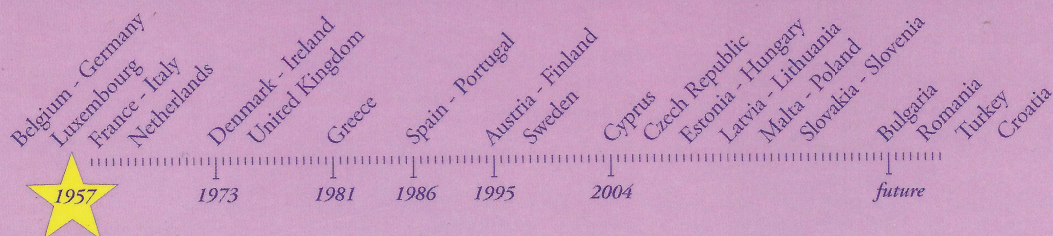


Jan De Groof & Gracienne Lauwers (eds.)

CULTURAL and EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS *in the* ENLARGED EUROPE



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in
the Enlarged Europe

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Jan De Groof

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Increasing Access to Education throughout European Society

Jan De Groof & Gracienne Lauwers	3
1. Introduction	3
2. The relevance of comparative education law	9
3. Equal opportunities in the competitive education environment	13
3.1 Rationalisation of education in the European Union	13
3.2 Securing the right to education	14
3.3 The difficulties associated with discrimination claims in the educational field	15
4. Providing a minimum education for all	16
4.1 Persons with disabilities	17
4.2 Educational access for minorities, vulnerable groups and marginalised groups	17
4.3 Access to independent/non-governmental/private educational institutions	19
4.4 The introduction of fees	20
5. Conclusion	20

Speeches

Forum 'Culture, Cultural Rights and Education in an Enlarged Europe'

Viviane Reding	27
1. Education and training	28
2. The 'Knowledge Europe', why?	30
3. The Process	31
4. External action	32
5. Conclusions	34

The State of Culture

Paul Van Grembergen	35
1. Culture as a fundamental right	36
2. The dilemma of the cultural policy	37
3. A cultural policy based on dialectics	38
4. 'C' and 'A' with a capital or lower case letter	39
5. A broad cultural policy	39

6.	The state of the heritage	39
7.	International cultural policy	40
7.1	The possibility for dialogue	41
7.2	International cultural politics	42
8.	A re-evaluation of socio-cultural work	42

Definition of 'Islam' and Challenges for Multi-culturalism

Emilio Platti		45
1.	The existential dimension of faith	46
2.	Religion as a global code of life	46
3.	Can 'Islam' remain a global code of life?	47
4.	'Political Islam'	47
5.	Conclusions	50

Europe's Values

Ernst Hirsch Ballin		53
1.	Three notions of a political union	54
2.	Conclusion	58
Addenda		59

Presentation of the Findings

Conclusions of Workgroup 1

Gracienne Lauwers	67
-------------------	----

Conclusions of Workgroup 2

Alexandra Angress & Robert Picht	71
----------------------------------	----

Proceedings

Cultural Rights in the European Union

Max van der Stoel		77
1.	The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	78
2.	The Hague Recommendations regarding the education rights of national minorities	80
3.	Present tensions regarding minority language education issues	82

4. The European Union and minority rights	84
5. Some final remarks	85
<hr/>	
Educational and Cultural Rights: An overview of UNESCO's Normative Action	
Kishore Singh	87
1. Introduction	87
2. Educational and cultural rights: UNESCO's mandate and normative action	88
2.1 Non-discrimination, equality of educational opportunities and freedom in education	89
2.2 Educational rights of teachers and cultural rights	90
2.3 Educational rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities	91
2.4 Right to participate in cultural life	93
2.5 Right to participate in scientific progress	94
2.6 Respect for cultural diversity and pluralism	95
3. Implementation and protection of educational and cultural rights	97
4. Promoting cultural rights through education	99
5. Challenges and perspectives	101
<hr/>	
The Concept of 'Minority'	
Marc Bossuyt	103
<hr/>	
Towards a European Cultural Identity	
George Schöpflin	107
1. Central Europe and the EU	110
2. A Central European synthesis?	113
<hr/>	
What are Europeans looking for?	
Jan Kerkhofs	115
<hr/>	
Promoting Continuing Learning in an Enlarged Europe	
Peter de Rooij	121

Prospects for European Citizenship

Michael O'Neill	125
1. Defining citizenship	125
2. Benchmarking citizenship: some working definitions	126
3. Citizenship in the EU: Beginnings	129
4. Developments	131
5. EU Citizenship after Maastricht: statutory rights, minimal duties, negligible affinities?	133
6. Latest developments: EU Citizenship status and the Draft Constitutional Treaty	138
6.1 Critique	138
6.2 The prospects for citizenship as identity	140
7. The Constitutional challenge and the prospect of EU citizenship: two broad theoretic narratives	141
8. A Reform agenda?	145
9. Envoi	149

National, Regional, European and Global: Fears and Hopes

Pavel Zgaga	151
-------------	-----

Europeanisation in Educational Policy and Recent Developments within the Bologna Process

Andrei Marga	157
--------------	-----

A European Constitutional Right to Culture and Education in a Pre-Accession Dimension and Post-Accession Reality?

Jeno Czuczai	167
1. Some preliminary remarks/questions to the title of this paper	167
2. The current regulatory environment for education and culture de lege lata as well as de lege ferenda in the EU?	168
3. Preparation for EU accession. The Experiences concerning the legal alignment process by the former candidates in the light of the Successfully concluded accession negotiations	173
4. Concluding remarks	176

A Provision for Cultural and Language Rights in the European Convention: An Outside Perspective

Fernand de Varennes	179
1. Introduction	179
2. Europe and the tensions of diversity	179

3.	<i>Plus ça change, plus c'est pareil</i> : has Europe truly embraced diversity?	180
4.	Acceptance of diversity and respect of human rights – yes, but...	182
5.	A deeper, diverse Europe: why not?	183
6.	Conclusion	184

The Linguistic Diversity within the European Union Enlargement Process

Bojan Brezigar		185
1.	The principle of democracy	185
2.	The facts	186
3.	The needs	187
4.	The dream	188
5.	The hope	189
6.	The fear	190
7.	The role of NGOs	190

Avoiding America's Mistakes

Charles L. Glenn		193
1.	Influence of the (misrepresented) Swedish experience	195
2.	Other policy pitfalls	201

European Constitutional Right to Culture, Education and Language Rights

Fernand de Varennes		205
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Multiculturalism in Australian Schools

David Ford		213
1.	Australia's progress towards a multicultural society	213
2.	What is Australian multiculturalism?	215
2.1	Responsibilities of all	216
2.2	Respect for each person	216
2.3	Fairness for each person	216
2.4	Benefits for all	216
2.5	Languages	216
2.6	Religions in Australia	217
3.	The Australian Constitution	217
4.	The Racial Discrimination Act 1975	218
5.	The New South Wales Constitution	220
6.	The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977	220
7.	Schools in Australia	221
8.	Education in New South Wales	222
9.	Principles of multicultural education in NSW	222

9.1	Building community in diversity	222
9.2	Ensuring equity in diversity	222
9.3	Maximising benefits of diversity	223
10.	The strategies of multicultural education in NSW	223
10.1	Building community in diversity	223
10.2	Ensuring equity in diversity	223
10.3	Maximising benefits of diversity	223
10.4	Teaching languages other than English	224
11.	Conclusion	224

Minority Rights in Education in Estonia

Jaan Ginter		227
1.	Current situation	227
2.	Critique of the situation	231
3.	Plans of reform	233
4.	International legal framework	234
4.1	UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education of 1960	234
4.2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	234
4.3	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	235
4.4	Convention on the Rights of the Child	236
4.5	The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	237
5.	Possible threats arising from the reform	238

Religion Education in England and Wales

Tim Kaye		241
1.	Introduction	241
1.1	Established religion	241
1.2	Devolved government	242
2.	Further and higher education	242
3.	Primary and secondary schools	244
3.1	The legal status of schools	244
3.2	Schools with religious character: 'faith schools'	246
3.3	School Organisation Committees	249
3.4	The significance of voluntary or foundation status	250
3.5	Employment of staff	252
3.6	Admission of pupils	253
3.7	School uniform	255
4.	Religious education and worship in maintained schools	258
4.1	Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education	258
4.2	Religious education	258
4.3	Collective worship	260
4.4	School inspections	261
5.	Conclusion: The democratic dilemma unresolved	263

A Conceptual Framework for Measuring Quality; The Robust Beauty of the Rationality Model

Jaap Scheerens	265
1. An input-process-outcome-context framework for assessing educational quality	265
2. The framework as a basis for defining different perspectives on education quality	269
2.1 The productivity view	269
2.2 The instrumental effectiveness view	270
2.3 The adaptation perspective	270
2.4 The equity perspective	271
2.5 The efficiency perspective	272
2.6 The disjointed view	273
3. From rational planning to growth from within; a critical analysis of the input-process-outcome-context framework	274
3.1 Rational planning as the proto-type of a dynamic application of the input-process-outcome-context framework	274
3.2 The pure rationality model: synoptic planning	275
3.3 Modifications based on relaxing the information requirements	277
3.4 Modifications based on relaxing the control implications	279
4. Conclusion: The merits of the input-process-outcome-context framework for analyzing educational quality revisited	282

The Institution of the University: The Perspective of the Discourse on the European Higher Education and Research Space

Marek Kwiek	287
1. Introduction	287
2. Towards the European Research Area	289
3. The effect of synergy: the Bologna process and the emergence of the common research area?	290
4. Radical transformations of European universities: towards a 'healthy and flourishing university world'	292
5. Universities and their stakeholders: towards maximizing the social return of the investment?	293
6. How the European Union became a key player in higher education policy: the Maastricht Treaty revisited	295
7. The Lisbon agenda and education. Responding to a 'quantum shift' towards knowledge-driven economy	297
8. The university and private funds, or investing efficiently in research and education	298
9. The heterogeneity of the European university landscape: the European post-communist transition countries in focus	300
10. Underlying assumptions: knowledge-based Europe has arrived	300

Recommendations

Recommendations of The European Cultural and Educational Forum

Bruges, Belgium, 18-24 November 2002

309

“If I were to begin again, I would begin with culture”, said Jean Monnet, the founding father of the European Economic Community. Robert Schuman, co-founder of the European Community of Coal and Steel, wrote in 1963: “Before becoming a military alliance or an economic entity, Europe has to be a cultural community in the highest sense of the Word.”

Nevertheless, the European Union is still seen by most citizens as a mere functional arrangement facilitating free trade and mutual co-operation. On the economy, the success of the single market is widely acknowledged. The European Community has also proven effective as a peace project – a framework within which national identities, and some of the conflicts they can generate, have been tempered by the consciousness of being European.

However, we have more to do on cultural diversity. Whereas the first responsibility for the realization of cultural and educational rights obligations still lies with the state, a prominent place to education and culture could be laid down in the constitutional Treaty whereby Governments could be held accountable for their performance in the field of cultural rights while at the same time elaborating a template for cultural co-existence with which citizens and states can identify.

The book contains the proceedings by scholars from various European Countries which were delivered at the European Cultural and Educational Forum in Bruges, 2002 and 2003, organized by the European Association for Education Law and Policy in cooperation with the College of Europe.

