

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2006



Throughout the year 2006, the European Foundation Society and Education has focused the scope of its activity on developing lines of work intended to achieve the most important of its foundational objectives: creating a space for social and educational analysis and debate by conducting thorough, independent research based on a cross-disciplinary approach and on cooperation with educational and social administrations and partners, to help meet the challenges of the present.

In accordance with the action plan for the year 2006, approved by the Board, this year has seen the consolidation of several working groups comprised within the **Institute of Educational and Social Studies**, the Foundation's research department: *Education and Citizenship, Law and Education and Economy and Education*. The first of these has been incorporated in our own programme called ***Civischool, building the civic school***; work carried out by the second working group has led to the creation of a ***Centre for Legal and Political Studies*** for education.

Studies carried out by the different teams have been conducted at the request of public and private bodies or as a consequence of debate and discussion promoted as a result of current educational issues.

This Annual Report is structured along the general lines laid down in the foundational objectives (research, opinion-forming and awareness-building, consultancy and liasing), complemented by the objectives relating to internal organization and operating structure, together with the objectives set in promoting the European hallmark of Society and Education.

RESEARCH: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In 2006, research work has taken place in several areas of activity, demonstrating the variety of resources used in carrying out these activities: promoting new lines of research, which have taken shape as specific programmes and as the organization and coordination of working groups, who have undertaken the preparation of their own reports; the design of research projects; the organization of Meetings, Seminars, Congresses and Conferences; the creation of a publishing operation and the issue of new books. Lastly, the teachers who joined the Institute in 2006 have increased the cross-disciplinary aspect of the work, allowing for different approaches to education at the present time.

LINES OF RESEARCH

SOCIAL-EDUCATIONAL ANALYSIS



civischool
construyendo la escuela cívica
INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS EDUCATIVOS Y SOCIALES

The research department in charge of this field deals with one of Society and Education' basic objectives: to interpret educational reality by considering its effect on personal development, social integration and civic values; additionally, the current configuration of democratic European societies relies on Education as a basic tool for progress, competitiveness and improvement. The working basis that governs civischool's activities concern the following lines of analysis:

AREA OF EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND "EUROPEANISM".
AREA OF COEXISTENCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION AT SCHOOL
AREA OF INTERCULTURAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
AREA OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AREA OF PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY

ACTIVITIES 2006

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKING PARTIES BROUGHT TOGETHER BY THE EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTRY (February –September 2006)
Proposal of contents for the new knowledge area EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS (June 2006).
WORKING PLAN FOR DEVELOPING THE CONTENTS OF THE NEW ACADEMIC SUBJECT (October 2006).

CREATION OF THE WORKING PARTY ECRG (EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP RESEARCH GROUP)

ORGANIZATION of the 1st Meeting on School Coexistence and Conflict Prevention (Salamanca – MAY 2006): *New challenges for coexistence in the classroom.*

Start of the process to publish the monothematic collective works on the subject of school coexistence and environment. October 2006.

Project presented to the European Commission Call for proposals EACEA 12/06: *Annual Work Programme Education and Citizenship Research Group-ECRG*. December, 2006.

DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME *POLITEIA. SCHOOL AND CITIZENSHIP: AN ETHICAL APPROACH*. October 2006.

DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT *SOCIAL-EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE CONVERGENCE IN TECHNOLOGIES*. February 2006.

Participation in the 8th CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION: "Civic Education and Constitutional Values" Organized by the Presidency Ministry (Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies) and the Education Ministry (General Education Secretariat and Upper Institute for Teacher Training). 18th November, 2006.

Participation in the CEPC Seminar "Education for Citizenship and Human Rights". 28th November, 2006.

Seminar *School, Energy, Waste and Environment*. Futuro Foundation. Enresa. Upper Centre for Teacher Training. Presentation on "Active participation of young people in citizenship issues". 11th February, 2006.

LEGAL-POLITICAL ANALYSIS



The research area of the Institute specialized in the legal and political analysis of education is organized around the **Centre of Legal and Political Studies for Education**. The results of the work conducted by the legal experts involved in the Centre aim to act as a constitutional and legal reference for educational administrations, social partners and public policymakers on education and training matters.

ACTIVITIES 2006

Design, definition and objectives of the **CENTRE OF LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES** for education.

Publication (July 2006) and presentation in Madrid (central offices of Garrigues Abogados, 18th October, 2006) of the volume *La escolarización del alumnado en el sistema educativo español: cuestiones jurídicas*. (*The schooling of pupils in the Spanish education system: legal issues*)

DESIGN OF THE 2nd *MEETING ON LEGAL-POLITICAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION: APPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY IN STRUCTURING THE SPANISH EDUCATION SYSTEM*. December, 2006. CALLED: MARCH 2007.

Design of the project **LEGAL BASIS FOR THE STATUTORY DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIC EDUCATION ACT BY REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**. October 2006.

LEGAL-CONSTITUTIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE DRAFT ORGANIC EDUCATION ACT: Distribution of the document drawn up by the legal team to educational policymakers.

Seminars and working parties:

Organization of 2 Legal Seminars to analyze the statutory development of the Draft Education Act (LOE): competency issues and specific contributions.

Creation of a research team on university autonomy.

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

ACTIVITIES 2006

Publication and presentation in Madrid (April 2006) of the book *Evaluación e innovación en el sistema educativo (Assessment and innovation in the education system)*, in collaboration with Publishing Department of the Community of Madrid's Education Council.

Organization and management of the 4th summer course in El Escorial *Freedom, quality and equality in education systems (Good international practices)*. July 2006.

Start of the process to publish a compilation volume.

Design of the **STUDY OF EARLY SCHOOL DROP-OUT IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS: DIAGNOSIS AND TYPOLOGY OF RISK GROUPS**. September-October, 2006.

ECONOMY AND EDUCATION

ACTIVITIES 2006

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDY INTO THE EFFECTIVE COST OF SCHOOL SLOTS IN THE COMMUNITY OF MADRID.

ACTIVE BODY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European hallmark of the Institute of Educational and Social Studies, determined by the Foundation's position in Europe, gives its work in this field a distinct perspective. The strategy defined in Lisbon in March, 2000, the Bologna challenge for Higher Education, the objectives necessary for education and training systems, recommendations regarding social cohesion, integration and European citizenship, opening up access to lifelong training, have all taken shape in several lines of analysis that underpin the liasing carried out in Europe by Society and Education.

The measures and actions implemented by Society and Education in this field include the following:

EUROPEAN STUDIES

MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
"CONVERGENCE OF HIGHER STUDIES IN EUROPE: UNIVERSITIES AND
INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING"
LORCA (MURCIA) 14TH AND 15TH OF NOVEMBER, 2006.

START OF THE PROCESS TO PUBLISH A COMPIATION VOLUME.

Formalisation of a framework agreement to promote joint activities with the Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) of the European Commission.

Participation in the European Meeting Independent Schools (EMIS).

MODIFICATIONS TO THE *Proposed Decision by the European Parliament and Council, establishing the programme "Citizens with Europe" for the period 2007-2013, in order to promote active European citizenship.*

Establishing relationships with European MPs to set up a European working party on strategic matters in education.

Establishing institutional relationships with representatives of the European Union to promote and foment, among member states, the community policies and necessary objectives for education and training systems. April, 2006.

Proposal to take part in a coordinate, in partnership, the Annual Conference 2008 of the European University Association (EUA). May 2006.

Creation of the **Education European Network** in order to bring together all bodies and organizations interested in participating in promoting its foundational aims and objectives, together with members of research teams, universities, education centres, associations and persons willing to take part in research programmes and projects financed by European bodies.

Creation of a Project Management Department to monitor European Programmes.

I NSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATION ALLIANCES WITH THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Society and Education has reinforced its position as an independent organization, enhancing its **renown** among the institutions and organizations of the education sector, together with organizations whose objectives include analyzing or promoting studies of social interest. The content of the work to prepare future areas of collaboration with international bodies and foundations refer to the following issues:

- ✓ Constitutional and legal framework of education systems.
- ✓ Inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.
- ✓ Promotion of scientific divulgation in Spain.
- ✓ Platform for diagnosing the future of universities in Spain and Europe.
- ✓ Education and training for democratic citizenship.

- ✓ Policies for developing lifelong learning.
- ✓ Analysis of costs and efficient investment in education and training systems in Europe.

To reinforce this objective, the Foundation's Corporate Development Department, set up in 2005, has promoted institutional contacts with administrations, with employers, unions and professional teachers' associations, with universities, bodies and foundations, in order to identify common areas of work, and with members of the political, business and social sectors. Key points among the new agreements proposed and the relationships established include the following:

1. Tas – Europrojet, a body through which an agreement is reached to change the Foundation's central office in Brussels.
2. Foundation Ábaco, for cooperation in the promotion and development of civic values in the classroom.
3. Foundation Garrigues, through which a framework agreement is proposed to reinforce legal research in the field of right to education.
4. FERE-CECA for contributing to dialogue and pluralism in education.
5. CONCAPA, aimed at encouraging families' participation in European forums with respect to the educational process, in cooperation with other parents' associations or federations.
6. Justice Ministry, for promoting inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.
7. University of Navarre, for promoting joint lines of research in the field of education for democratic citizenship and the development of European Studies.
8. Foundation Bertelsmann, for collaborating in programmes to promote inter-cultural dialogue in Europe.
9. Foundation Iberdrola, for promoting scientific divulgation in Spain through the Foundation.
10. University of La Rioja, for organizing specific post-graduate training programmes in the areas of research and civic training.

During 2006, Society and Education has taken part in meetings and its teachers have collaborated in scientific publications, aimed at keeping up with social-educational issues both in Spain and abroad. It is regularly invited to attend debates or analysis sessions as a presenter or guest and its experts collaborate as co-authors in collective works or in articles of opinion at the request of the media.

OPINION-FORMING

The qualification and competency of public opinion also represents a decisive factor in the orientation of Society and Education's work, through two unequivocal objectives: visibility and awareness-building.

Actions implemented to foment both objectives are summed up in the following points:

- ✓ Promotion of the Foundation's activities through its Press Office.
- ✓ Publication and production of our own digital electronic media, with a monthly frequency: *EBN* (electronic news bulletin) and *Conexión Bruselas* (digital magazine monitoring current educational issues in Europe).
- ✓ Presentation of new corporate website: www.sociedadeducacion.org
- ✓ Creation of two specific sub-sites to present and promote the European Conference: *Convergence of Higher Studies in Europe: universities and Occupational Training*; for monitoring the *1st Meeting on School Coexistence and Conflict Prevention*.

- ✓ Publication of articles of opinion, magazine articles and columns in specialized press.

CONSULTANCY AND ADVICE

Society and Education has provided specific professional services in offering consultancy to professional teaching organizations, affected by the requirements of adapting to managing internal or external change. The contents of the service offer have been applied to assessing and diagnosing the functional areas of organizations and identifying the tools and resources required to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

The fields of work where such consultancy has been carried out refer to the following areas:

1. Design of strategic consultancy (basic concepts, objectives and expected results), analysis of corporate culture and principles of organizational and operational structure.
2. Global publicity and positioning projects for institutions in the area of Europe.
3. Integral external and internal communication plans.

Madrid and Brussels, January, 2006