

ENGLISH VERSION



**FEDE**ration for European Education  
**FÉDÉ**ration Européenne des Ecoles

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**RELATIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL  
INSTITUTIONS**

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**SHARING EDUCATION, SHAPING THE FUTURE**

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The FEDE has partnerships with:



The FEDE - INGO holding participatory status with the Council of Europe - INGO holding the status of official partner at UNESCO - INGO holding consultative status with la Francophonie - Transparency register of European Union - 313869925841-90



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**Founded in 1963**, the FEDE is an INGO (international non-governmental organisation) that brings together more than 500 higher and vocational educational institutions across 40 countries, most of which are located in Europe. FEDE institutions are committed to teaching democratic values and respect for human rights.

## THE FEDE

The FEDE actively monitors the emergence of new skills needs and builds partnerships with trade associations so as to produce innovative teaching guidelines in 12 elite subject areas. The FEDE has developed relations with high-level institutions with a view to promoting education and learning for all, with an emphasis on academic independence and quality education.



Thanks to its expertise, the FEDE is the official partner of several international institutional and sectoral organisations at which it enjoys a recognised status, in particular with:

- the Council of Europe, since 1987 (participatory status);
- the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) (observer status);
- the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) (observer status);
- the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (consultative status);
- the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) (consultative status);
- the United Nations Economic and Social Council (special consultative status);
- International Association of Universities (IAU) (institutional member)
- European Association for Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE) (affiliate member)
- Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) (associate member)

Furthermore, the FEDE is a member of the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE), an organisation recognised by the institutions of the European Union (EU). The FEDE participates in the European social dialogue with the European Commission and the European trade unions. The FEDE is included in the EU's Transparency Register and is a member of the European Commission's Pact for Skills.

«Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.» Nelson Mandela

Working in partnership with the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), it is committed to fighting corruption and to promoting history teaching with the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE) of the Council of Europe.

As members of the FEDE network, educational institutions help to share knowledge and good practice and to build partnerships across the world. Joining the FEDE also means helping to train the democratic citizens of the future in a sustainable environment.



# 01

## The Council of Europe (CoE)

Founded on 5 May 1949 by the Treaty of London, the CoE is an intergovernmental organisation. It brings together 46 Member States in an area known as 'wider Europe' and elaborates a set of legal norms relating to three areas: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Its aim is to uphold values of peace, justice and international cooperation, as well as the spiritual and moral values of Europe's shared heritage, on which the democratic principles of individual freedom, political freedom and the primacy of law are based. The CoE is headquartered at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg and has two official languages: French and English.

«The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.» **Sydney J. Harris**



### // Activities

The CoE's activities cover a wide range of policy areas (with the exclusion of defence) and have led to the drafting of numerous norms, charters and conventions aiming to facilitate cooperation between Member States and strengthen European construction.

### // Governance

**The CoE has four pillars:**

■ **The Committee of Ministers is made up of the 46 ministers of foreign affairs** belonging to the CoE's member states. Each of the ministers holds the chairmanship of the Committee for six months at a time, rotating on the basis of the alphabetical order of their countries' names. It is the guardian of the Council's fundamental values, and monitors member states' compliance with their undertakings.

■ **The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)** has 324 members and 324 substitutes that are elected or appointed by the national parliaments. The number of representatives per country (2 to 18) depends on its demographics. The plenary session adopts the texts validated by the ministers.

■ **The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** has 318 members and 318 substitutes representing over 200,000 local and regional communities within member states. It plays an essential role in promoting democracy by getting local and regional authorities involved in the work of the CoE. It has two chambers: the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.

■ **The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO)** brings together about 300 European civil-society organisations that, since 2003, have enjoyed participatory status at the CoE.

### // Administration

**The General Secretariat** is the CoE's administrative body. It is responsible for the organisation's budget (624,6 million EUR in 2024), which is financed by Member States' governments. The Secretary General is elected by the PACE for a renewable five-year mandate. Since June 2019, the post of Secretary General of the CoE has been held by the Croatian Marija Pejčinović Burić. On 18 September 2024, the new Secretary General of the CoE - the Swiss Alain Berset - will take office.



## The FEDE and the Council of Europe

Thanks to its international educational and cultural expertise, the FEDE enjoys close ties with the Council of Europe (CoE) and has developed several partnerships with CoE entities.



### --→ The Conference of INGOs

Since 1987, the FEDE has been a member of the Conference of INGOs (CINGO) and holds participatory status. The Council of Europe is an international organisation that has a long tradition of consulting INGOs. Indeed, in 1952 it introduced a 'consultative status' for INGOs wishing to inform its work – a status enjoyed by the FEDE, which has evolved in 2003 in participatory status. It allows INGOs to work directly with the three other pillars of the CoE: the Committee of Ministers and its various steering committees; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. The FEDE initiated two Recommendations adopted by the COING plenary session: in April 2019 on student poverty and precariousness in Europe and in October 2023 concerning the impact of artificial intelligence on the education sector.

### --→ The Steering Committee for Education – CDEDU

Observer status since March 2021

The CDEDU oversees the education-related programmes and advises the Committee of Ministers on educational matters. In particular, the CDEDU is responsible for applying the Reference Framework of Competences for a Culture of Democracy (RFCDC) and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The FEDE's Chairwoman sat on the Bureau of the CDEDU from 2017 to 2021, having been elected for a two-year, once-renewable mandate. She has been re-elected in March 2024 for a new mandate of 2 years. Only 19 NGOs enjoy Observer status. The FEDE contributes its pedagogical expertise, in particular on the RFCDC, the teaching of history in Europe, ethics in education, raising awareness of the fight against corruption, multilingualism and education for sustainable development.

### --→ The Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape – CDCPP

Observer status since December 2021

The CDCPP oversees the work on culture, heritage and landscape, monitors its implementation and advises the Committee of Ministers on culture. In 2019, it was asked by a Member State to design an educational module on 'European values inherent to European cultural heritage'.

Only 20 NGOs and one State (Israel) enjoy Observer status. In the frame of the Cultural Convention, the CDCPP provides standards, policies and good practices to sustainably manage cultural, cultural heritage and landscape resources, as a basis for democratic and inclusive societies in a digitally evolving environment, impacted by environmental degradation. The FEDE is contributing its expertise, particularly on the protection of cultural goods in the context of the Nicosia Convention adopted by the CoE in April 2022.

### --→ CDEDU's Expert Group on CDC-VET

The FEDE's Director of Education has been named a member of the Expert Group on Competences for Democratic Citizenship and Vocational Education and Training (CDC-VET). The experts have been appointed by the Council of Europe to work on its Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, which has become an international benchmark. Thanks to its comprehensive European Culture and Citizenship (ECC) module, which is an integral part of all of its European degrees, the FEDE has been a pioneer in this area for more than six decades.





## --→ CDEDU's Working Group on ESD

The FEDE's Director of Education has been named a member of the Working Group Education for Sustainable Development ESD. Contemporary societies within Europe face many challenges, and one that needs to be urgently addressed is the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. Education, and particularly the RFCDC, is a tool used to promote sustainable development.



## --→ The Group of States against Corruption – GRECO

GRECO is a body created by the CoE in May 1999. It brings together 49 Member States: 47 European countries, Kazakhstan and the USA. GRECO aims to build Member States' capacity to fight corruption in all its forms. The FEDE is thematic partner of GRECO since 2018-2019 the FEDE with the elaboration of an awareness-raising course on corruption and anti-corruption legislation.

«Knowledge is guaranteed loot.» Maxime Gorki

Since September 2019, the course is included in Unit A2 of the FEDE's European Culture and Citizenship (ECC) module, followed by several tens of thousands of young learners. This innovative course, perfect example of a successful cooperation between an NGO and an international institution helps further a central goal shared by the FEDE and its network: the promotion of democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law in Europe and beyond.

## --→ The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE)

Founded in November 2020 by a Partial Agreements signed by 16 CoE Member States, the Observatory is a response to a geopolitical context, where many European citizens and governments modify educational narratives and historical truths. The duty of memory and the value of historical research are in danger, particularly among learners who are using unverified and politicised sources of information.

The FEDE is involved in OHTE activities, striving to help provide learners with the technical, material and conceptual tools they need to exercise vigilance in their pursuit of knowledge and skills. In 2024, the FEDE elaborated a course on the importance of teaching history in vocational training programmes with an expert from OHTE.

## --→ The Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED)

Ethics in education is a subject of global concern, with unethical practices affecting countries to varying degrees but at all levels of education. While some forms of corruption can be difficult to measure, no country can claim that its educational sector is completely free of this scourge (plagiarism, fake degrees, misleading titles etc.).

Launched in 2015, the ETINED Platform is a network of specialists appointed by CoE Member States. It aims to promote the sharing of good practice as regards transparency and integrity in education. Since 2019, the FEDE participates as an expert in ETINED Platform works with the aim to contribute to strengthen ethics in education.

## --→ The Steering Committee for Promoting Academic Integrity in Education

In 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the higher education sector, leading to the closure of educational institutions and the disruption of lessons and classroom learning, with a sudden shift to online study. Ensuring integrity in education in spite of these changes is essential if we are to ensure that higher educational institutions and their qualifications remain credible. Consequently, the CoE's Education Service has launched a programme to identify, publicly commend and propagate relevant good practice across Europe. The FEDE has sat on this Steering Committee since it was set up in April 2021, furnishing its expertise in identifying best practice.

«The mind is a dwelling to be lived in and crafted over time.» Ludvik Vaculik



UNESCO was founded on 4 November 1946. Following two world wars in fewer than 30 years, UNESCO was founded on the conviction that economic and political agreements between states are not enough to ensure long-lasting peace: the peoples of the world also need to be united through intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

«Education is the software on the main-frame computer that programmes the future of our societies.»  
Joseph Ki Zerbo

# 02

## The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO aims to bring about peace through international cooperation in education, science and culture. Its programmes are important in helping to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inscribed in the 2030 Agenda adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

UNESCO has 194 Member States in 2024. The Organisation is headquartered in Paris and has also 50 field offices elsewhere in the world and a number of institutes and centres, including the Institute for Statistics in Montreal and the International Bureau of Education in Geneva. Audrey Azoulay (France) has been UNESCO's Director-General since 13 November 2017.

As an ideas' laboratory, UNESCO plays an essential role in strengthening the foundations of stable peace and sustainable and equitable development. The Organisation structures its activities around five major programme areas: education; exact and natural sciences; social and human sciences; culture; communication and information.

The goals of UNESCO's Education Sector include:

- To reimagine education by anticipating and responding to emerging trends and needs in education;
- To design policies by cooperating with countries to elaborate, implement and share successful education policies, plans and best practices based on data collection, monitoring and dialogue with national authorities;
- To set standards develops and monitors legal frameworks and normative instruments to ensure the right to education;
- To catalyze for international cooperation by promoting dialogue, exchange and partnership among the global education community, including civil society and youth;
- To build capacity by provides technical advice and support to develop the institutional and human capacity of countries to achieve their education goals.

Given that the global priorities 'Africa' and 'Gender Equality' cut across UNESCO's action in all areas of its mandate, two priorities of UNESCO's educational programme are school education for children in Sub-Saharan Africa and gender equality. UNESCO also prioritises other areas, such as higher education, increasing literacy, better learning, and the development of teacher training. The Organisation's education system is based on the following themes: human rights, gender equality, global citizenship, sustainable development, and health.

Finally, since 1972 UNESCO has been known across the world for its World Heritage List, which features sites considered to be of outstanding universal value for all of humanity. In addition to its List of cultural and natural (tangible) heritage, UNESCO also strives to protect intangible cultural heritage.





## The FEDE and UNESCO

The FEDE has been an official partner of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 30 September 2020.

Its so-called consultative status at UNESCO allows the FEDE to build close ties with this international organisation that is a world specialist on education and culture. The FEDE's areas of work are highly relevant to UNESCO's mandate and, like UNESCO, the FEDE is convinced that education is key to the development of both states and their citizens.

The FEDE's educational programmes allow learners to undertake professionally oriented study while also acquiring the skills needed to become open-minded world citizens.

### // The FEDE, an official UNESCO partner:

- is involved in UNESCO's collective and bilateral cooperation mechanisms, particularly as regards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015;
- is helping to achieve SDG 4, which aims to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'. Working together to this end, the FEDE and UNESCO are helping, at their different levels, to achieve this ambitious SDG by 2030. Thanks to their partnership, the FEDE and UNESCO can draw on one another's resources, skills and know-how to bolster the impact and visibility of their respective activities. The 15,000 exam candidates each year in FEDE programmes, along with the FEDE's network of several hundred teachers, represent a large pool of people liable to be interested in its educational work and to provide it with useful feedback and experience. The two organisations' joint work is therefore mutually beneficial both in terms of validating and potentially improving their learning content and programmes.
- takes part in strategic reflection, programmes and activities at UNESCO. The FEDE-UNESCO partnership could lead to strategic alliances that might include: the organisation of events (seminars and lectures) at UNESCO; participation at one another's meetings; the joint development of innovative teaching content (for example, on sustainable development); participation in collective consultations; and the promotion of good practice based on values shared by both organisations.

Since the summer of 2023, FEDE has been a member of the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership (GEP). This partnership encourages collaboration among civil society, the private sector, and intergovernmental organizations, urging them to share their knowledge and skills to promote a successful ecological transition. The main objective is to reshape educational ecosystems and their structures to be seamlessly aligned-with current environmental challenges. GEP working groups focus on four pillars: green schools; ecological school programmes; teacher training and environmentally friendly educational systems; and environmentally engaged communities. This approach aims to influence on a global basis, various stakeholders in education.

In 2023, the FEDE created a teaching module entitled 'Businesses and the Green Transition' in link with UNESCO's work on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and which more than 5,000 students take the FEDE Masters exams every year.

«A man is responsible for his ignorance.»  
Milan Kundera





# 03

## The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Since its founding in 1945, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the United Nations (UN) has focused chiefly on protecting international peace and security, fostering international cooperation, fighting poverty, and protecting human rights across the world. The six main bodies of the United Nations are:

- The General Assembly (the main UN deliberative, decision-making and representational body)
- The Security Council (whose main mission is the safeguarding of international peace and security)
- **The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**
- The Trusteeship Council
- The International Court of Justice (the UN's main judicial body)
- The Secretariat (which assists the UN's other main bodies by administering their policies and programmes).



# 1946

In 1946, ECOSOC introduced consultative status for 41 NGOs. Now, this status, which helps the UN foster relations with civil society, is enjoyed by more than 5000 NGOs from across the world. These are NGOs that work in a wide range of different areas, including education, health, eradicating poverty, human rights, gender equality, protecting the rights of indigenous peoples to their customs and traditions, etc. ECOSOC is headquartered in both New York and Geneva.



ECOSOC is the main UN body in charge of making recommendations to Member States on economic, social, cultural, educational, public health, sustainable development and other related matters. It is also in charge of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) adopted internationally in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. ECOSOC plays a central role in the activities of both the UN system and its specialised agencies, particularly by supervising subsidiary and advisory bodies. It has close ties with NGOs and is the main UN forum for sustainable development-related reflection, debate and innovation. ECOSOC has 54 members, 18 of which are elected each year by the General Assembly. Members have a three-year mandate.

« Intelligence and proper education will give you independence of spirit. » Charlotte Bronte





## The FEDE and United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The FEDE has been an official partner of the ECOSOC since 22 July 2021. Thanks to the 'special consultative status' granted to it by ECOSOC's Committee on NGOs, it is able to build close relations with this leading UN organ that addresses economic, social and environmental issues.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015, NGOs have played an important role as ECOSOC partners on the ground, helping the international community to implement its revolutionary agenda. The aim is for governments, civil society, academics and the private sector to work together to promote sustainable development and implement the commitments taken to protect the environment and biodiversity.

**Consultative status is a formal relationship between the FEDE and the United Nations that enables the FEDE to participate in UN work.** ECOSOC is the chief entry point into the UN system for the FEDE since it offers a well-established formal framework for NGO participation.

The FEDE, as an accredited NGO, can attend numerous events, including the ordinary sessions of ECOSOC, ECOSOC functional commissions and other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

The FEDE can attend official meetings, submit written statements prior to sessions and deliver oral statements; it can also meet with official government delegations, UN civil servants and the representatives of other NGOs. It can also organise and attend side events held during ECOSOC sessions and take part in debates and interactive dialogues.







## 04 The International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)

Founded on 20 March 1970 in Niamey, Niger, the OIF is an international organisation that leads political, educational, economic and cultural cooperation between its members. It brings together 88 states and governments, of which 54 are full members, seven are associate members, and 27 are observers. That adds up to over one third of the member countries of the United Nations (UN).



The OIF is headquartered in Paris and has 300 permanent staff members. Louise Mushikiwabo (Rwanda) is its Secretary General since 2018.

The OIF operates under the authority of three political bodies: the Summit – the OIF's supreme organ, which meets every two years; the Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie (CMF); and the Permanent Council of La Francophonie (CPF).

The OIF provides its 88 Member States and observers with assistance in drafting or strengthening their policies. It leads international political action and multilateral cooperation in support of its four main missions:

- Promote the French language, multilingualism and cultural diversity
- Promote peace, democracy and human rights
- Support education, training, higher education and research
- Develop economic cooperation to foster sustainable development.

«We are nothing else but the sum of our actions» Jean Paul Sartre



To this end, the OIF leads French-speaking multilateral cooperation via work with the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) and four operating agencies: the Association of Francophone Universities (AUF); the channel TV5Monde; the International Association of French-Speaking Mayors (AIMF); and Senghor University of Alexandria in Egypt.

Finally, in working with French-speaking civil society, the OIF draws on the work of its Conference of INGOs (CINGO). OIF action is based on the sharing of experience and good practice, joint endeavour, solidarity, and inclusive collaboration with a range of institutional, academic and civil-society networks.



## International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) the FEDE

FEDE has held consultative status at the OIF since July 2018. Therefore a member of the Conference of INGOs (CINGO) which brings together 128 accredited international non-governmental organisations (INGOs and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)).

The OIF's Conference of INGOs was established under the Charter of La Francophonie. It aims to:

- Increase civil society visibility within the organisation
- Build the capacities of accredited INGOs/NGOs
- Involve these organisations in OIF-led programmes and activities.



The CINGO is an important actor within the OIF. Its mandate enables it to promote the role of civil society within the organisation, to deliver statements to OIF bodies, and to involve its members in designing, implementing and evaluating certain OIF-led initiatives. In order to be granted membership of the CINGO, INGOs and NGOs must be active within at least one OIF-member state or government and in the priority areas laid down in the OIF's Strategic Framework.

**Accredited organisations must commit to conduct their activities in line with the values and principles of the OIF and to work in close partnership with the organisation.**

In order to encourage cooperation between organisations with shared interests and objectives, the CINGO has five thematic committees: 1/ Language, Diversity and Culture - 2/ Peace, Democracy and Human Rights - 3/ Education and Training - 4/ Digital Economy and Sustainable Development - and 5/ Global Challenges. The CINGO also has its own action plan that sets out, for each of the five thematic committees, one or two operations that are to be implemented over a two-year period.



As it has held consultative status at the OIF since 2018, the FEDE is able to help guide the policy directions of the organisation by furnishing its expertise and participating in the sharing of good practice.

Cooperation between the OIF and the FEDE, particularly within the CINGO's Education and Training Committee, aims to increase the visibility of OIF initiatives and achievements among FEDE-member institutions.

Indeed, the FEDE is able to share news and developments with its partners, learners and network of higher and vocational educational institutions, many of which are located in French-speaking countries. By regularly organising teacher training across its international network, the FEDE also helps to develop OIF activities by strengthening the world's network of French-speaking teachers.

«If we wait long enough, patience may make sprout the stones» Driss Chraïbi



# 05

## The European Commission's Pact for Skills

The European Commission launched the 'Pact for Skills' on 10 November 2020. It is one of the flagship initiatives adopted in the framework of the European Skills Agenda for Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience, which was published in July 2020.

**Skills are essential for the EU's post-pandemic recovery.**

The European industrial strategy of summer 2020 acknowledges the importance of skills for the green and digital transitions and recognises the opportunities they offer for citizens.



«The great aim of education is not knowledge, it's action.»  
Herbert Spencer

The Pact aims to change this by having committed partners join forces to provide the skills needed on the European labour market. The goal is to mobilise resources and encourage relevant actors to take effective steps to promote skilling and to build partnerships that will support the ongoing green and digital transitions. Members of the Pact must be based in an EU Member State, a country belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or an EU candidate country.



## The FEDE and the European Commission's Pact for Skills

The European Commission launched the Pact for Skills in November 2020 with a view to mobilising all European actors willing to invest in skills.

The goal is to encourage these actors to commit to the upscaling and reskilling of people of working age and to foster the pooling of efforts through partnerships.



The FEDE signed up to the **Commission's Pact for Skills** in March 2021 with a view to developing its network both at the European institutions (European Commission, Council of the EU and European Parliament) and among European trade associations based in Brussels.

One of the chief reasons for joining the Pact is to be able to work with actors that will help ensure the FEDE's educational programmes match up with the skills needed by recruiters in target sectors. The aim is to build close ties between the FEDE and European trade associations that are recognised by the EU institutions as representative of their sector.

In addition to joining the Pact, the FEDE has therefore also contacted European trade associations with the aim of building partnerships focusing on skills in relevant sectors.

The **memorandums of understanding** concluded on the long term between the FEDE and various professional sectors are aligned with the aims of the European Commission's Pact for Skills. They aim to ensure a good fit between the FEDE's educational programmes and the needs of job-providing sectors in Europe.

# 06

## National and European trade associations

### At the national level

**Organisations bringing together actors working in a given sector can be found in most countries. Such organisations aim, first and foremost, to defend the interests of their members. They may take the form of an association, a trade union, a professional order, a federation or a committee.**

They work to promote, regulate and protect the interests of one or more professions or a professional sector as a whole. Sometimes they will take legal action on behalf of their members. As interest representatives, trade associations, regardless of whether they represent employers or employees, are often consulted by a country's public authorities (governments, parliaments and local governments) on matters relevant to their sector: given that they have close insight into the sector they represent, they are able to provide a useful macroeconomic and crosscutting vision of its development.

Trade associations have numerous roles:

- They help to influence the legislative and regulatory action of policymakers, be they ministers, MPs or civil servants. They are often directly involved in drafting legal standards.
- They can perform legal and economic monitoring for their members, conduct studies and surveys to assess the sector's development, and provide general or specific information on the sector and its activity.
- At a collective level, employers' associations provide their members with good practice recommendations and play a role in raising awareness of certain issues or problems among their members.

In representing and defending the collective interests of their members in negotiations with public authorities and policymakers, they help to inform legal and economic standards through social dialogue. This work can lead to the signing of collective agreements, often called sector or industry-wide agreements, that can lead to, for example, higher salaries for employees across a sector.





## At the European level

As part of European construction efforts, certain national federations in EU countries have joined forces to represent their sector at the European level.

The Commission has provided clear rules governing the creation, representation powers and functioning of these sectoral committees, which are intended to be central fora for consultation, joint initiatives and negotiation between employers' organisations and trade unions.

European social partners must meet the following criteria:

- They must belong to specific sectors or categories and be organised at the European level
- They must be composed of organisations that are themselves recognised as belonging to social partner structures at the Member-State level
- They must be able to negotiate agreements and be representative of their sector in several Member States
- They must have in place an organisational structure allowing them to participate effectively in the consultation process.

Each committee adopts rules of procedure and a programme of work. They usually delegate, along with the Commission, the preparation of meetings and agendas and the monitoring of their work to the corresponding social partners' secretariat.

The sectoral social dialogue committees are made up of an equal number of employer and employee representatives. The secretariat services for each committee are provided by a representative of the Commission.

European sectoral social dialogue has increased significantly since 1998, when the European Commission set up the sectoral social dialogue committees, which facilitate dialogue between sectoral social partners at the EU level. The aim of such dialogue is to improve European governance by involving social partners in the making and implementation of decisions.

There are **43 committees** of this kind, and they cover a large range of sectors: telecommunications, agriculture, graphic design, trade, hospitality and catering (HORECA), textiles and clothing, construction, banking, etc.

«If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.» Abraham Lincoln



## The FEDE and sectoral trade associations

In addition to its 'conventional' institutional relations with key international organisations working in education (UNESCO, Council of Europe, OIF, ECOSOC), the FEDE has developed close ties with a certain number of national or European trade associations, and developed collaborations on more specific or technical areas.

These partnerships enable speedy and more direct action on the ground about concrete projects. They help:

- To develop educational networking and provide of engineering services to isolated areas;
- To develop innovation and create skills reference systems;
- And to boost the career prospects of those graduating from FEDE institutions.

## // At the national level



### --→ Fédération Nationale de l'Industrie Hôtelière (FNIH), Morocco

Founded in 1962, the **FNIH** consists of 12 regional hotel-industry associations (ARIHs) and hotel chains, together representing 3600 accommodation sites across Morocco. The Federation acts in the interests of hotel businesses by representing them in interactions with public authorities, providing them with information and advice, and assisting them with their business activities. Working in partnership with its member operators, the FNIH helps train staff, build a safe and healthy tourism environment, manage job roles in hospitality, and promote Moroccan tourism.

In signing an agreement with the FEDE in 2019, the FNIH recognised the value and quality of the FEDE's degrees and training programmes in subject area **N°9 (Tourism, Hospitality, Catering and Leisure)**.

The FEDE is working with the FNIH to monitor skills and recruitment developments in this important sector. The FEDE-FNIH agreement aims both to support the development of the Moroccan tourism and hospitality sector, which is the country's second biggest sector in terms of job opportunities and share of national GDP, and to improve the job prospects of FEDE graduates.



→ La Fédération des Entreprises et des Entrepreneurs de France (FEEF)

An important French trade association with over 900 member businesses, the **FEEF**, created in 1995, represents regional SMEs involved in food and non-food retail. In an agreement signed in 2017, the FEEF and the FEDE expressed their commitment to training young people and to strengthening ties between businesses in the sector and the FEDE's international network of graduates. The FEEF has officially recognised the professional utility of the FEDE's European degrees in subject area **N°1 (Management, Organisational Strategy and Human Resources)**. This strategic partnership is intended as a careers' springboard for FEDE graduates since it facilitates their entry into the job market and fosters connections between FEDE educational institutions and FEEF member businesses.



→ La FÉdération française des Écoles de NATuropathie (FÉNA)

Founded in 1985, the **FÉNA** is the oldest naturopathic federation in France. Through this partnership, the FEDE aims to help structure and promote the wellness sector in the eyes of the institutions. At the suggestion of the FÉNA, the FEDE became a member of the AFNOR commission in 2023 and is collaborating on the creation of a standard on naturopathy. This partnership enables us to identify the skills required in this sector and to monitor the industry. It provides support for FEDE institutions in subject area **N°6 (Sport, Health, Society and Education)** and FÉNA educational institutions in the implementation of the training reference framework. The aim is to strengthen the quality approach of both FÉNA and FEDE institutions wishing to expand in the health-care sector, as well as raising awareness of the sector's professional requirements among both students and training centres.



→ La Fédération Marocaine des Arts Culinaires (FMAC), Morocco

Founded in Casablanca in 2010, the **FMAC** is a non-profit association bringing together Morocco-based cooks and chefs. It works to defend the interests of the catering sector and to promote Morocco's renowned culinary traditions both within Morocco and internationally. The cooperation between the FEDE and the FMAC focuses on the acquisition and certification of skills for professionals in the catering sector in Morocco. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 31 May 2023 in Casablanca. The aim of FEDE-FMAC cooperation is to build synergies between Moroccan educational institutions in FEDE subject area **N°9 (Tourism)** and businesses in the Moroccan HORECA (Hotels, REstaurants and CAFés) sector. In particular, the aim is to set up micro-credentials that meet the skills needs of this business sector.



→ L'Association Nationale des Conseils Financiers (ANACOFI), France

Founded in 2004, **ANACOFI** is the leading French body representing brokerage and advisory firms in banking, finance and insurance. The FEDE and ANACOFI signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 31 May 2024 in Paris to develop cooperation in training and education leading to qualifications in the financial advisory professions. This partnership will promote financial education and asset literacy. ANACOFI contributes to the FEDE work of the subject area **N°4 (Finance)** with the aim to develop a high level of training for graduates of FEDE member institutions, and the FEDE provides ANACOFI with its expertise in a number of committees and working groups.



→ Union de la Bijouterie Horlogerie (UBH), France

Founded in 2013, UBH is the leading national trade union representing jewellers and watchmakers in France. Representing and defending the interests of the sector, it advises and trains its members and their employees on all matters relating to their business. The FEDE and the UBH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in July 2024 in Paris to develop cooperation in training and education leading to a diploma in the jewellery and watchmaking professions. UBH contributes to the FEDE work of the subject area **N°5 (Luxury)** with the aim to develop a high level of training for the graduates of its member institutions as well as a watch on the skills required by companies. The FEDE provides the UBH with the construction of innovative reference systems and the geographical development of training programmes as close as possible to companies in the sector.





→ **Employers' Group of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union (Geopa-Copa)**

The FEDE has initiated numerous exchanges with professional organisations representing several sectors. As a result, two memoranda of understanding have been signed.

The FEDE/Geopa-Copa partnership was signed in October 2021 in Malmo, Sweden, during a European social dialogue seminar. **Geopa-Copa** is an EU institution-recognised European employers' group representing the agriculture sector.

The main goal of this partnership is to create synergies between farms and agricultural businesses and FEDE educational institutions in subject areas **N°10 (Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development)** and **N°11 (Nature, Agriculture and Farming)**. Thanks to its partnership with Geopa-Copa, the FEDE is able to work with the group's various members across Europe – in particular the Fédération Nationale des Syndicats d'Exploitants Agricoles (FNSEA) in France, the Deutscher Bauernverband e.V. (DBV) in Germany, the Cia – Agricoltori Italiani in Italy, and the Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos (COAG - I.R.) in Spain.



→ **European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)**

A FEDE/ETNO memorandum of understanding was signed in February 2022 in Paris during a joint meeting. **ETNO** is an EU institution-recognised European association of telecommunications employers.

The FEDE-ETNO partnership focuses on the skills needed to work in the telecommunications and new technology sectors. The memorandum of understanding will help ensure that the courses offered in FEDE subject area **N°3 (IT and Digital Technology)** cover the skills most needed by employers in the European telecommunications sector. Indeed, the new technology sector is full of exciting prospects for students who are able to combine IT and digital skills with administrative, financial and business know-how.

**These two memoranda of understanding aim to ensure alignment between the FEDE's educational programmes and the recruitment needs of two European sectors with excellent employment prospects.**

07

**The FEDE and the education sector at the European and international level**

In 2023-2024, the FEDE became a member of four major associations in the education and vocational training sector: European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) since October 2023; the International Association of Universities (IAU) since October 2023; the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) since June 2023; and the European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE) since January 2024.

The aim of these cooperations is to broaden our network of expert partners in the field of education and to collaborate on narrower or more technical themes: educational leadership, learning in all its forms, citizenship and green skills, teacher well-being, quality education, artificial intelligence, etc.



Membership of these organisations enables the FEDE to be at the forefront of educational innovation in order to provide its members with effective tools to improve the employability of FEDE graduates.

--→ **European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) and the Erasmus+ project Educational Leadership Network Europe (ELNE)**

EFEE



Founded in 2009, **EFEE** represents and defends the interests of European employers in the education sector at all levels from preschool to higher education (HE) and research. EFEE is recognised by the European Union (EU) as a European social partner representative of employers in the education sector. It brings together 61 organisations across 26 European countries, including education councils, ministries of education, federations of schools and universities, and employer organisations within local and regional authorities. The FEDE became a member of EFEE on 26 October 2023 in its capacity as an organisation representing several hundred educational institutions. The FEDE supports EFEE's vision and mission. It benefits from all EFEE's services and can participate in the numerous EU-financed projects managed by EFEE. EFEE's thematic priorities include the promotion of vocational education and training (VET), social inclusion, the transition from education to employment, raising the attractiveness of the teaching profession, and educational leadership.

Cooperation with EFEE helps expand the FEDE's network within the EU institutions and increase its participation in European social dialogue with the European Commission and education-sector trade unions.

At the same time, the FEDE is taking part in an Erasmus+ project entitled **Educational Leadership Network Europe (ELNE)** managed by EFEE. Erasmus+ is a European Union (EU) programme that finances projects across Europe in support of education, training, youth and sport. ELNE is a project co-financed by the EU that aims to reduce school dropout rates, to improve the well-being of students, teachers and school directors, and to fast-track the digitalisation of educational institutions. Since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, the FEDE is one of ELNE 11 main partners. The project brings together 27 national and European organisations that are active in the education and training sector. Between 2023 and 2027, the FEDE takes active part in the meetings and activities of the ELNE project. The main goal of this project is to gather, develop and disseminate good practice in the field of educational leadership.



--→ **International Association of Universities (IAU)**

Set up under the aegis of UNESCO in 1950, the **IAU** provides support to the global higher education community. The IAU brings together more than 650 members across 120 countries: universities, higher education institutions, other organisations, and affiliates. The IAU fosters expertise and trends analysis, publications, special platforms, advisory services, peer learning and the organisation of events across the world. As a degree-granting organisation whose main aim is to promote higher education, vocational training and research, the FEDE has been an institutional member of the IAU since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. The FEDE supports the goals and outlook of the IAU. It benefits from all the IAU's services and can take part in activities linked to the IAU's thematic priorities: value-based leadership, equitable and inclusive internationalisation, higher education and sustainable development, and the future of the digitalisation of higher education. Thanks to its collaboration with the IAU, the FEDE is able to expand its global network of partners and to develop initiatives that will promote quality learning and higher education.



--→ **Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP)**

Founded in 2005, the **LLLP** is actively involved in the work of EU institutions. It brings together 44 European associations operating within the fields of education, training and youth; together they represent more than 50,000 higher education institutions and associations spanning the full range of formal, non-formal and informal learning sectors in Europe. The FEDE has been an associated member of the LLLP since the LLLP's General Assembly of 27 June 2023. Through its cooperation with the LLLP, the FEDE has the opportunity to expand its network of partners in Brussels and to develop initiatives in favour of learning in all its forms, particularly with a view to advancing the work of the one hundred or so FEDE members involved in continuing education.





## → European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE)

Founded in 1990, **EURASHE** promotes professional higher education (PHE) and protects the interests of the non-university European higher education (HE) sector at the European Commission and among other stakeholders. EURASHE helps to build a European higher education area (EHEA) and a European research area (ERA) by influencing policy developments at the EU level. It aims to strengthen the impact of innovative, high-quality PHE by representing PHE institutions and facilitating their cooperation with a range of stakeholders. It groups together 66 organisations located in 24 European countries and three non-European countries (Egypt, Kazakhstan and India): universities, polytechnics and professional higher education institutions.



The FEDE, as an organisation representing several hundred educational establishments and favouring HE, professional training and research in Europe and beyond, became an affiliate member of EURASHE on 1 January 2024. The FEDE supports the work of EURASHE, which aims to favour transformation of European society through PHE. The FEDE has access to EURASHE's communication, information and discussion platform and can participate in the association's various activities: participation in EU-funded projects, the drawing up of position papers, thematic studies, the organisation of networking and learning events, seminars and lectures, institutional monitoring and partnership development. Thanks to its cooperation with EURASHE, the FEDE is able to expand its network within the EU institutions and actively help to promote PHE.

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Since 2015, the FEDE has forged numerous institutional partnerships with national and international organisations around major educational, political, cultural, sociological and economic challenges. These institutional partnerships are important levers in both the FEDE's quality approach and educational and social monitoring, but most importantly, they attest to the legitimacy of the FEDE as an institution in terms of its educational expertise.

The FEDE has also forged one-off or long-term partnerships with associations, sector federations and national and international NGOs around more specific or technical challenges. Thanks to these cooperative ventures, it is possible to take swift, practical action that can be applied directly on the ground. These endeavours contribute to local educational networks and skills monitoring, help to further develop innovation and improve the employability of FEDE graduates.

For any organisation, institutional relations are essential and must be worked on continuously over the long term, because their relevance and effectiveness can only be assessed over the medium and long term. The FEDE's main objective is to promote an education and learning project for all, based on academic independence and quality education. Through the many institutional and sectoral partnerships that it has forged over the last ten years, the FEDE has pursued an institutional strategy that has paved the way for its recognition as an expert in the education and vocational training sector and its establishment as a key stakeholder at the European level and in French-speaking Africa.

