

Participation  
in the School System of Europe

# European Collaboration of Parents Organisations

The Austrian Parents Organizations are represented by the ,Austrian Parents‘ Association‘ (APA) who is member of the ,European Parents‘ Association‘.

- Comparison of international framework conditions
- Two annual international expert conferences
- Collective projects with EU financing

## Objectives

- Strengthening of parents‘ rights and participation
- Support of parents without academic background and / or with a migration background
- Voice of all parents in respect of the development of education-political decisions on a European level.

## Research objectives

Participation possibilities of pupils, parents and teachers in the European school system in select realms: primary and secondary level as well as national and school level

## Data collection

Questionnaire was sent to EPA-member organisations, to representatives of European ministries, universities, educational institutions in 33 states. Feedback was received from 18 states, 5 have agreed to give feedback „within the next days“, 3 were not able to answer, 2 have forwarded the questionnaire to the chair of the institution, 5 did not react.

Problems: Reliability, comprehensive difficulties due to linguistic deficits  
EURYDICE: key numbers regarding the education in Europe in 2005

# National school partnerships

Landkarte EU

## National school partnership boards

No pupil representatives: France, Malta

No parent representatives: Italy

No teacher representatives: The Netherlands

On „Länder“-level only: Germany, South Tyrol

Expert commissions: Liechtenstein

Compensation for expenses: BE, F, LU, MT, NL, PT

Size: 25 – 250 members

Frequency of sessions: in case of necessity up to 10 times per year

Votes: mostly open

Publication ???

# Topics

Supervision before and after lessons  
Professional choice and training  
Education billds / education orientation  
Parents' participation  
Parents' rights  
Evaluation of teacher education  
Free school book  
Individuality („Equity“)  
Integration  
Annual education report  
Class size  
Class borad  
Competence competition  
Courses of instruction  
Teacher education  
Teacher ranking  
Performance – based group creation  
Participatory rights

National courses of instruction  
Governmental programme  
School supervision  
School autonomy  
School development  
School evaluation  
School health  
(school) year planning  
School ydministration  
School organisation (including pre-school)  
School attendance  
Schol social work  
School time – family time (vacation etc)  
Linguistic education  
Day structures  
Participation in the conference (pupils and parents)  
Transparency of performance assessment  
Compromise culture  
Value education  
Future of boards

- National pupil organisations  
40 member states on OBESSU-website, only 20 contact addresses
- National parents organisations  
EPA members in 22 states,  
Contacts with organisations in further 11 states
- National teacher organisations??

Problem: very few information in the questionnaire  
→ lack of communication and network?

# Further topics of

## Teachers

Work overload  
Job discription  
Increase of salary  
Age of pension  
Class interests  
Promotions

## Parents

Education level  
Economisation in the education realm  
Ethics education  
Early warning  
Full-time schools  
Collective learning  
Violence prevention  
Media education  
Migration  
School quality  
School reform  
School events  
Supervision during the day  
„By-pass“  
Improvement of communication between parents and  
school administration

# Participation boards on school level

Members: pupils, parents, teachers (pre-school and primary school: no pupils)

Administration officers as representatives of school conservation: ES, IE, IT, MT, PT, SI, SK

School direction: MT, South Tyrol; socio-cultural representatives: BE

Pupils, parents, teacher are principally elected (Bavaria, BE, CH, F priv.: teachers are nominated), administration officers principally nominated

Compensation of expenses: AT, (L), NL, LU

Size: total 9-2 per class

Frequency of sessions: 2-5x per year

Publication mostly internally: parents letters, school newspaper, newsletter, website

Content-related privileges -decision -consultancy -no participation

School programme

School / house regulation

Content of lessons

Course of instruction

Lesson table

Additional election subjects

Education methods

School events

Education questions

## Organisational -decision -consultancy -no participation

Class formation

Time of classes

Means for classes

Pupil acceptance

Expulsion from school

Teacher appointment

Director appointment

Teacher advanced education

School budget

Sponsoring

School costs

Parents days

Pupil supervision

School buffet

Construction measures

## •Realm of private schools

Schools with public rights: most often no differences, sometime more leverage on the part of the school conservation

## •Differences between primary and secondary realms

In the primary realm mostly no pupil representatives.

AT: secondary modern school: school forum; AHS/BHMS/Poly:  
SGA

## •Qualified majorities

AT (House regulation, school autonomous regulations, alternative ways of performance assessment, school cooperation, school trials)

Bavaria (5/6-days week),

ES, SI (appointment of directors)

# Open questions

## Next logical step

- Completion of present data
- Complementing of left-over levels
- Definition of terms: Ausschuss, Board, Body, Council, Committee, Forum, Gremium, Kommission, Rat ... ?
- Members: the future of education – representatives from academia and research?
- Staff recruitment: honorary office? Function of agency: free mandate? Election / nomination? Continuity?
- Education of the members: Content? Standards? Evaluation? Traineeship? Financing?
- Acceptance: within, in between the groups, public?
- Communication structures?

- Cross-linkage of the groups
- Transparency of activities?
- Binding results?
- Securing of quality / controlling: legal regulations and practise on the ground often face a gap!
- Organisation of the associations: buildup, structure, members, financing?
- Parallel structures: c.f. elected parents# representatives – member in privately organised parents association (personal identity?)
- Activities of the school partners outside of the immediate realm of school: family, health, culture, media, social, sports and leisure time realms etc?



## Socrates

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