



The voice of educators worldwide



Education International is the voice of educators worldwide. It brings together 390 education unions in 170 countries and territories, with a combined membership of 30 million professionals, serving in education facilities from early childhood education through to tertiary education.

We advocate for quality education for all and for highly qualified and motivated teachers and other education professionals to help build a better future for everybody. Raising professional standards, improving the status of teachers, pursuing the rights and equality agenda, and building and strengthening independent education unions in all nations: these are the core assignments of Education International.

We are an independent organisation governed by the elected representatives of education unions from five regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and North America and the Caribbean. Income is generated by dues paid by each member organisation.



www.ei-ie.org

Photo credits: Reporters.be, Luc Allaire (CSQ), F. Destrée (EI), Jacky Delorme



1 Advocating quality education

Education is a basic human right; it is also a key to economic growth, social progress and democratic development. Our school systems are a collective responsibility. They must be publicly funded and accessible to all. The skills, experience and commitment of teachers and other education professionals are the main factors determining education quality. Investing in the teaching profession creates better opportunities for young people and communities everywhere. These principles constitute our core messages to the international community.

Education International maintains relationships with all international and regional organisations which are engaged in education development and in the improvement of teaching. These organisations include the United Nations and its special agencies, such as UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO; the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Relationships with regional bodies, including the European Union and the Council of Europe, are coordinated by EI's regional structures.

2 Raising the status of teachers

Education International promotes the highest professional standards. We work for better professional development opportunities and for the improvement of pay and employment conditions in the education sector. We carry out research programmes, mapping international developments and trends across the education sector, identifying best practices and providing research-based argumentation to support our claims. Education International holds public authorities accountable for education funding and policies when they impede the delivery of high-quality education services.

Education International monitors the application of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966) and the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel (1997), which set standards for employment conditions and protect professional and academic freedoms. We confront governments failing to comply with these standards.

3 Pursuing the rights and equality agenda

Education International monitors the application of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and all international standards pertaining to the teaching profession, including the core labour standards established by the International Labour Organisation.

Education International combats all forms of racism and of bias or discrimination due to gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, social or economic status or national or ethnic origin. We oppose the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate violation of the right to life.

EI makes use of all existing complaint mechanisms when national governments fail to comply with these standards. We petition national authorities and relevant international agencies in all instances where the rights of member organisations, teachers, education professionals generally, students, or their next of kin, are violated.

4 Building democratic education unions

Education International provides capacity building programmes to help strengthen democratic and independent education unions wherever they are established. EI assists such bodies to organise and operate on a democratic and independent basis. We support them in advocating for quality education for all and promoting democracy, justice, equality, and respect for diversity within their societies.

Education International provides humanitarian assistance to education unions and their members in cases of gross violations of their human rights or when suffering from the effects of natural disasters.



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

A Global Union

Education International is one of 11 international trade union organisations with a shared commitment to the ideals and principles of the labour movement and with a common determination to organise, to defend human rights and labour standards everywhere, and to promote the growth of trade unions for the benefit of all working men and women and their families. These organisations include the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and 9 Global Union Federations.



Working with Civil Society

Among Education International's strategic partners are Oxfam, Action Aid, and the Global March against Child Labour, Save the Children, Plan International, Amnesty International and Greenpeace.

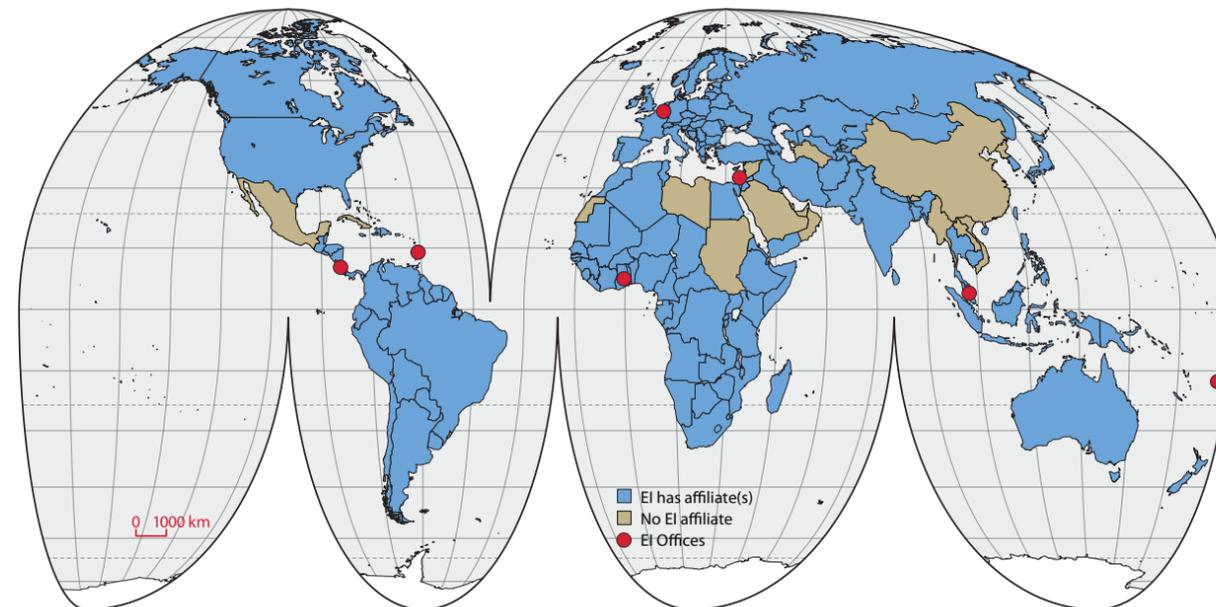


Mobilising The Teaching Force

Education International is a campaigning organisation that mobilises its membership worldwide in defence of human and trade union rights, and of education quality and equity. Current campaigns include the Global Campaign for Education to mobilise support for the achievement of universal primary education by 2015; the Quality Public Services – Action Now! Campaign launched with the Public Services International and other Global Unions; and the Education in Crisis campaign promoting education and protecting school systems against the effects of the debt and economic crises.



Membership



EI has member organisations in 170 countries and territories with a combined membership of 30,000,000

Any national education organisation supporting the aims and principles of Education International can be a member of EI, provided that it is representing teachers or education employees, is democratic in character and operating independently from governments, political parties or religious institutions.



Governing Bodies

Education International is governed by a quadrennial World Congress which determines the organisation's principles and course of action. The Congress elects an Executive Board composed of a President, five Vice Presidents, a General Secretary, and 20 members from different regions. The General Secretary heads the Secretariat which is located in the head office in Brussels, in the regional offices in Accra (Ghana), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), San José (Costa Rica), and in sub-regional offices in Beirut (Lebanon), Suva (Fiji) and in Babonneau (St Lucia). In 2011, EI employed 95 staff.

Education International is divided into five regional structures: Africa (EIRAF), Asia Pacific (EIAP), Europe (ETUCE), Latin America (IEAL), and North America and the Caribbean. Regional Conferences, convened at least once every four years, decide on EI policies specifically for the region and elect Regional Committees. There are two sub-regions, the Caribbean (CUT) and the Pacific (COPE), and one cross-regional structure bringing together member organisations in the Arab countries.

Education International generates its income from dues paid by each member organisation on a per capita basis at variable rates related to the GNP or GNI of the country where each organisation is located.



Networks

Member organisations confronted with common challenges, such as those operating in the OECD member states or those working in specified sectors – Higher Education, Early Childhood Education, and Vocational Education and Training – are organised in EI networks and taskforces where particular policies, strategies and actions are developed. Women's networks and networks of teachers' minority groups guide EI in pursuing its equity agenda.

Research Institute

The work of the EI Research Institute is based on the conviction that quality research can make an important contribution to the attainment of trade union, professional and societal goals and lays the foundation for developing sound policies and practices. The institute receives an annual allocation from EI as well as grants and subsidies from agencies and foundations. Recent publications include: the Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Education Sector; the Impact of the Crisis in Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia; Unqualified Teachers in Asia, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa; Teachers and Education in China; Teacher effectiveness: Evidence Revisited; Corporate Taxation and Quality Public Services; IMF Monetarist Policies and Education Budgets.

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