



# ***Co-operation as the Key to Quality***

## **Resolution**

*Joint Conference on Partnership and Co-operation*

*in*

*Improving Quality in Education*

5 to 8 March 1998

Pisa, Italy

***OBESSU - EPA - ESHA***

## **Introduction**

From 5 to 8 March 1998 three European organisations representing school students, parents, teachers and head teachers gathered in a joint conference with the title: “Co-operation as the key to quality”. The conference was the main event of a project aiming to establish a dialogue between those groups of people in schools directly involved when it comes to the quality of education.

The partners were the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), the European Parents Association (EPA) and the European Secondary Heads Association (ESHA). Each of the partners invited their representatives with the background idea that through communication, the sharing of ideas, concerns and experiences, a process of mutual learning and understanding would be started. This expectation was based on the assumption that quality in education has a different meaning for each individual and that through co-operation and communication it will be easier to find a consensus and mutual support within education to improve it.

Before such a process of co-operation and communication can take place at school level, it is imperative that consensus is found on some important issues, among others:

- the different groups of people (actors) in school need to accept each other as partners in the process of improving quality, among others by respecting each others opinion, each others involvement and by accepting each other as equal partner in the co-operation;
- the different groups of actors need to take into account the different roles in school of themselves and their partners;

The conference in Pisa had a very positive outcome in the sense that the different groups of actors learned more about each others expectations and opinions. Some level of mutual understanding and agreement was reached providing the different partners with the confidence to promote similar activities at national and school level.

The resolution that can be found on the next page, states a number of mutual points of views and ideas all the four partner organisations agree upon. The resolution is a basic understanding, but it should not be forgotten that it is the first time at European level that such a mutual declaration between these three partners and their member organisations is signed.

OBESSU - ESHA - EPA

March 1998

## RESOLUTION

### Co-operation as the key to Quality

*The co-operation organisations EPA, ESHA and OBESSU, as a result of the joint Conference on Co-operation and Partnership in improving Quality in Education, held from 5 to 8 March 1998 in Pisa, Italy, hereby declare that:*

#### **Considering that:**

- everybody has the right to high quality education;
- everybody has the right to be provided with an equal opportunity of education;
- the role of education should be to develop the whole person;
- quality of education is a responsibility for all partners in school: students, parents, teachers, head teachers, and other staff in education;
- co-operation between all those involved is vital to define quality, to evaluate it and to improve it;
- evaluation of quality contributes to the improvement of quality of education at all levels;
- public authorities have the responsibility for making access to an education of quality for all;

#### **We propose that:**

##### **Quality Education should**

- offer every single person an equal chance and opportunity
- emphasise learning as well as teaching
- recognise the importance of social & emotional aspects as well as knowledge and skills

##### **Evaluation of Quality shall**

- be conducted with the participation of all the directly involved actors in school education;
- be based upon mutual respect of the needs and expectations of the different actors in school;
- ensure an involvement of and co-operation between all actors at the earliest stage which shall last throughout the entire process of evaluation;
- include an implementation of the results of the evaluation;
- include the objective implementation of the results reached during the evaluation process without any particular biased influence of opinion;
- be a structural part of an ongoing process to improve quality in school education by means of reflection, planning, concrete actions and evaluations;

### **Co-operation between the directly involved actors in school education**

- should primarily take place at school level;
- should aim at mutual understanding and respect for each others roles and concerns;
- shall take place at European level by working closely together in order to promote partnership and co-operation as a key element in improving and maintaining quality;
- at European level shall include the sharing of views on educational issues;

**The co-operating organisations OBESSU, EPA and ESHA** ask their members to work together more intensively and with increased involvement at local, regional and national level;

- call upon the European Commission to give financial support to enable the three European Associations to continue to develop common actions in order to promote partnership and evaluation;
- call on the national governments to increase the level of resources given to education;

On behalf of OBESSU

On behalf of EPA

On behalf of ESHA

Miss Emilie Fauerskov  
President

Mr. Dominique Bariller  
President

Mr. Marc Sackur  
President