

20 Years of ENTEP

The European Network on Teacher Education Policies (ENTEP) was formally launched at an International conference under the Portuguese Presidency, held in Loulé in 2000. Accordingly, this year ENTEP celebrates two decades of active cooperation among its ministers' representatives from most European member states on Teacher Education policies in Europe and the shared responsibility to foster the urgently needed innovation process in a rapidly changing world.

ENTEP's dedication to compare, discuss and reflect new approaches for more comparability considering the role of learning in the knowledge society today created an important condition for involvement, trust and cooperation despite all national differences and educational cultures.

As recent years have shown an increase of attention to evidence-based policymaking with the awareness that the quality of teachers is crucial and positively related with students' outcomes, it has always been considered a great chance that ENTEP members come from various fields of Teacher Education and policymaking in Europe. There are university professors and researchers as well as representatives of the Ministers of Education and the European Commission.

Today we are deeply thankful to our founding fathers and their vision to establish an advisory and reference group to foster and strengthen a trust building process of fruitful mutual exchange on themes in Teacher Education policymaking that are high on the European Agenda.

Learning from each other in an open minded and mindful collegial atmosphere is certainly an important precondition that all representatives are highly valuating. Thus, strengthening European Spirit and Thinking has always been of top priority in ENTEP's work. To name only one important contribution of ENTEP in the last years: the profile of "The European Teacher" received great attention and widespread responses throughout Europe.

Various European Cooperation Programmes like those of the European Commission complementing and supporting national arrangements of member states have been in particular focus within ENTEP'S work, while ENTEP also acted as a sounding board for the European Commission in many highlighted topics. In this context we would like to thank the support ENTEP has received from the European Commission over the years.

The success of our network naturally was and is closely linked to the dedication and commitment of each member and each representative's further initiative to disseminate ENTEP's work in their national professional contexts. We here would like to thank all former and current members who went out of their way to do so.

Even if we cannot celebrate ENTEP's 20th anniversary this year as planned, we will continue our work as usual and make up for our celebration as soon as possible. At this point, a special thanks goes to Susana Lopes and her team, who had already made all the arrangements to be able to celebrate ENTEP's anniversary at the place where it was founded and has already agreed to organize the celebration when a get-together will be possible again.

With this in mind, we wish you a lot of strength for this challenging time, good health and a positive view of the future.

For more details on ENTEP Conferences, publications and discussion papers, please visit: <https://www.entep.eu/index.php>
