-line. Access codes will be sent to member organisations for that purpose.

For **participants from the other EI regions**, registration will start as of receipt of this circular. If you wish to participate in the conference, please complete the attached form and return it to EI either via email at conference@ei-ie.org or via fax at 0032 2 224 0606. Registration needs to be completed at the latest **by 24 October 2014**.

Accommodation

Block booking was made with a preferential rate at the Hotel NH Danube City (Wagramer Straße 21, 1220 Vienna, Austria). The rooms will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available **until 22 October 2014**. If you require an accommodation, please indicate in the registration form.

Programme and documents

All conference documents will be made available online and hardcopies will be available upon registration in Vienna.

Financial Assistance

As far as the **European organisations** are concerned, ETUCE will cover an extra night accommodation for assisted participants in the ETUCE Special Conference. Travel and accommodation costs for other participants will need to be borne by their respective organisations. Hotel booking forms can be accessed through the registration system.

For participants from **other regions**, very limited financial assistance will be available to a small number of member organisations from developing countries. Financial support will be given on a first-come, first-served basis to member organisations that organize and have members in the ECE sector. If you would like to apply for financial assistance, please submit your request to Ms Undarmaa Batsukh at undarmaa.batsukh@ei-ie.org with information about your organisations work in the ECE sector no later **than 30 September, 2014**.

We hope that your organisation will attend this interesting and unique conference, as it will provide a vital opportunity for affiliates to explore policy developments and strengthen mobilizing and organizing in the ECE sector.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact Undarmaa Batsukh at undarmaa.batsukh@ei-ie.org, Dennis Sinyolo at dennis.sinyolo@ei-ie.org or Agnes Roman (agnes.roman@csee-etuce.org).

We look forward to an inspiring and engaging conference and welcome your active participation.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary

Martin Rømer
European Director

Attached: registration form for Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Arab regions