

NEWSLETTER

European Committee for Catholic Education

EDITORIAL

GENERAL SECRETARY



Dear friends and members of the CEEC,

On the occasion of this last Newsletter of the school year, I would like to

highlight a concern of our Pope Leo XIV, whose election we learned of on 8 May. A concern that is also ours, that of social justice.

The last Pope to bear the name Leo was Leo XIII who was the one who initiated the Church's social commitment with the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" in 1891, the first of a long series that marked the Church's active thinking about society at all levels. Our new Pope has followed in this vein through his missionary life and in his first words after his election.

Through his life witness, he invites us to live the great principles of the Church's social thought in the governance of Catholic education, both in our schools and in our national and international structures. Let us be guided by Leo XIV so that we may be witnesses of justice and fraternity.

With the school holidays just around the corner, I'd like to wish you all a well-deserved summer break.

Louis-Marie Piron

CEEC ACTIVITIES

OUR MEETINGS

The 104th General Assembly of the CEEC was held in Tirana on 21 and 22 March. The entire team from Albania's Catholic education sector organised our stay magnificently.

This meeting was marked by presentations from our guest speakers: the "Label Ouverture internationale" by Marie-Caroline HAMON and Jade GARCIA (France) and the setting up of a Mediterranean network by Jacques LE LOUP, diocesan director of Catholic Education in Marseille and appointed by Cardinal Aveline to lead this project initiated by Pope Francis following his visit to the Mediterranean Meetings in Marseille in 2023.

Once again, our meetings provided an opportunity to exchange ideas in working groups on the continuation of our theme "The role of the Catholic school in Europe". Our discussions helped to clarify our objectives and our working methodology.

As always, our biannual meeting was a real opportunity for our members to meet, to get together, to exchange information, their respective points of view and projects in a shared vision of Catholic education in Europe.



OUR ACTIONS, PROJECTS AND NEWS

CEEC TAKES PART IN A MAJOR EUROPEAN PROJECT ON EDUCATIONAL REFORM

The CEEC is taking part in a two-year European research project, IMANARE, alongside three partners: Matej Bel University (Slovakia), the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the association Mala filozofija (Croatia).

Funded by the Erasmus+ programme and initiated and directed by Marko Weilguny (Slovenia), this project is looking at a major issue: the role of educational reforms and their impact on school identity. It aims to understand the profound dynamics that have shaped education policies in Europe in recent decades.

An anthropological approach to reform

At the heart of the project is an interdisciplinary approach that questions the anthropology underlying educational reforms. Our investigations will aim to gain a better understanding of how certain human and social values have influenced, and will continue to influence, the major orientations of schools in Europe. The project will seek to develop anthropological indicators based on European values and applicable on a large scale.

The key role of the CEEC

As the representative of a network of over 40,000 Catholic schools and 8 million pupils across Europe, the CEEC will mobilise its members to contribute to the research and to ensure that the results are disseminated.

An approach serving the common good



By joining the European IMANARE project, CEEC is pursuing its mission of putting its expertise and human resources at the service of research and the common good. The data generated by this project will be used to make practical recommendations for tomorrow's education policies.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS IN EUROPE

SCOTLAND: RETURN FROM THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

The Catholic Schools Festival was held in Glasgow on 14 June under the inspirational theme of 'Voices of Hope'. Organised in collaboration with education services in Ireland, England and Wales, the event brought together more than 110 participants from all over Europe, the USA and Australia.



Barbara Coupar, our Scottish member, orchestrated the day magnificently, with the support of a committed and passionate team. The festival was opened by a speech from the Minister for Equalities, affirming the importance of Catholic education as a vehicle for hope in our societies.

Among the highlights of the event were the powerful speeches by Prof. Tracey Rowland and Brother David Hall on Catholic anthropology as the basis of Faith, Hope and Love leading to the transcendental virtues of Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Participants had the opportunity to take part in round tables on the theme of

"Community of Hope" and in numerous educational workshops. Our President, Paul Meany, gave the closing address, thanking Barbara and her team, and emphasising the CEEC theme of Catholic Schools – Good for Europe.

The day ended with a pilgrim walk through Glasgow city centre, which took participants to St Andrew's Cathedral for a mass.

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD

CATHOLIC TEACHING AND THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK: SETTING COURSE FOR 'BEL ESPOIR'



An odyssey for peace and dialogue between cultures

Following on from the Mediterranean Encounters organised in Bari, Florence, Marseille and Tirana, Catholic education has been involved in an unprecedented adventure since March: the MED 25 - Bel Espoir boat trip. This project embodies a strong desire to build a Mediterranean network for peace by linking 30 ports by sea and welcoming on board 200 young people from all backgrounds, cultures and religions. In groups of 25, these young people embark on 15-day sessions combining training, meetings and reflection on the major challenges of our time.

This educational project is part of the process launched by the late Pope Francis in Marseilles in 2023, when he called for greater cooperation between Catholic education actors around the Mediterranean.

The aim of the journey is to build bridges between peoples, encourage inter-religious dialogue and reflect collectively on the migratory, social and environmental challenges facing the region.

A certificate is awarded at the end of each session, validated by the writing of a dissertation, and a collective book will bear witness to this human and spiritual adventure.

The "Bel Espoir" ship will arrive in Marseille on 25 October 2025, bringing the voyage to a close with a special moment of sharing.

To follow the adventure throughout the summer: [click here](#).



NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

OIEC: TRIBUTE TO POPE FRANCOIS, ARCHITECT OF FRATERNAL EDUCATION AND A WORLD IN DIALOGUE

The CEEC joins the OIEC in paying tribute to Pope Francis, who has had a profound impact on the Church and the world through his constant call for fraternity, peace and social justice. Since his election in 2013, he has never ceased to challenge us to move beyond indifference, to go to the peripheries and to build bridges rather than walls between communities. His witness has particularly resonated in the world of education, where his commitment to young people, human dignity and integral ecology has opened up new paths. For him, education was a prophetic gesture for a new world.

It was with this in mind that in 2019 he launched a worldwide appeal for a "Global Educational Pact", convinced that the current crisis - anthropological, social and ecological - was rooted in a breakdown in the fundamental bonds of transmission. This Global Educational Pact is based on a profoundly humanist vision and calls for an educational approach founded on relationships, listening, compassion and the search for meaning.

To ensure that this vision and impetus are not lost, and to thank our late Pope Francis, the OIEC is sharing with us a brochure outlining the main themes and highlights of Pope Francis' pontificate. In the same spirit of hope, we warmly welcome the election of his successor, Pope Leo XIV.



OIDEL: "EDUCATIONAL PLURALISM: WHY IS IT RELEVANT FOR THE EU?"

On 8 April, this congress organised by OIDEL was held at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (Netherlands), where the two latest reports published by OIDEL were presented: "The Freedom of Education Index 2023" and "Global Trends in Freedom of Education: Analysis of its Enabling Factors and its Relationship with Social Mobility and Equity". The discussion highlighted the value of educational pluralism, the legal frameworks that underpin it and the need to protect parental rights and subsidiarity in education.



From left to right: Peter Hefe (Director of Policy at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies), Jan De Groof (Professor at the University of Bologna and President of the European Association for Education Law and Policy), Ashley Berner (Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy), Gonzalo Sanz-Magallón Rezusta (Honorary Professor of Education and Family Studies at CEU-CEPAS), Ignasi Grau (Director of OIDEL).

CALLS, INVITATIONS AND INFORMATION

OIDEL: SUMMER UNIVERSITY from 23 to 26 June

Now in its third year, the OIDEL Summer University presents a training programme designed for education leaders passionate about promoting the cause of educational pluralism and strengthening the role of schools in building a more equitable and diverse world. Participants will visit the UN Palais des Nations and UNESCO's International Bureau of Education and will have the opportunity to interact with people from diverse backgrounds who share their passion for education and the defence of human rights.

To register, [click here](#).



Summer University
**HUMAN
RIGHTS AND
EDUCATION**



SeGEC SUMMER UNIVERSITY: 20 AUGUST

The General Secretariat of French- and German-speaking Catholic Education in Belgium warmly invites you to the 2025 edition of this annual event on the theme of "School-Business Dialogue".

The event will highlight initiatives, thinkers and players in the field who are exploring on a daily basis the mechanisms for encounters, confrontations and collaborations between schools and the world of work, to build tomorrow's world together.

To register, [click here.](#)

AGENDA

10 September 2025: Executive Board meeting in Brussels (Belgium)

10-11 October 2025: 105th General Meeting in London (UK)

17-18 April 2026: 106th General Meeting (Netherlands)

The CEEC wishes you a very happy end to the academic year and a great summer!



Any information or articles to send us about news from Catholic education in Europe or worldwide?

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