

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2005



Of the complete set of activities undertaken to date, we would draw attention to two in light of their institutional and operational importance: the consolidation of Society and Education's presence before the competent bodies of the European Union through its Brussels office and the development of the **Institute for Educational and Social Studies** which is responsible for socio-educational research and is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of teachers. Since the constitution of the Foundation in December 2003, its objectives have given rise to the broadening of the lines of action initiated two years prior through Oidel Europe.

During 2005, the Foundation's activities have focused on the following fields:

### RESEARCH: INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The activities undertaken by the Society and Education research department focus on encouraging lines of research through the organisation of debate fora and the publishing and drafting of documents, studies and reports linked to the following fields of analysis:

#### 1. STUDY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEMS THROUGH DIFFERENT LINES OF RESEARCH

##### LEGAL-POLITICAL

- ✓ *Organisation of the Seminar entitled: Legal basis for the enrolment of students in the Spanish educational system (Regional Department of Education of the Castilla y León Regional Government, 29 July 2005);*
- ✓ *II Meeting on Legal-Political Studies in the field of Education: Design of the project entitled: "Applications of the constitutional principle of solidarity within the structure of the Spanish educational system";*
- ✓ *Organisation of 3 legal seminars to analyse the Draft Law on Education (Spanish acronym LOE);*
- ✓ *Drafting of the Report entitled: "Legal-constitutional considerations regarding the draft Organic Law on Education" (October 2005);*
- ✓ *Comments and observations having regard to the Ministry of Education document entitled: "Quality education for all and by all".*

##### ECONOMIC

- ✓ *Design and development of the first stage of the project entitled: "Analysis of the real cost of public and semi-private education in the Community of Madrid" (October 2005).*

EUROPE (see special section)

##### SOCIAL

- ✓ I Meeting on Co-existence within the School Environment and Dispute Prevention. *Design of the project entitled: “New challenges for co-existence in the classroom”.*
- ✓ *Comments and observations having regard to the Ministry of Education document entitled: “Quality education for all and by all”.*
- ✓ *“Compiling of several monographic series on intercultural education for teachers”, presented to the SM Group.*

## QUALITY

- ✓ *Organisation of the course entitled “Evaluation and innovation in the education system” (El Escorial summer course, July 2005, Directorate-General of Universities of the Autonomous Community of Madrid (Spanish acronym CAM);*
- ✓ *Assessment of the PISA Report;*
- ✓ *Analysis of the Preliminary Draft Organic Law on Education;*
- ✓ *Comments and observations having regard to the Ministry of Education document entitled: “Quality education for all and by all”.*

## 2. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

- 2.1 The aim of this field of research is to: *foster and promote the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge through educational initiatives as the determining factor of some of today’s social transformations and create new world visions.*
- 2.2 *Definition and presentation of the project: **IBERDROLA FOUNDATION STUDIES ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY: “Convergence in technology, science and culture”.***

## 3. THE CIVIC AND SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EDUCATION: EDUCATION FOCUSED ON CITIZENSHIP

- ✓ *Organisation of the Seminar entitled: “The responsibility to educate citizens: scope and limits of the teaching process”, in collaboration with the Schola Foundation (Valladolid, July 2005);*
- ✓ *“Creation of a standing research group on Education for democratic citizenship”;*
- ✓ *Work Seminar entitled: “The basis for citizenship-based education in light of the introduction of a new area of knowledge in the Spanish educational system”.*

## 4. PUBLICATIONS:

- ✓ *“Evaluation and innovation in the educational system”, in collaboration with the Publications Department of the Community of Madrid’s Regional Department of Education.*
- ✓ *“Enrolling students in the Spanish educational system: legal issues”. European Foundation Society and Education, editor.*

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European component of the Institute for Educational and Social Studies, in light of the Foundation's position in Europe, gives a particular vision to its work in this field. Advances in respect of the strategy defined in March 2000 in Lisbon, the challenges posed by Bologna for Higher Education, the clear objectives for education and training systems and the recommendations regarding social cohesion, integration and European citizenship facilitating access and openness to life-long education, are being made through the different analyses giving form to the communication established in Europe by Society and Education.

The following measures and actions are among those undertaken by Society and Education in this field:

1. Participation in calls for proposals and the submission of reports and documents solicited by international organisations: IBE (UNESCO), UN (Geneva, Human Rights Commission) and the Council of Europe (Directorate-General Education).
2. Establishment of institutional relations with European Union representatives for the promotion and dissemination among Member States of Community policies and concrete objectives for education and training systems.
3. Proposal for the creation of a European Parliament intergroup to “*subsidiarily contribute to and reinforce the Community's educational strategy and express society's demands to foster balanced implementation of the transformations called for in the educational and training systems of European Union countries*”.
4. Definition and design of research projects within the scope of Europe (European Parliament and the European Commission – Socrates, VI Framework Programme), of proposals and calls for proposals and work seminars coordinated by experts from the Institute for Educational and Social Studies:
  - 4.1 Design of the 2006 activity scheme for the Research Group *Education and Citizenship* (RGEC).
  - 4.2 Submission of observations and comments having regard to the programme entitled "Citizens for Europe" for the period 2007-2013 for the purpose of promoting active European citizenship.
  - 4.3 *Design of the project entitled “Theoric framework and aims of education for citizenship in the school curriculum”.*
  - 4.4 *Participation in the activities sponsored by the Council of Europe and the European Commission for “2005, European Year of Citizenship through Education”.*
  - 4.5 Seminar entitled: *Adaptation of private universities to the process of European convergence in higher education.*
  - 4.6 *Study on student mobility in Secondary and Tertiary-Level Education and in vocational Training.* Presented to the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union (2005).
  - 4.7 Proposal: *Youth and the future of Europe. The debate on the European Constitution*
  - 4.8 Proposal: *A look at education from the perspective of Europe's future.*
  - 4.9 Proposal: *Education and interculturality from the perspective of European Union law.*
  - 4.10 Proposal: *A new universality model for Europe.*
  - 4.11 *Coordination of educational content at meetings of the Hispano-Luso Forum.*

- 4.12 Participation in the World Conference on the Right to and Rights in Education.
  - 4.13 Effects of the Learning for Mastery model in primary education; learning in order to take control: satisfaction through requirement (Socrates Project).
  - 4.14 Drafting of an opinion for the Praesidium on Title VI (on the democratic life of the Union), Part I of the Constitution, Art. 3-37.
5. Creation of the **Education European Network** for the purpose of bringing together entities or organisations interested in participating in the dissemination of the Foundation's aims and objectives as well as members of research teams, universities, schools, associations and individuals interested in participating in research programmes and projects funded by European bodies.

## **INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATION ALLIANCES WITH THE EDUCATION SECTOR**

**Society and Education** has strengthened its position as an independent organisation, enhancing its **notoriety** among educational institutions and organisations and those focusing on the analysis or advancement of studies of social interest. The content of the work serving as the basis for future fields of collaboration with international organisations and foundations is related to the following topics:

- ✓ Inter-religious and intercultural dialogue;
- ✓ Promotion of science in Spain;
- ✓ Platform for future diagnosis of private universities in Spain and Europe;
- ✓ Education and training for democratic citizenship;
- ✓ Policies for the development of life-long learning.

With a view to reinforcing this objective, the Foundation's Department of Corporative Development, created in 2005, has promoted institutional contacts with government administrations, business associations, trade unions and teachers' associations and with universities, entities and foundations for the purpose of identifying common areas of work and also with politicians and members of the business and social world.

## **PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF SOCIETY AND EDUCATION IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL FORA**

In 2005, Society and Education took part in meetings whose purpose was to monitor socio-educational events both in Spain and abroad and was regularly called on to attend debate and analysis sessions as a speaker or invited guest. The following is a brief selection of these.

- ✓ *Debate on the LOE. Analysis of Title One.* (AEDOS, Madrid, November 2005).
- ✓ International symposium "*Education and values of citizenship: experience and contributions from Europe*" organised by the UNESCO. Universidad Carlos III.
- ✓ *VII Conference "Democracy and Education"*. Teacher Training Institute. Ministry of Education and Science. November 2005.
- ✓ *VIII Education and Management Congress (Valencia, November 2005).*
- ✓ *33 CECE Congress (Barcelona, October 2005).*

- ✓ *XVI CONCAPA Congress. Presentation of the European Foundation Society and Education.*
- ✓ Co-organisers of the international colloquium entitled “*The role of the civil society in the governance of education*”, Santiago de Compostela. (September 2005).
- ✓ Participation in the *World Conference on the Right to and Rights in Education*, held in Amsterdam (November 2004)

### **OPINION FORMING**

Qualification and competence of public opinion are also determining factors in the focus of the work undertaken by Society and Education from the perspective of two overarching objectives: visibility and awareness raising.

Actions implemented to advance on these two objectives can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Dissemination of Foundation activities through its Press Office;
- ✓ Editing and production of our own electronic support on a monthly basis: BEN (electronic news bulletin) and the Brussels Connection (electronic bulletin to stay abreast of educational news throughout Europe);
- ✓ Presentation of the new corporative site: [www.sociedadeducacion.org](http://www.sociedadeducacion.org);
- ✓ Publication of opinion columns, articles in magazines and columns in the specialised press.

### **COUNSEL AND CONSULTATION**

**Society and Education** has furnished specific professional services to provide consulting for professional teachers’ organisations affected by the demands involved in adapting to internal or external change. These services have focused on the evaluation and diagnosis of the functional areas of the organisations and the detection of tools and resources needed to enhance efficiency and efficacy.

The fields within which these consulting services have been provided affect the following sections:

1. Design of strategic consultation (basic concepts, objectives and expected results), analysis of corporative culture and the principles of organisational and operational structure.
2. Global projects gaining notoriety and the position of the institutions within the European framework.
3. Comprehensive external and internal communication schemes.
4. Management skills programmes for the administration of centres.