CESE
NEWSLETTER 4

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Comparative Education Society in Europe
Association d'éducation comparée en Europe
Gesellschaft für Vergleichende Erziehungswissenschaft in Europa

La CESE Newsletter est le bulletin d'information officiel de l'Association d'Éducation Comparée en Europe, mais c'est aussi VOTRE newsletter. N'hésitez pas à nous envoyer des informations de valeur scientifique dans le domaine de l'éducation comparée, ou à nous soumettre des textes concernant des études intéressantes, des projets majeurs, des changements dans l'éducation comparée, curricula, des innovations de cours, promotions, etc... Envoyez-nous un aperçu de votre dernier article ou une copie du livre que vous avez publié récemment.

The CESE Newsletter is the official information bulletin of the Comparative Education Society in Europe, but it is also YOUR newsletter. Do not hesitate to send us any information of scientific value in the field of comparative education, or submit texts about any interesting studies, major projects, changes in comparative education curricula, new courses, promotions, etc... Send us an excerpt of your latest article or a copy of the book you have just published.


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AGENDA

9-13 April 1979
19th International Montessori Congress. in Amsterdam.
Theme : "Help the Child to shape Man's Future".

26-28 April 1979
Colloque international de l'Association française d'éducation comparée à Sèvres (Paris), France.
Theme: "L'influence des organisations internationales dans la définition des politiques nationales d'éducation.
Info: M. Auba - 1, av. Léon Journuit - F 92310 Sèvres - France.

25-29 June 1979
CESE Conference in Valencia
Theme: "The Inference of International Educational Research on National Educational Policies."

29-31 August 1979
Conference of the European Society for Engineering Education in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium).
Theme: "The first years in engineering education."
Info: M. G. Fragnière - 60, rue de la Concorde - B 1050 Brussels.

4-7 September 1979
Conference of the Association for Teacher Education in Europe, in Le Centre Culturel des Prémontrés, Pont-à-Mousson (Nancy), France.
Theme: "Evaluation of Teacher Education."
Info: M. G. Fragnière - 60, rue de la Concorde - B 1050 Brussels.

NEW CESE ACTIVITIES

The Comparative Education Society in Europe maintains, as many professional associations that are based on individual membership and that are not associated with a national or international administration, research institute or the like, a rather low level of activity. Members often have the impression that the bi-annual Conference, plus a Newsletter, are all it does and in fact they are not very far beside the truth. They may, for the rest, not realise that both matters Conference and Newsletter require a considerable amount of preparatory work and require occasional meetings between Chairman, Secretary and other involved persons. Besides, there is a surprising amount of correspondence with members to be handled, much of it closely related to their membership or to participation in the Conference, much of it of another nature: members and non-members, ask for information, addresses, or inform the Society about events, publications etc.

Nevertheless, it would probably improve the image and the respectability of the Society, if its academic activity could be intensified and if members and non-members were offered more than a two-year General Conference.

Several suggestions could be made and discussed at the Valencia Conference:
- Enrichment of the Newsletter not in order to make it into a comparative scientific journal in its own right - there are enough good comparative journals, at least in the English language - but in order to make it into a more lively and useful means of communication between comparative educationalists. This is precisely what the last issues of the Newsletter have set out to do. But one could, for example, enlarge the list of "books received" and make it into a book review section. The "coming events" section could be expanded and improved, provided information is available on time. There may be an interest in a "personal" section, giving news about new articles or books being taken up by members, there could be a research section, informing about ongoing research work. The problem is rather one of "embarras du choix" than of possible issues. And of course there is a problem of personal and financial resources.
- Building up a documentation service in Brussels. Space and staff time to be invested would have to be considered. Severe restrictions would anyway have to be imposed in terms of type of documentation that would be covered. Unless output is limited to what can be provided to interested members, such a documentation service may for the rest be of little use. My first impression is that this is not a viable proposal, but it should not be rejected out of hand.
- Seminars or workshops on comparative educational issues organised under the auspices of the CESE, of a more specialist nature than the bi-annual Conference. My feeling is that such a workshop or seminar held every two years, i.e. in the years in which no General Conference takes place, would fulfill a very useful function. Each of them could be organised by CESE in cooperation with the national sections or societies. It may be possible to get support from foundations or from national administrations if the theme appeals to the CESE financial commitment should remain very restricted, but some money will need to be spent if it is to be a CESE event, or a joint CESE-national section event.

An alternative could be that conferences of national sections are occasionally organised jointly with the CESE and jointly sponsored. This would make it possible for members outside the national sections could be encouraged, although, of course the national sections may not need CESE to achieve this goal (see the very successful way in which the French-speaking society, AFEC, turned its conferences into international events).

There has not been much occasion to discuss these suggestions with the CESE Committee and even less with other interested parties such as the national societies and sections. Their status is therefore strictly personal - as a chairman of the CESE I bring them to the attention of CESE members in view of discussion at the Valencia Conference.

It may be possible to coordinate one or more of these initiatives with other European associations that share with us the Brussels facilities. At a meeting next May the CESE will raise this issue with our colleagues and we will report on the outcome of these discussions to the June General Assembly.

Prof. Denis Kallen.

Prof. L. Van Gelder: doctor honoris causa!
On February 23, 1979, Dr. L. Van Gelder, Professor of General and Comparative Education at the State University of Groningen (The Netherlands) and member of the CESE, was promoted doctor honoris causa at the State University of Ghent (Belgium). We congratulate our colleague on this occasion.
THE 9th CESE CONFERENCE
JUNE 25 – 29, 1979

Organising Committee:
- Prof. Kalten, D., Chairman, CESE President, University of Amsterdam, Institute of Education, FEC, Paris.
- Prof. Castillejo Brull, J.L., Universidad Politecnica Valencia.
- Prof. Furter, P., Université de Genève.
- Prof. Marin Ibarz, R., Universidad Politecnica Valencia.
- Prof. Vandele, H., University of Ghent.

Working languages:
The Conference languages are English, French, German and Spanish. Abstracts and papers may be submitted in any of these languages. Simultaneous interpretation of all plenary sessions will be assured.

1. PLENARY SESSIONS will be on the following themes:
   - the impact of international policy assessments on national educational policies.
   - the internationalisation of education.
   - models and methods of educational planning.
   - regional policies for education in an international perspective.
   - international influences on developing countries' educational policies.

Speakers at plenary sessions will be:
- Dr. Blatt, Jimenez, Madrid
- Prof. Maurice Kogan, Brunel University
- Prof. Sixten Marklund, Stockholm
- Prof. Martin Carney, Berkley
- Dr. Jens Naumann, Berlin

2. WORKING GROUPS:
Each national society will organize three working sessions of two hours, during which the general theme of the conference will be analyzed from a particular angle:
- Deutsche Sektion: Vorschulerausbildung – Preschool Education
- AFEC: L'Influence des organisations internationales sur les politiques nationales de l'éducation.
- British Section: Lower secondary education, in particular its curriculum.
- Dutch-speaking society: Relations between educational policy and comparative educational research work.

3. OPEN SEMINARS:
It is planned to organise "open seminars" during which a limited number of papers can be presented.

CESE Members and prospective participants are invited to submit paper proposals to the Conference Secretariat before May 1st, 1979. The organizing Committee will group proposals under common themes, each of which will be the object of one of the "open seminars". Should the need arise, several "open seminars" could be organized simultaneously. Papers will have to be submitted well in advance.

4. MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION:
The Universidad Politecnica will provide lunches at reasonable prices. Detailed prices concerning hotel accommodation and provision for booking will be send to all CESE Members and can also be obtained on request. Please write to Prof. R. Marin Ibarz.

5. SOCIAL PROGRAMME:
It is intended to organise a social programme for persons accompanying participants.
Association with the Fondation Européenne de la Culture

The Fondation Européenne de la Culture has, for the current year, renewed its grant to the Comparative Education Society in Europe and raised the subsidy from Hf. 15,000 to Hf. 20,000 (Hf. 10,000 cash contribution and Hf. 10,000 secretarial services) (see the letter to me).

Although the principle of a renewal had been agreed upon quite some time ago, a final decision was taken on a yearly basis. As a Society we are deeply indebted to the Fondation for its considerable financial help. Looking back upon the way in which this close connection of the CESE with the Brussels office of the Fondation’s Institut d’Éducation in Brussels has worked out until now the optimistic expectations that justified the decision taken at the 1977 London Conference to agree to this joint venture have been fully met and any fears which might have existed here and there that this would imply a loss of independence for the CESE have in my view appeared unjustified.

The theoretical income from fees that we can expect in the current year is approx. 2,500 English Pounds or Hf. 10,000. In reality, it will probably be much lower. At the present rate of footing it will certainly not exceed 1,500 Pounds or Hf. 6,000. As compared with the Hf. 20,000 provided by our donor this puts the CESE in a somewhat embarrassing situation. It would be preferable if the proportions could be reversed, i.e. if our own income would be higher than the subsidy, all the more so as the latter comes from one single source. This could, however, not be done unless either of two conditions are met: either we should at least treble our membership, or the annual fee should be doubled or trebled (and, of course, all members should pay their fees). Both or perhaps all three conditions are unlikely to be fulfilled in the near future.

Any progress in either of the above directions, however, would help in mitigating the embarrassment that in my view attaches to the present situation.

It may be useful to explain why another solution of which some of our members may still dream does not pertain to the domain of realistic utopianism: the level of expenditure of the CESE cannot be further reduced. One single meeting a year of the CESE Committee in its present reduced composition and held somewhere "centrally" so travel is held at its cheapest possible costs, approx. Hf. 3,500 or more than half of a year's real fee income. The preparation of the Valencia Conference (one meeting of the preparatory committee in Paris last autumn, one of the CESE Committee in Valencia last February) would financially have been impossible if our Valencian colleagues had not generously taken upon them to finance most of the costs of these meetings. Each News-

At the General Assembly in Valencia next June the association with the Fondation Européenne de la Culture shall be discussed and evaluated. The financial implications of the arrangement should not be its most important aspect. They are, however, important. It is the wish of the Fondation that the associations being given hospitality in Brussels will in the long run become self-supporting. The above does not offer much of an alternative to the present financial dependence from the Fondation, but it is perhaps useful, if not indispensable information in view of the discussion at the General Assembly.

Denis B. P. Kallen, President CESE.

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Dear Professor Kallen,

We have the pleasure to inform you that the European Cultural Foundation, through its Institute of Education, is ready to renew its support to the Comparative Education Society in Europe for the current year 1979.

We propose the following terms for this support:

1. The Secretariat of the C.E.S.E. will continue to be located in the offices of the European Cultural Foundation in Brussels, 60 Rue de la Concorde.

2. The total grant for 1979 will amount to Dfl. 20,000, which will be allocated as follows:

- Cash contribution to the regular operating costs of your Society
  Dfl. 10,000.

- Secretarial services provided by the staff of our Institute of Education in Brussels (secretary-typist, supervision by senior staff member, participation in the office maintenance and miscellaneous secretarial expenses)
  Dfl. 10,000.

Total
  Dfl. 20,000.

As far as the details of this arrangement are concerned, the same rules as those prevailing during 1978 will also be applicable under the present grant.

Please return us the copy of this letter with your signature for approval.

We are glad to be able to continue our cooperation and remain yours faithfully,

Raymond GEHRIS
Secretary General
Jacques E. CHABERT
Administrative Director

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