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***“Promoting an effective integration of migrants and refugees in education: a key task for social partners”***

**New project proposal on the European sectoral social dialogue in education**

**Budget line/reference number** VP/2017/001

**Deadline for application:** 15 June 2017

**Project lifetime**: 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2019

**Lead partner**: ETUCE

**Associated partner**: EFEE

**Affiliated entities**: ETUCE member organisations in the target countries as agreed with EFEE

**Experts involved:**

* External experts to provide input to project activities on the ESSDE work program topic “Paris declaration and facilitating integration”; to draft a substantial report and outcome document following all project activities on how education social partners can contribute to the follow-up of the Paris Declaration and facilitating refugees’ and migrants’ integration as the topic agreed between the ETUCE and EFEE and with relevance to the successful ESSDE work program implementation;
* External expert to carry out an audio-visual service for a documentary identifying the current situation in the education environment in the target countries and the best practices from education social partners;
* Social partners’ representatives from countries involved in the project proposal aiming for an effective exchange of information and the establishment of closer relations between ESSDE committee delegates. Ideally, the participating partners will be encouraged to keep regular and continuous working contacts their colleagues also after the project events if possible.

**Background:** This project is meant to continue sustainably on the work that ETUCE and EFEE have accomplished in previous ESSDE Working Groups on the key role of the education social partners in addressing refugees’ and migrants’ integration into the education and socio-economic environment of the host countries across the EU and EU-candidate countries. Further to contributing to the implementation of a specific theme of the current ESSDE Work program, the project regards the promotion of social dialogue, demographic challenges and follows-up on the joint work on improving the support to educators dealing with students from migrant origin, including continuous professional development. In its aim to support the commitment of the social partners for facilitating an effective integration of refugees and migrants of all ages in the education system of a host country, ETUCE and EFEE directly support the implementation and follow-up of the Paris Declaration, contributing to promoting intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship in education and training in general, as well as to prepare education insitutions for a successful integration of students of migrant origin in education including the competencies of teachers, educators and school leaders.

Moreover, this project addresses the EU priorities as laid out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Commission’s New Skills Agenda for Europe and the Political Guidelines presented by Jean-Claude Juncker in the Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change.

This project is to be conducted in close co-operation with EFEE as an associate project partner. It will focus on EU member states where education trade unions and education employer organisations have already undertaken measures to cater for the specific needs of refugees and migrants but also for the needs of schools and the teaching staff working with young migrants and targeting issues such as language acquisition, psychosocial counselling and intercultural competences. However, this project could also include frontline countries which received a sudden and massive influx of migrants and asylum-seekers since 2015 and need to be prepared to address the integration challenges. The possible target countries could be: Cyprus, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia, Denmark and Finland and Serbia as an EU-candidate country.

**Topics of the call to be covered:** With regards to active implementation and promotion of the current work programme of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Education, the project is to deal with the theme agreed between ETUCE, EFEE and the national social partner organisations in the targeted country such as “Paris Declaration and facilitating integration”. It aims at further implementing the work done in the framework of the ESSDE Working Group meeting in 2016. The current proposal will also benefit from the current and previous work done by the cross-sectoral social partners to promote programmes of migrant inclusion in the labour market, being a theme of common interest and with a high potential for synergies and complementarity. Through this project proposal, ETUCE and EFEE are to contribute to the priorities set up in the historical Quadripartite Statement on “a new start for social dialogue”, especially by putting emphasis on the effective implementation of the most recent Country-Specific Recommendations of the European Semester and the challenges identified within the Country Reports 2017. These are referring to the inclusion of the most disadvantaged, in particular with migrant background, into main stream education and the attractiveness of the teaching profession confronted with a raising number of challenges related to increasing societal demands for educational effectiveness.

**European added value/objectives of the European social partners:** First, this project will prove the strong wish of the European education social partners to consolidate and to deepen their relationship. It will demonstrate that they have achieved the capacity to work sustainably towards improved and strengthened social dialogue structures through which they can produce useful and effective joint outcomes.

During the last years of intensive work on the theme mutually agreed upond within their joint Work Programme, ETUCE and EFEE have recognized the value of joint activities that offer them many opportunities to deepen their knowledge, understanding, and mutual trust. The specific topic addressed in this proposal, namely, the integration of refugees and migrants in the education sector, is reflected as a priority in the Work Programme of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Education. With this project, the social partners recognise the need to enhance further commitment to promote an effective integration and inclusion of refugees and migrants in the educational and socio-economic environment of the host countries and it is expected that the project strengthens EFEE and ETUCE’s commitment to continue to work sustainably on this matter.

In the countries where the European education social partners have managed to successfully work together addressing specific needs of the education environment, they have managed to create solid foundations for the national education social partners to further develop their dialogue, while reaching out to the European level. At the same time, the joint commitment of the European education social partners to foster the integration of refugees and migrants in education is to increase knowledge on all sides and inspire national education trade unions and education employers to engage even more and further promote actions related to the project aim. On the other side, ETUCE and EFEE are to identify and better understand the many different situations and challenges in targeted countries and across Europe, and to document the role of the education social partners in the area. Not only could their experience on the ground be useful when brought to surface, but better coordination and information sharing with other countries and the European-level social partners could also lead to a more efficient implementation of the integration process. This new project takes up one of the most urgent and crucial priority all across Europe and for the education social partners.

Trough this project proposal, the existing ESSDE work programme is to be further developed and the quality of the ESSDE improved. This goal serves two different important purposes. Firstly, it is to give the European social partners the opportunity to gather their members in activities of European relevance more often than currently foreseen through their regular annual social dialogue activities. Secondly, increased engagement in the social dialogue work program implementation will consequently follow the European Commission’s commitment to a new start of a stronger social dialogue as an effective tool to promote a competitive and social Europe.

**Initial phase:** 5 months December 2017 -April 2018

* Discussion on specific requirements and aims in each of the final target countries in co-operation with the advisory group members to define approaches
* Preparation and organisation of the case studies for each country
* Discussion on objectives, form and contents of possible additional work material for later use
* First discussion on a possible joint project outcome
* 1 Advisory group meeting

**Main phase:** 12 months May 2018 – April 2019

* Implementation of the planned case study visits in May, September, November 2018 as well as in February 2019
* Continuous discussions on the nature and contents of possible joint project outcomes consistent with the implementation of the ESSDE Work program topic such as 1) Practical guidelines for teachers, trainers and school leaders 2) Quality framework of effective policies and practices on the integration of migrants and refugees in schools and education institutions 3) Video documentary
* Preparation of the Closing Conference
* 1 Advisory group meetings

**Final phase:** 7 months May – November 2019

* Closing Conference (80 participants) June 2019 in Belgium
* Dissemination of possible project outcomes Oct-Nov 2019
* 1 Advisory group meetings