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Topics that currently concern school associations and schools in many countries in Europe



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The role of the civil society

- **State and public institutions**
- **Private enterprise and initiatives**
- **Civil society**

Importance of interaction between the three..



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What do we (ECNAIS) mean with independent school?

- **Primary**
- **Secondary**
- **Upper secondary**
- **Vocational (professional)**
- **After-school activities schools**
- **Art schools**
- **And more....**



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How are the schools regulated by national law?

- **The legislation is a part of the legislation for public schools**
- **The independent schools are regulated by own law**
- **The independent schools are nearly not regulated by educational law**



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How to create an independent school? How do you establish a school?

- **Is it a right to establish an independent school for school-funders?**
- **Is it an opportunity to establish an independent school for school-funders?**
- **Often several “types” of schools in one country with special rules for each type and entirely different legal framework (religious/non dominational)**



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How are the schools founded?

- **Foundations? Parents? State? Region? Municipality? Private investment? A combination?**
- **“Voucher”**



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Which of these freedoms do the legal frame allow?

- **Ideological freedom (values)**
- **Educational freedom**
- **Freedom to hire leader and personal**
- **Freedom to accept or reject pupils (with respect for rules for discrimination)**



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Criticism

Which criticism do you hear of the work of the independent schools?

In many countries the preconception is the independent schools are only for rich parents and do not assume social responsibility.

Advice: Be aware of the criticism – even when you think it is wrong.



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Where are the independent schools special strengths?

- **Values based education**
- **Clear vision**
- **The professionalism in leadership and educational work**
- **Short path from idea to action (non bureaucratic leadership)**
- **Near relations**



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What political parties support independent schools?