

ISSUE 11 · JULY 2022

NEWSLETTER

European Committee for Catholic Education

EDITORIAL

GUY SELDERSLAGH, SECRETARY GENERAL

At our last General Assembly in Vienna, our association once again showed its vitality, the richness of its reflection and its diversity. First of all, we took part in the symposium entitled "Committed to a vision" organised by our Austrian colleagues. Several members of the CEEC had the opportunity to participate and I had the opportunity to make a presentation on the challenges for Catholic education in Europe in the coming years.

During our ordinary General Assembly we had the honour to welcome Monsignor Zani, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome, who showed us his support, encouragement and sympathy.

We were then very moved by the testimony of Father Petro Maiba, a Salesian priest, responsible for "Greek-Catholic" education in Ukraine. He described the suffering of his people and the way in which Catholic schools were transformed for a time into a refuge for internal refugees. To enable as many people as possible to understand what is happening in Ukraine, we organised a webinar with OIEC from Lviv. This was an opportunity for several representatives of the Ukrainian school to tell us about the extent of their difficulties. For those who were unable to follow the webinar or who experienced technical difficulties during the broadcast, we have printed the text in different languages. It is still available on request. As a result, we have launched a solidarity operation in which you are still invited to take part.

Since the beginning of July, our association has reached a new milestone. I would like to thank you all very warmly for the warm exchanges we have developed over the years. I wish good luck to the new Secretary General Louis-Marie Piron and to Géraldine who will be joining the CEEC in September.

Long live Catholic education!

Guy Selderslagh



@G.Selderslagh

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CEEC ACTIVITIES

OUR MEETINGS

On 16 February, the members of the Executive Board of the CEEC met to prepare the meeting of the Spring 2022 General Assembly, which was held on 29 and 30 April 2022 in Vienna.

This meeting was preceded by the international symposium entitled "Committed to a Vision. The significance of Catholic schools in the light of contemporary challenges". More information can be found in the "News from our members" section.

Our meeting was a time of reunion and exchange for our members. Mgr Zani honoured us with his warm presence at the beginning of our General Assembly. Several presentations followed: Dr. Nikolaus KRASA, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Vienna, Clemens PAULOVICS, Head of the Department of Education and Schools of the religious orders, Dr. Marie-Theres Igréc and Mag. Romana BEIKIRCHER-ROCH, Project Coordinator at the Catholic Education Office in Vienna (AT).

Our first meeting day was also marked by the poignant testimony of Reverend Father Petro Mayba, Head of the Commission for Education of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, who presented the situation and the needs of the schools in this period of war. Following this meeting, the CEEC in collaboration with the OIEC and our Ukrainian members launched a solidarity action. More information can be found in the section "Our actions".

Finally, this meeting was also an opportunity to thank Guy SELDERSLAGH for his 9 years as Secretary General. Louis-Marie PIRON will succeed him on 1 July 2022. Louis-Marie will carry out his duties from the offices of the General Secretariat for French Catholic Education in Paris. Furthermore, as from 1st September, Géraldine VALLÉE will be engaged as full-time office manager of the CEEC in Brussels.



@T. Frankemölle

OUR ACTIONS

WHICH TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND HEAD TEACHERS IN EUROPE?

At the General Assembly meeting in Vienna in April, members had the opportunity to hear the representative of Catholic schools in Scotland, Barbara COUPAR, present the system of training for teachers and principals in her country.

The CEEC is currently continuing its research work and invites members who have not yet done so to respond to its survey.

THE CEEC ON AIR

On 1st June, Guy SELDERSLAGH spoke on the programme "Engagez-vous", on the French-speaking Catholic Radio (RCF) presented by Clotilde NYSSENS. During his interview, he had the opportunity to present the CEEC and the actions that our association undertakes, in particular the support to the Greek-Catholic schools in Ukraine. His speech is [available for free listening online](#) (in French only).



OUR ACTIONS

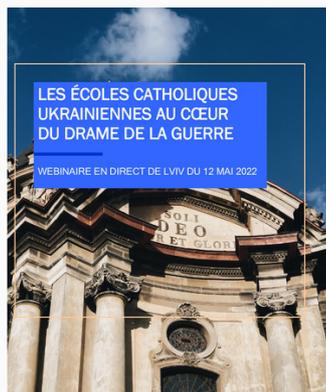
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS In THE DRAMA OF WAR

On 12 May, the European Committee for Catholic Education and the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC), represented respectively by Guy SELDERSLAGH and Philippe RICHARD, organised a live webinar from Lviv entitled "Ukrainian Catholic schools in the drama of war".

This event aimed to describe the situation of Ukrainian Catholic schools, to identify the urgent needs of schools and religious communities, as well as to define to what extent we, the stakeholders and representatives of Catholic schools in Europe can support our Ukrainian counterparts. In an attempt to answer these questions, the webinar gave the floor to several stakeholders and representatives of Catholic schools in Ukraine:

- Olyna RIY, Director of St Sofia's School in Lviv
- Halyna TUZIAK, Director of St Nicholas Nursery School in Lviv
- Father Petro MAYBA, Head of the Commission for Education of the Greek Catholic Church of Ukraine
- Sister Khrystophora BUSHTYN, member of the Public Council of Churches and Religious Organisations at the Ministry of Education of Ukraine.

All these interventions have been transcribed and translated into English, French, Spanish and Italian. These documents are available from the CEEC secretariat.



To support the Ukrainian Catholic schools, please make a bank transfer with the mention "Solidarity Ukrainian Schools". All the funds collected will be transferred to the secretariat of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic schools. Moreover, a report will be made at the next general assemblies on the amounts collected and their use.

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COMMUNICATION: SOLIDARITY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



@Ph. Richard

UPDATE OF THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT "REMAINING CLOSE AT A DISTANCE"

In March 2022, the application for the European project "Remaining close at a distance" was reworked and submitted to the Erasmus+ Agency of French-speaking Belgium. This 3-year project (Key Action 2) focuses on distance and blended learning. More specifically, the project aims to enable teachers and students to critically reflect on e-learning pedagogies that facilitate community-based learning. Unfortunately, the project has recently been rejected for administrative reasons. The CEEC secretariat is currently in contact with the Erasmus+ National Agency in this regard.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

INTERVIEW WITH LOUIS MARIE PIRON, THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CEEC

Louis-Marie Piron, the current representative of the French Catholic schools in the CEEC, will take up his post as Secretary General of the CEEC on 1 July 2022. On this occasion, we gave him a short interview.

Could you briefly introduce yourself?

I am originally from the west of France. I am married with 4 children, aged between 21 and 29, and a grandfather of 2 little girls. I have a legal background in public law and social law. I have been a teacher in higher education institutions as well as an educator before taking over the management of various secondary schools for 16 years.

Since September 2011, I have joined the General Secretariat of the French Catholic Education to develop international relations. I have also been in charge of supporting the diocesan departments in the overseas territories. Since 2012, I have represented France on the Executive Board of the CEEC and on the Council of the OIEC for which I was treasurer for 3 years.

I am also President of the editorial board of the journal *Educatio* which publishes scientific articles on Christian education twice a year. The latest issue is dated May and deals with the theme: "Crisis of institutions and changes in authority in schools and education" (www.revue-educatio.eu)

As the future Secretary General of the CEEC, which are the major challenges for Catholic Education today?

The challenges of Catholic Education are probably to find ways to respond to the evolution of our societies, on the moral, educational and pedagogical level, as much for the proposals made to students as for the training of teachers, for example. These challenges are sometimes made more complicated by the social and legal contexts in which our structures evolve.

What specific issues or aspects of Catholic education in Europe would you like to work on in your future position?

In order to respond to these challenges, we need to further develop cooperation between us, not in competition or opposition to the public system, but in the original expression of our Catholic specificities. In order to do this, it is essential to promote the freedom of education and to strengthen the vitality of our educational communities.

To conclude, what motto or quote do you particularly value?

"For a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share.

Gravissimum Educationis n°1

Interview by Géraldine Vallée



@JF.Lauwens



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 27-28 APRIL 2022

On 27 and 28 April, the international symposium "Committed to a Vision. The significance of Catholic schools in the light of contemporary challenges" was held in Vienna. The event which was organised by Mag. Andrea PINZ and Dr Marie-Theres IGREC was a great success with no less than 110 participants.

Researchers from various backgrounds and countries spoke during these two days. The intervention of the representative of the Dutch Protestant schools at the CEEC and professor at the University of Nijmegen, Dr Theo VAN DER ZEE, was particularly appreciated. In addition, Mgr Vincenzo ZANI, current Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, also spoke at the closing conference. During his speech, which he dedicated to the CEEC, he recalled the historical and current importance of the CEEC for Catholic Education in Europe.



@G.Vallée

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

PLANET FRATERNITY: REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 IS OPEN

The Planet Fraternity project is a pastoral project set up by the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC). This project is intended for young people aged 12 to 18 and is part of the Global Compact on Education launched by Pope Francis. In practical terms, the pupils are introduced to other cultures and acquire a global understanding of the problems facing societies through international relations. Periodically, students from different countries meet and work together on the issues proposed by the United Nations in its 2030 Agenda. These sessions allow students to share their different points of view, which vary according to their local realities, and eventually reach global conclusions.

Interested in this project? More information is [available online](#). Registration for the 2022 school year is also open via [this link](#).

CALLS AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

NEW APPOINTMENT

On 29 May, Pope Francis announced [the creation of Mgr Jean-Marc AVELINE](#), Bishop of Marseille, as Cardinal. The consistory will be held on 27 August.

On behalf of the European Committee for Catholic Education, Guy SELDERSLAGH warmly congratulates him on his nomination.

Mgr Aveline spoke at the CEEC symposium in March 2019 on The Catholic school and the challenges of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, in a plenary conference entitled "Religious freedom and the art of living together: a challenge for the Catholic school". His intervention has been transcribed in the proceedings of the symposium, available free of charge (excluding postage) in paper or in digital format from the [CEEC secretariat](#).



@S.Vanoirbeck



CALENDAR

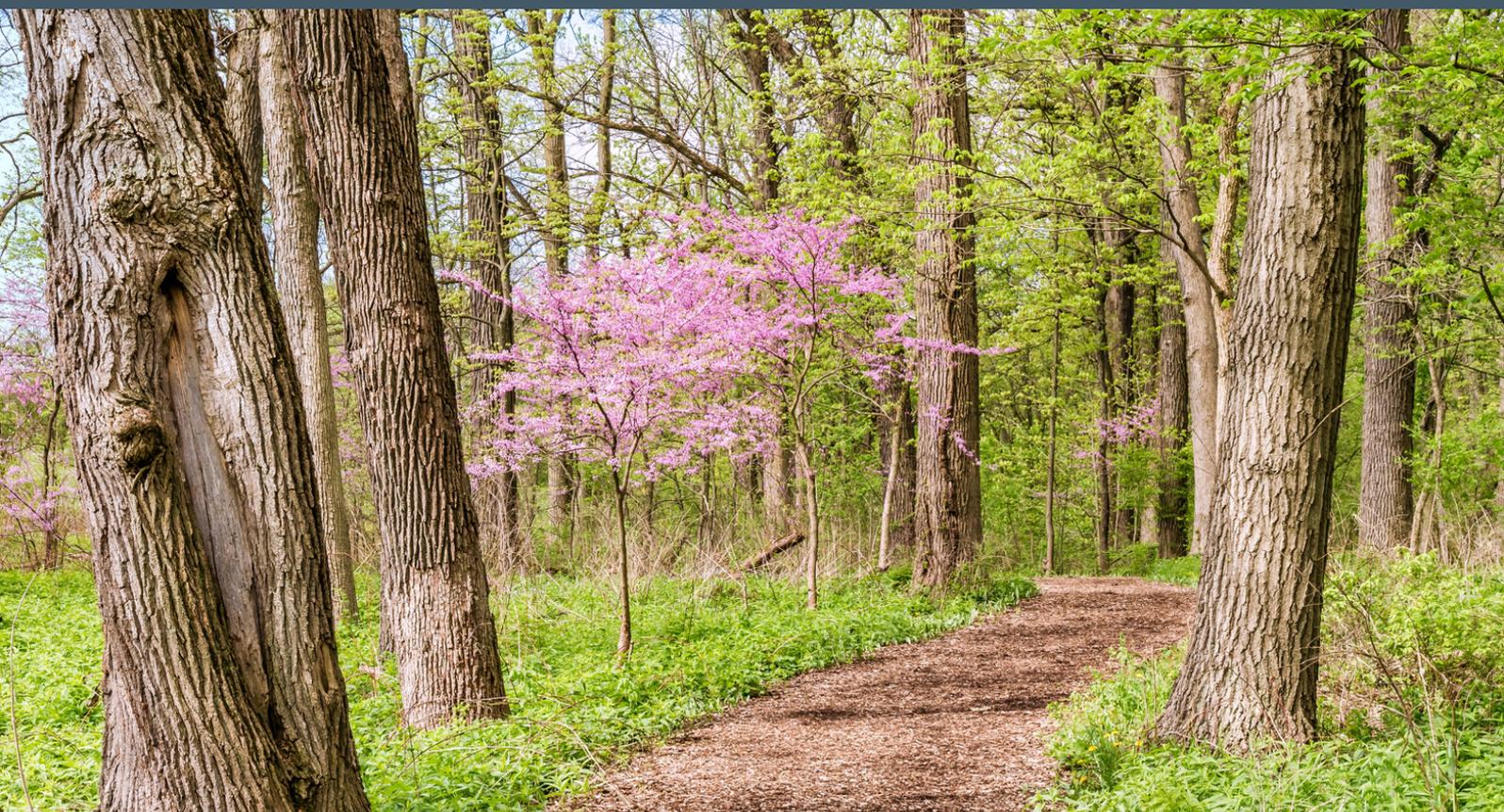
5 October 2022: Meeting of the CEEC Executive Board in Paris.

1-2-3 December 2022: OIEC Congress on the Mare Nostrum, cradle of humanity, crossroads of civilisations and symbol of the world's dysfunctions. Registration and information are available [by following this link](#). This congress will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the OIEC.

5-6 December 2022 (arrival preferred on 4 December): Meeting of the 99th General Assembly of the CEEC in Marseille (France).

21-22 April 2023 (arrival preferred on 20 April): Meeting of the 100th General Assembly of the CEEC in Vilnius (Lithuania).

**The Secretariat of the CEEC wishes you a very good holiday
and a nice summer**



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