

# NEWSLETTER

European Committee for Catholic Education

## EDITORIAL

SECRETARY GENERAL, Louis-Marie Piron

Dear CEEC members,  
Dear friends,



In recent weeks, there have been a number of international events for Catholic education in which members of the CEEC have participated.

Firstly, from 9 to 12 October, our general assembly in London, preceded by an excellent symposium brilliantly organised on the text *Gravissimum Educationis*. Thank you once again to the team at the Catholic Education Service for their welcome and for organising this meeting.

Then, from 23 to 26 October, in Marseille, a Mediterranean meeting was held, attended by representatives from Portugal, Spain, France, Albania, Turkey, Lebanon and Morocco. This was an opportunity to work on building a network of Catholic schools in the Mediterranean and to welcome the ship *Bel Espoir*, which sailed along the coast for eight months, carrying young people who have received training on the subject of peace.

Finally, from 28 October to 2 November, the Jubilee of the World of Education in Rome provided an opportunity to hold an OIEC Council meeting and participate in events organised by the Vatican. Your representatives at this Council were very active: France, Belgium, England. Thank you to them. Many other members were present, including our President Paul Meany.

In addition to the rich content of these meetings, let us remember the wonderful conviviality and fraternity that continue to grow among us.

Enjoy reading...

*Louis-Marie Piron*

# CEEC ACTIVITIES

## OUR MEETINGS

Last October, the CEEC met in London for its 105th General Assembly.

We were warmly welcomed by the team of Catholic Education of England, and had the opportunity to hold our meetings at the magnificent University of St Mary in Twickenham.

Our stay began with our members participating in the Gravissimum Educationis symposium organised by the university to mark the 60th anniversary of this founding text.

The conferences focused on the historical links between this document and other texts of the Second Vatican Council, as well as its contemporary links with Catholic education. We had the pleasure of meeting Lieven Boeve, former representative of Flanders within the CEEC, who was one of the speakers on that day.

Our meetings provided an opportunity to present the latest news on Catholic education in the countries represented, focusing more specifically on the issues of teacher shortages and the Catholic identity of our schools.

As at every meeting, this key item on our agenda provided a real opportunity to exchange experiences and practices, highlighting the importance of our mission to bring together, maintain and activate our European network.



# OUR ACTIONS, PROJECTS AND NEWS

## IMANARE: CEEC, PARTNER IN THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT



Our meeting in London was an opportunity to present the progress of our IMANARE project and to announce the next steps in our collaboration with the European network of CEEC.

Marko Weilguny, project manager, presented an overview of the progress made to our members. He explained that the literature review is one of the first steps in laying the theoretical foundations for the development of all other materials within the framework of our Erasmus+ IMANARE project. This review focuses on four themes: the anthropology of education, education reforms, relational aspects in education, and the development of observation tools.

For this stage of the work, we have sought the collaboration of the CEEC network to provide us with titles of books or articles related to these four themes in their countries.

Secondly, Marko Weilguny explained how the CEEC's extensive network will enable contributions to be obtained from a wide range of actors and the project results to be disseminated. To this end, a call was launched to bring together volunteer experts or researchers from each country represented within the CEEC who would have an interest in our work.

Finally, the last point of collaboration requested at this general assembly is assistance in identifying documents implementing educational reforms from 1989 to the present day in each European country. These documents may be national strategic documents, national curricula or laws relating to education.

We are pleased to present the first issue of the Erasmus+ IMANARE research project newsletter!

This first edition presents the project's objectives and team of partners! As a partner, the CEEC is delighted to contribute its expertise and collaborate with an inspiring consortium to achieve our common goals.

🔗 Read the newsletter here:  
<https://lnkd.in/eBXHXhKX>



## NEWS FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN EUROPE

DIAGNOSIS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN EUROPE:

Preliminary results of the SeGEC and CEEC survey presented in London



The initial results of the survey "Catholic Education: Diagnosis" were presented at our 105th General Assembly. This study, conducted by Étienne Michel and the SeGEC research department, in collaboration with the CEEC, is based on work initially carried out as part of the African Education Pact.

### An approach to assessing the current state of Catholic education

The aim of this survey is to assess the current state of Catholic education. This initial stage of reflection forms the basis for a broader project: developing forward-looking scenarios to imagine and build the future of our education system.

During his presentation in London, Étienne Michel explained that:

"The idea is that Catholic education is defined both by its educational project and by its organisational model. If we want to think about the future of Catholic education on a European scale, we need to think ahead about educational projects and organisational models. But before reaching this forward-looking stage, we started with a hypothesis proposed by a French Jesuit, Father Paul Valadier. His argument was that in order to think about the future of Catholic education, we need to start with an assessment of contemporary cultural and religious developments."

### Two structuring hypotheses

The survey is based on two major hypotheses: Catholic education is defined simultaneously by its educational project and its organisational model. In order to envisage its future, it is necessary to start with an analysis of religious, cultural and societal developments in order to identify the challenges facing schools.

### A two-part questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of two main parts. The educational project: it examines religious, cultural and societal developments, as well as their impact on schools' educational projects. The aim is to identify different possible scenarios for the future of Catholic education.

Organisational models: this examines four areas of change — the relationship between schools and the Church, the relationship between schools and the State, the relationship with civil society, and finally the internal challenges facing the organisation of Catholic schools.

### [Towards a link between educational projects and organisational models](#)

In conclusion, Étienne Michel emphasises the importance of consistency between educational and organisational scenarios: "Not all educational projects are compatible with all organisational models. Thinking about the future of Catholic education therefore means finding compatibility between these two dimensions."

### [Significant European participation](#)

The survey was distributed to CEEC members and received responses from 16 European countries: Albania, French-speaking and German-speaking Belgium, Dutch-speaking Belgium, France, Lithuania, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands. At this preliminary stage, one representative per country contributed to the data collection. Although the sample is not yet exhaustive, it already provides a snapshot of the diversity of approaches across Europe.

### [A fruitful work session](#)

The initial results were the focus of a key discussion at the last biannual CEEC meeting. The CEEC network added real value to this comparison of survey responses, allowing each national representative to share their perspectives and add nuance to the collective reflection on this survey.

## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

### OIEC : AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEK IN ROME

#### Jubilee of the World of Education 2025



From 27 October to 2 November 2025, Rome welcomed more than 400 Catholic education stakeholders and 15,000 participants from around the world to celebrate the Jubilee of the World of Education. At the heart of this historic week were the 102nd OIEC Council and the World Youth Congress, two events that showcased the Catholic educational mission.

### [The 102nd OIEC Council: a time for global discernment](#)

On 29 October, representatives from the OIEC regions gathered around Fr. Jawad Alamat, President, and Mr. Hervé Lecomte, Secretary General, for an intense and constructive working session.

Discussions focused on the educational realities of Asia, Oceania and Latin America, as well as major challenges: migration, integral ecology, digital technology, inclusion, intercultural dialogue and, above all, the prevention of sexual abuse of minors, a priority issue in the Global Compact on Education.

### [The World Youth Congress: fraternity in action](#)

Meanwhile, more than 80 young people from the World Youth Council, Relais Méditerranéen, Planet Fraternity and Dual Diploma enjoyed a unique experience of international encounter and cooperation. At the Casa per ferie CasACLI, they spent intense days filled with leadership workshops, fraternal speed-dating sessions entitled "3 minutes to meet the other", public speaking workshops in preparation for their presentation to the Council, moments of prayer, visits and celebrations.

On 29 October, their presentations to the Council made a deep impression on the members. The young people shared their dreams for a more just, more ecological and more fraternal education. The delegates from Relais Méditerranéen presented their retrospective film and proclaimed the Mediterranean Manifesto for Peace, the result of six months of cooperation between young people from Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Spain and France.

### A global event: Educational Constellations

On 30 October, OIEC took part in the International Congress on Educational Constellations – A Pact with the Future. Hervé Lecomte spoke alongside Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, to present the OIEC's contributions and the innovative initiatives carried out by its networks.

### A historic meeting with Pope Leo XIV

The Council and the young people shared an unforgettable moment in St. Peter's Square during Pope Leo XIV's meeting with educators from around the world.

The Holy Father reiterated the urgent need for education focused on peace, human dignity and solidarity.

At the end of the audience, Hervé Lecomte presented the Pope with the OIEC's new book on education for peace, a highly symbolic gesture for the entire network.

### A week that opens paths of Hope

All Saints' Day Mass and the proclamation of Saint John Henry Newman as Doctor of the Church brought this week of grace to a close.

Everyone left with a deep conviction: education is a path to peace, and the OIEC is called to be a bold and faithful architect of that peace.

As Hervé Lecomte wrote:

"The positive energy of this week gives us the impetus to continue moving forward with faith, hope and determination."

 Watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkrXQoF80eA>

 Watch the Pope's address to educators:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/fr/speeches/2025/october/documents/20251031-giubileo-educatori.html>

OIDEL: Educational pluralism in Europe: where are we now and where should we go from here?

A new working paper on educational pluralism has been drafted by Ignasi Grau, Peter Hefele and Alexandre Moreira in collaboration with the Wilfried Martens Centre, the think tank of the European People's Party (EPP).

This report explores how educational pluralism strengthens freedom of choice, school diversity and parents' rights, placing this issue at the heart of the European agenda. It emphasises that freedom and the right to education are fundamental principles of the EU's constitutional framework.

Educational pluralism — a system in which governments fund a wide variety of schools while holding them all accountable for academic results — is essential for social mobility, equity and individual development. However, the report warns that this right is facing growing challenges in Europe, as ideological and economic pressures threaten both access to and diversity of educational options.

It calls for legal and policy reforms that protect parents' rights, promote alternative educational models, respect the autonomy of private schools and guarantee access to fundamental knowledge for all pupils.

According to the authors, it is essential to strike a balance between pluralism and common standards in order to protect human rights and promote democratic participation throughout Europe.

 [Read the full report here](#)

# INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

## SLOVAKIA: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 21 AND 22 NOVEMBER

Martin Smilnak, former Slovak representative for Catholic schools within the CEEC and member of the Slovak Parliament, invites us to this annual international conference for school leaders.

The event will bring together outstanding speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Poland and Ukraine, among others. This year, the Slovak Minister of Education will open the meeting.

You can find all the information here: <https://sel-conference.org/>

## 2026 AGENDA

**25 February 2026:** Executive Board meeting in Brussels (Belgium)

**17-18 April 2026:** 106th General Assembly meeting in The Hague (the Netherlands)

**Autumn 2026:** 107th General Assembly meeting in Ireland

The CEEC wishes you a very happy end of the year.

The CEEC regularly publishes its progress and news about its members and partners on its LinkedIn account.

We invite you to follow this page to stay informed about all our latest news.

Join us on LinkedIn to stay in touch!



*Follow us on LinkedIn!*

Any information or articles to send us about Catholic education in Europe or around the world?

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