



# PRESS RELEASE

## World Teachers' Day 2020 Teachers taking the lead: reimagining the future

On 5 October this year, perhaps more than ever before, people across the world thank and celebrate teachers for their huge contribution to our society. While many still struggle to make sense of what we have experienced in the months leading up to this year's World Teachers' Day, one truth is evident to all: teachers and other education personnel have risen to the many challenges they face to ensure that, even in the most adverse circumstances, their students are able to continue learning. In Europe, with a majority of education institutions closed for an extended period of time, a large part of education systems suddenly transitioned to remote teaching and learning. In this time, education continued due to the tireless efforts and resilience of teachers.

Many teachers in Europe experienced in the transition to virtual teaching a lack of digital training, connectivity problems and missing hard- and software. Teachers and their unions have been working hard to counter these shortcomings, and to ensure that all students, regardless of their means, can continue accessing quality education in this emergency situation. Taking the lead in fighting for healthy and safe education environments, decent working conditions, salaries and sustainable public funding throughout the pandemic and beyond, education trade unions focused on teachers' and students' safe return to schools while looking to ensure the long-term sustainability and attractiveness of the teaching profession.

ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education, and its member organisations stand together to support teachers across Europe as the pandemic continues to evolve, calling for sustainable public funding and support to teachers to overcome the crisis and reimagine the future. Teachers and other education personnel are the cornerstone of our society and we owe them our recognition and respect for their daily work, perseverance, and professionalism in these exceptional times of emergency.

Today and every day, ETUCE stands in solidarity with teachers across Europe and the world. Join us in the live broadcast of the education trade unions' celebration of [World Teachers' Day](#), featuring stories of teachers taking the lead, as well as education trade union leaders and policy leaders sharing their experience.

Find more experiences and good practices of [education trade unions taking the lead in Europe](#)



The **European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)** represents 127 Education Trade Unions and 11 million teachers in all countries of Europe, 4.2 million teachers in the EU, from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of **Education International**, the global federation of teacher unions.



