

XXI Annual EPP Group Intercultural Dialogue
With Churches And Religious Institutions

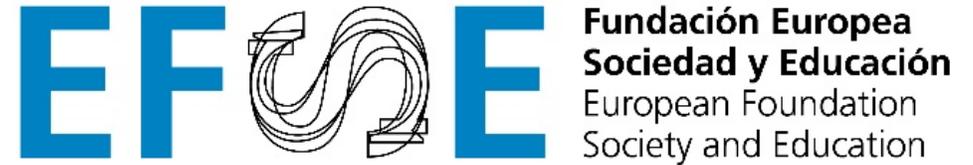


What Kind of Europe Do We Want? Time for Vision and Solutions

Youth Family and Education
Lisbon (Mafra), 19 October 2018

Miguel Ángel Sancho Gargallo
European Foundation Society and Education

Introduction



- Youth, Family and Education are mutually involved and influential.
- Family is the basis on which the others are supported and founded.
- Education understood in its fullest meaning is that which humanizes the person, which allows them to become what they should be.

Family

- Parents as first educators: mission and responsibility of family with regard to education of children
 - Broad legal basis
 - Empirical studies

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 13.3

“The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have **respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools**, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.”

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 18

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. 4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have **respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**”

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union States, Preamble

“**Conscious of its spiritual and moral heritage**, the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity; it is based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law. **It places the individual at the heart of its activities**, by establishing the citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice.”

Article 14.3: Right to Education

“The freedom to found educational establishments with due respect for democratic principles **and the right of parents to ensure the education and teaching of their children in conformity with their religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions shall be respected**, in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of such freedom and right.”

Context Studies

- Pisa 2016 affirms that *“Parental involvement can also contribute to a socially connected school where students, teachers, parents and the school principal share ideas and work together, usually to create a positive learning environment.”*
- *Improving school performance with the crisis: data and hypotheses (2018):* influence of family environment and parental attitudes in periods of crisis brings improvement of academic results.
- Early school leavers in Balearic Islands: lack of family motivation to overcome the opportunity cost of continuing to study.

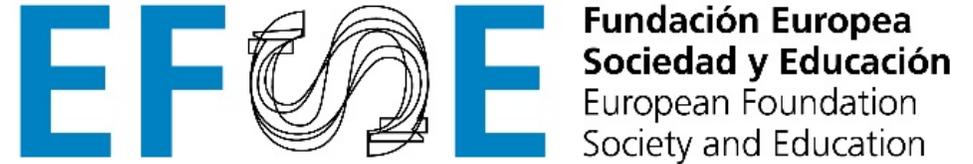
What education do we need for the future of Europe?

- Education as a fundamental human right
- The State at the service of society and the individual
- Education centred around the person
- Importance of Critical Thinking

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26

- “Education shall be directed to the **full development of the human personality** and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.”
- “**Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.**”

European Level Initiatives



- ACTive citizenship: enhance pupils' social and civic competences
- The Whole Child Development (WCD) project
- PISA: Global Competence: capacity to examine local, global and intercultural issues, understand and appreciate different perspectives and world views, interact successfully and respectfully with others, and take responsible action toward sustainability and collective well-being.

Critical Thinking

- "Without the light of truth, sooner or later every person is condemned to doubt the goodness of his own life and the relationships that constitute it, the validity of his commitment to build with others something in common." – Pope Benedict XVI *Anthropological Foundation of the Family*, Threat of Relativism¹
- Discern the positive from the negative
- Training teachers is essential

¹ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/document/anthropological-foundation-of-the-family-82>

Focus on Youth



- The learner is the protagonist of education
- Education makes us fully free, capable of assuming responsibility for our own actions, of making choices according to our lives
- This requires personalizing education more, because there is a deficit of mentoring.
- The importance of character and attitudes

Takeaways

- Family policies must be put at the centre of actions for the future of Europe.
- We must foster better values and attitudes of citizens in education.
- Improve the quality of the teaching staff, developing personalized education projects and integrating pedagogical autonomy with evaluation.
- Training in critical thinking helps develop greater freedom and social responsibility.