



International Association for Christian Education
Internationaler Verband Evangelischer Erzieher
Fédération Internationale Protestante de l'Enseignement
Internationaal Verband van Organisaties voor
Christelijke Opvoeding en Onderwijs

Please note:

The German name of the Association has been changed by the General Assembly 2009 into „Internationaler Verband für christliche Erziehung und Bildung“

Newsletter 2/2010

The “International Association for Christian Education” links national organizations of different European countries. Based on a Christian-protestant tradition, it aims to bring forward Christian education, to sustain Christian schools and to promote Christian values. It facilitates encounter and exchange of views between Christian teachers in Europe, coordinates the needs of Christian schools and Christian teachers in the European educational systems, gives them a face and a voice within and vis-a-vis to the churches in Europe and the European institutions (e.g. the Council of Europe and the European Union) and takes care of the organizational conditions which are necessary to achieve these targets (*quoted from the Statutes*)

From within Association's Life

The board members of the International Association note with pleasure, that the new *office* at Hanover, thanks to Mrs. Kerstin Wiechmann, does an excellent job. From now on, the office will take over the accounting tasks as well.

Two *board meetings*, held in February and in May 2010, dealt not only with organizational and financial issues, but also with the strategy and with concrete projects, carried out by the association in his own name as well as in collaboration with other organizations and institutions.

The *General Assembly* to come will take place not (as it was planned formerly) the 28th October 2010, but one week later, because it turned out impossible to find any accommodation at a reasonable price for the end of October 2010 in Hanover. The venue of the Assembly will be the EKD office building. On the agenda: On **4th November 2010** in the evening, some old and new members of the Association will present their activities to the participants. The forenoon of the **5th November 2010** will be organized as a seminar on the subject „Being Teacher of a Protestant School: Expectations and Consequences“. The main lecture will be held by Dr. Uta Hallwirth (Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsstelle Evangelische Schule, Hanover/Münster). During the bylaw part of the Assembly in the afternoon, three new members will be admitted: Conseil Scolaire de la Fédération Protestante de France (F), Arbeitskreis Evangelische Schule (D) and Evangelische Schulstiftung in der EKD (D). *Any other organization interested to apply for membership will be invited to our General Assembly 2010 on demand.*

Furthermore, the Association is keen to exchange reflections with anybody interested in Christian education in Europe and to create a network of correspondents to this end. *We invite therefore every reader of this*

newsletter to share with us the names of persons who might be willing and disposed for this kind of collaboration.

Co-operations

The joint working group of the International Association and the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS) has presented its final report after a meeting held in Oslo 12th March 2010. It suggests that the two organizations should collaborate even more closely on issues of common interest and establish fixed structures to achieve this goal, e.g. a joint board meeting once a year. Actually, the most important field of collaboration is the preparation of the Prague conference (see below). The board has accepted the propositions of the working group.

The Church and Society Commission (CSC) of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) has launched – by means of a conference held in Brussels at the end of April 2010 - the network „Church Action on Labour and Live (CALL)“. Gerhard Pfeiffer, who attended the conference on behalf of the International Association, became member of the working group „Religion in the Public Sphere“.

During a meeting held 26th/27th Mai 2010 in Strasbourg, a Brainstorming Group (co-ordinated by Mrs. Carla Maurer) developed proposals appropriate to put educational issues on the CSC agenda (Swier Frouws attended). The Plenary Meeting of the Commission (attended by Gerhard Pfeiffer as an observer) then adopted education as one of its priorities and voted for a permanent working group on this subject: According to this decision, the European churches are much more aware of their educational responsibility than before. The Steering Group of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe (CoGREE) met in Oslo 13th March 2010 inter alia to bring forward the planning of the Klingenthal Colloquy (see below). It also visited the European Wergeland Centre, an institute founded by the Council of Europe and the Norwegian government with the task to bring the policy on education of the Council of Europe to the teachers. Swier Frouws, Dick Hoek and Gerhard Pfeiffer attended. In order to foster the ecumenical co-operation, Swier Frouws joined the XIVth European Forum for Religious Education in Schools (Rome 7th to 11th April 2010) organized by the CoGREE-member EUFRES.

As often as possible, the secretary attends the meetings of IV's member organizations in order to communicate the Association's activities and to explore the opportunities for substantive co-operations. So it was done in March 2010 in the Assemblies of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Schulbünde (AGES) in Nuremberg and Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Erzieher in Deutschland (AEED) in Eisenach.

Projects, Seminars and Conferences

The *General Assembly 2010* (see above), as in the years before, will be a platform for the exchange of experiences between the members. Furthermore in this Assembly, we will deal with the role of the teacher in Christian Schools and, probably, look at an example of an innovative Protestant School (presentation of Evangelische Schule Berlin-Zentrum, to be confirmed). As the Assembly will take place in the EKD Building, we will also get acquainted with the functioning of one of the major Protestant churches in Europe. To set up the *network of Christian Teacher Training Institutes*, a working group has been established, consisting, until now, of Besturenraad, Windesheim University and the Free University of Amsterdam. We want to make contacts with institutions outside the Netherlands as well and we shall heartily welcome your requiries.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Baden-Württemberg, we organize *encounter and training days for teachers* on the issue "What kind of citizens does Europe need? A Christian Contribution to Democratic Citizenship" (Lehrgang Nr. 902762 vom 26. - 29. April 2011, Landesakademie für Fortbildung und Personalentwicklung an Schulen). The main language of this conference will probably be German, but contributions in English are also welcome. The official call for application will come shortly.

A *publication* under the working title „Die Diskussion um 'European Citizenship', ihre politischen und pädagogischen Implikationen“ is prepared by the Association, with a substantial contribution from ICCS. The *CoGREE Colloquy* in Klingenthal from 4th to 8th October 2010 will deal with „Education for Religion and Democracy in the Context of Intercultural Dialogue“. The application procedure will soon be opened. A working group consisting of board members of International Association and ICCS met in Prague 24th April 2010 in order to prepare a *conference about* „Employability, mobility, flexibility - European demands challenging Religion and Education“. The conference will take place 29th June to 3rd July 2011, probably in the Hussite Faculty of Theology.

Our future member Conseil Scolaire de la Fédération Protestante de France is planning a *colloquy on the issue* „*Quelles femmes, quels hommes pour quelle société? - Des écoles protestantes d'ici et d'ailleurs s'interrogent*“ (Strasbourg 28th/29th January 2011). The secretary of the International Association was asked for a presentation in this context.

We hope that this newsletter could manage to arouse or to keep alive your interest in the activities of our Association. Please feel free to react and foster the Christian contribution to education in Europe by your critics and your reflexions, by contributing to our projects and by attending our conferences.

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