

ECNAIS

CONFERENCE / AGM

Athens, Greece

April 2016 - Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 April

Royal Olympic, 28-34 Ath Diakou Str.11743

www.royalolympic.com

The empowerment of society
through freedom of education

Political implications of the empowerment of society through freedom of Education: lessons from Portugal

Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo

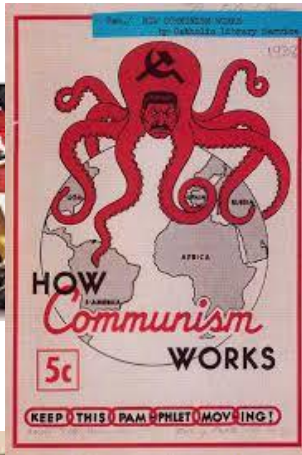
AEEP - Association of private schools (Portugal)



Ana Virgínia Pereira
marxist, Communist MP, teacher, mother



Rodrigo Melo
Catholic, CEO AEEP, teacher, father





Ana Virgínia Pereira
marxist, Communist MP, teacher, mother



Rodrigo Melo
Catholic, CEO AEEP, teacher, father

“Madame MP this is Freedom of Education:
You educate your child and I educate mine”

(Portuguese Parliament, february, 17th, 2016)



“The right to education, the freedom of parental school choice and the **freedom to establish schools** on the basis of self chosen religious, philosophical or pedagogical ideas are well known European values, e.g. mentioned as fundamental citizens’ rights within the EU”

(ECNAIS)

“**The State offers educational programmes in a subsidiary way,** supporting the parents in their indeclinable role; **parents themselves enjoy the right to choose freely** the kind of education – accessible and of good quality – which they wish to give their children in accordance with their convictions”

(Pope Francis - AMORIS LAETITIA - §96)



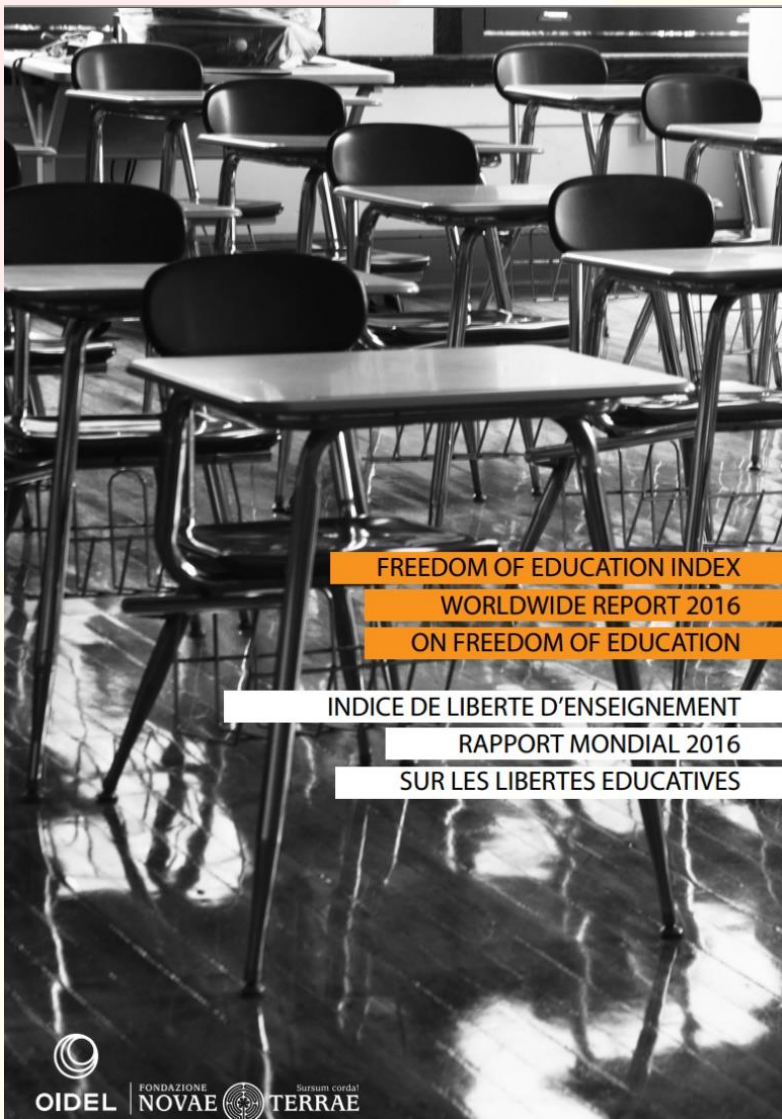
Civil society in education in europe

Distribution of students (% ISCED 1 - 3)

Country	Public	Private (State dependent)	Private (independent)	Private (total)
Netherlands	28,8*	70*	1,2 *	71,2*
Belgium (flemish Commu	37,3	62,7	na	62,7
Belgium (french com.and G	52,8	47,2	na	47,2
Malta	69,4	23,6	7,0	30,6
Spain	70,0	25,2	4,8	30,0
France	78,5	20,9	0,6	21,5
United Kingdom	78,7	15,8	5,5	21,3
Portugal	82,5	4,0	13,0	17,4
European Union	82,0	10,2	2,9	14,1
Denmark	86,5	13,1	0,4	13,5
Hungary	86,9	13,1	na	13,3
Luxembourg	86,7	5,0	8,3	13,3
Cyprus	87,5	na	12,5	12,5
Sweden	89,4	10,6		10,6

Distribution of students (% ISCED 1 - 3)

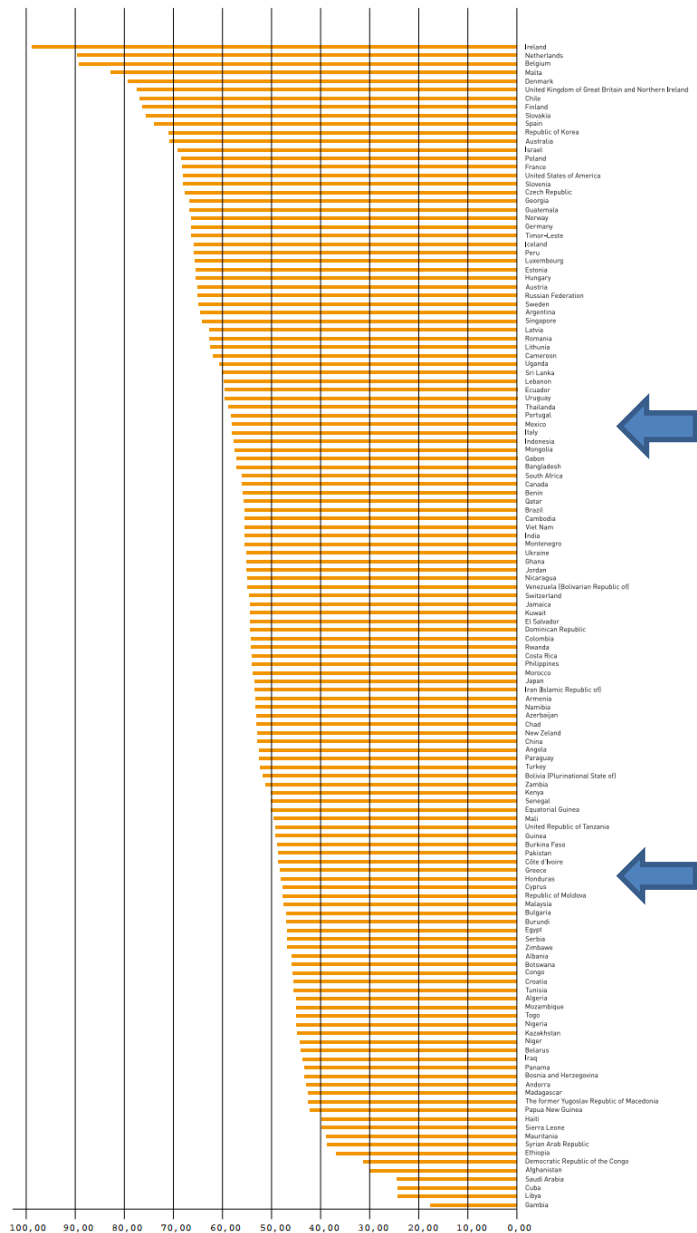
Country	Public	Private (State dependent)	Private (independent)	Private (total)
Slovakia	91,2	8,8		8,8
Iceland	91,4	8,5	0,1	8,6
Austria	91,6	8,4	na	8,4
Germany	92,9	na		7,1
Finland	93,0	7,0	na	7,0
Italy	93,1	1,3	5,6	6,9
Poland	93,6	1,0	5,4	6,4
Czech Republic	93,7	6,3		6,3
Greece	93,3	na	6,1	6,1
Switzerland	94,0	2,2	3,8	6,0
Norway	95,6	4,4	na	4,4
Estonia	96,3	na	3,7	3,7
Turkey	97,6	na	2,4	2,4
Bulgaria	97,7	na	2,3	2,3
Slovenia	98,4	0,9	0,7	1,6
Latvia	98,8	na	1,2	1,2
Romania	98,8	na	1,2	1,2
Lithuania	99,1	na	0,9	0,9
Ireland	99,4	na	0,6	0,6



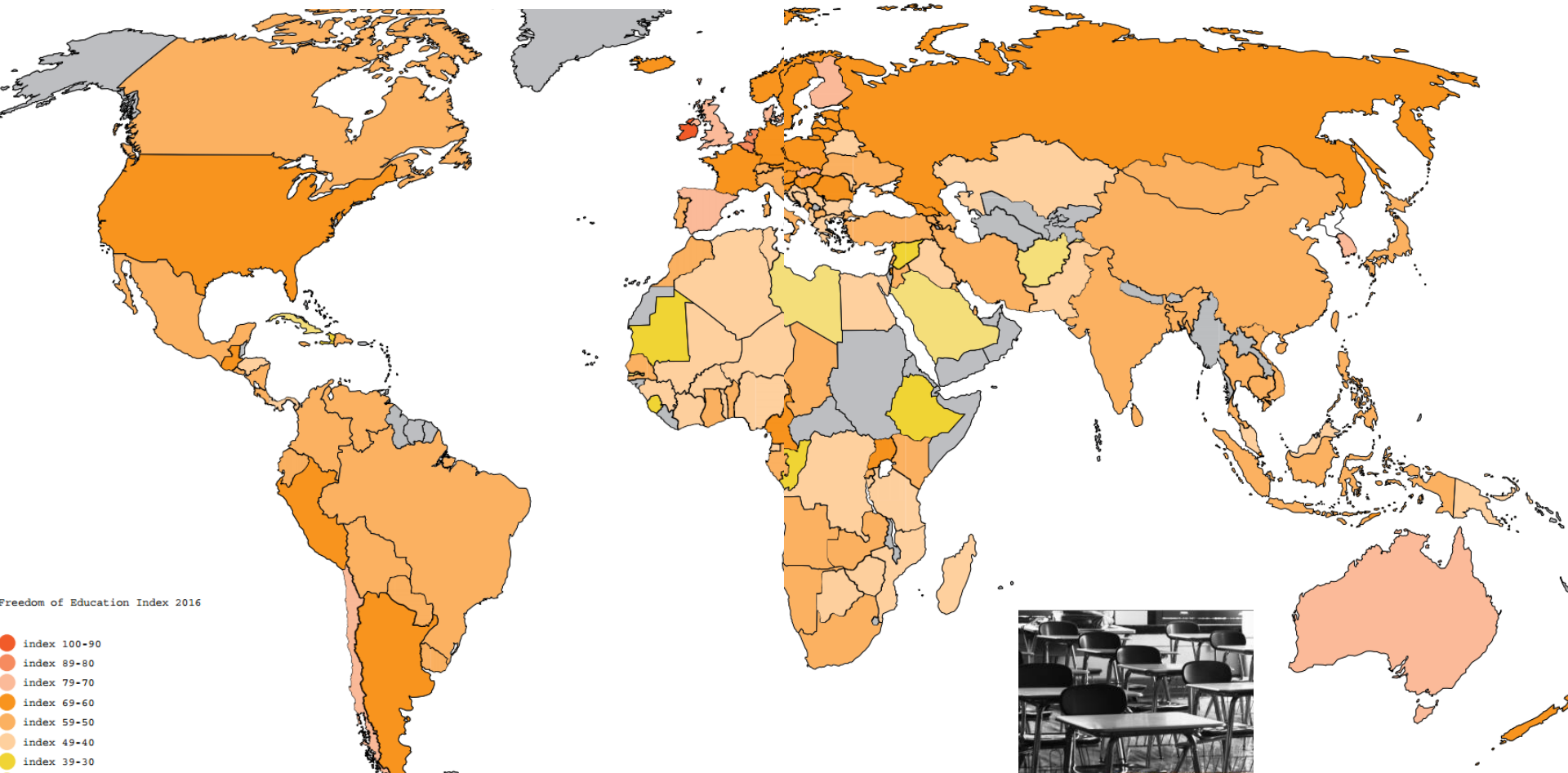
**FREEDOM OF EDUCATION INDEX
WORLDWIDE REPORT 2016
ON FREEDOM OF EDUCATION**

**INDICE DE LIBERTÉ D'ENSEIGNEMENT
RAPPORT MONDIAL 2016
SUR LES LIBERTÉS EDUCATIVES**

Graphic 1 - Overall Index
Graphique 1 - Indice global

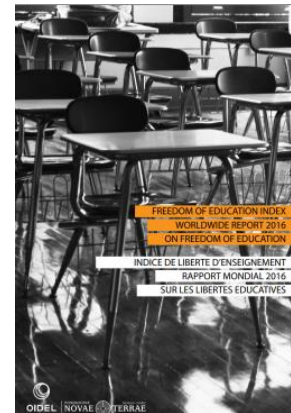


Civil society in education in the world



Freedom of Education Index 2016

- index 100-90
- index 89-80
- index 79-70
- index 69-60
- index 59-50
- index 49-40
- index 39-30



What do these two men have in common?



António Costa – Portuguese PM

Alexis Tsipras – Greek PM

What do these two men have in common?

Both are Prime Minister of their countries

Both have (need) strong support from left wing (radical) teacher unions

Both lead governments that (by themselves or their allies) have attacked or threatened to attack private schools

So, when it comes to private schools...

António Costa – Portuguese PM

Alexis Tsipras – Greek PM

Political dynamics and lessons from Portugal

Who we are (2016)

School owners

For profit	Individuals	4%	45%
	Comercial companies	41%	
Not for profit	Cooperatives	6%	55%
	Solidarity institutions	6%	
	Foundations	4%	
	Associations	14%	
	Religious entities	25%	

Types of schools

Religious: Catholic, Protestant, Muslim

Arts: music, dance, visual arts

Vocational training

Special education

Academic track

ECNAIS

K - 12

Size of schools

(number of students/school)

≤ 50	9%	55%
51 – 100	25%	
101 – 200	21%	37%
201 – 300	13%	
301 – 400	7%	
401 – 600	9%	
601 – 800	6%	
801 – 1000	2%	8%
≥ 1001	8%	

% PT students in private schools (2014)

K	46%
1 to 4	12%
5 + 6	12%
7 to 9	12%
10 to 12	21%

Presented in april 2013 (the Hague)



Threats:

Left wing anti-private ideology

(13,18% PCP + BE / 28,08% PS / 38,65% PSD / 11,7% CDS-PP)

Financial crisis and unemployment of parents

Opportunities:

Centre right majority in Parliament + Government (51,4%)

State schools *problematic* (parents opt to pay)

Fiscal consolidation (private cheaper)

Threats Legal Financial

New Legal Framework for Private Schools (november 2013):

- **Autonomy;**
- **Accountability** through student assessment in the end of each study cycle (years 4, 6, 9 and 12)
- **Information** for an informed choice by parents
- 100% financing for choice not dependant on inexistence of State schools

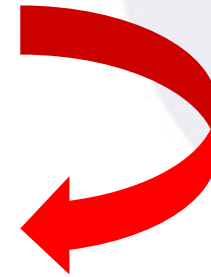
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Threat:

Left wing anti-private ideology

(13,18% PCP + BE / 28,08% PS / 38,65% PSD / 11,7% CDS-PP)

General election october 2015



became reality:

Left wing anti-private ideology + POWER

(18,44% PCP + BE / 32,31% PS / 36,86% PSD + CDS-PP)

Curious fact:

7.281.887 portuguese residents say they are catholics (85% pop.) (Census 2011)

2.744.557 voters in the 3 parties that support the government (general elections 2015)

Political dynamics of the attacks on private schools (PT)



Left wing

No vote is gained for attacking private schools.

Voters expect this.

Will any vote be lost if no attack is done?

No

Centre left

No vote is gained for attacking private schools.

Voters expect this.

Will any vote be gained or lost for not attacking? And for not protecting?

No. No

Centre right

No vote is gained for attacking private schools.

Voters don't expect this.

Will any vote be lost for attacking? And for not protecting?

Might be

No

Right

No vote is gained for attacking private schools.

Voters don't expect this.

Will any vote be lost for not protecting?

Might be

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No vote is gained

Attacks on private schools do not originate in the voters

They are part of a social dynamic in the field of
education: left wing unions

This social dynamic has influence on the power
dynamics within political parties

So, party members act and this dynamic finds its way to
parliament/government

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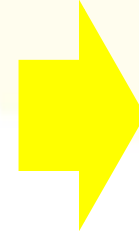
Right

No vote is gained for attacking private schools.
Voters don't expect this.
Will any vote be lost for not protecting?

Dynamics of the attacks against private schools



Strong attacks + uprise



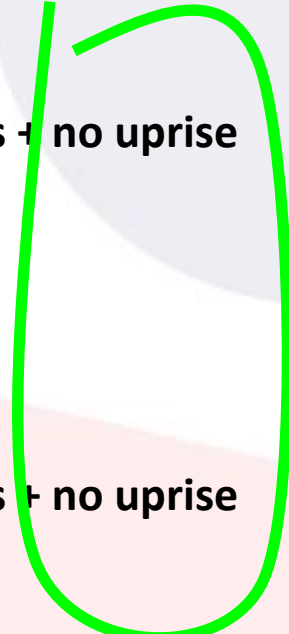
Gentle attacks + no uprise



Gentle attacks + no uprise



Attacks + uprise



“Loud” uprising 2011: the street





PARTIDO COMUNISTA PORTUGUÊS
Grupo Parlamentar

Projeto de Resolução n.º 61/XIII-1ª

Por uma Escola Pública que cubra as necessidades de toda a população

Consagra a Constituição da República Portuguesa (CRP), no seu artigo 75.º, a responsabilidade do Estado criar uma “rede de estabelecimentos públicos de ensino que cubra as necessidades de toda a população”.



“From school year 2016/2017, end all association contracts with private schools in the vicinity of public [state] schools”

“During 2016, invest in public [state] K-12 schools so to gradually extinguish simple and development contracts that support families in private schools”



Bloco de Esquerda
Grupo Parlamentar

PROJETO DE RESOLUÇÃO Nº 56/XIII/1.ª

**RACIONALIZAÇÃO DOS CONTRATOS DE ASSOCIAÇÃO COM O ENSINO
PRIVADO GARANTIDO A PROTEÇÃO DA ESCOLA PÚBLICA**

Foi recentemente divulgado o resultado da auditoria ao setor da Educação promovida pelo Tribunal de Contas (TC), no âmbito do “acompanhamento dos mecanismos de assistência financeira a Portugal” durante a intervenção da *troika*, que veio traduzir em números a realidade que o país já conhecia: os últimos anos foram de estrangulamento e destruição da Escola Pública. Num período de cinco anos o sistema da educação pública

“In accordance with the principle of complementarity, progressively extinguish association contracts were public [state] exist and are underenroled”

“During 2016, make a plan to create a public [state] network of arts schools in order to extinguish the patronage contracts”

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CONFERENCE / AGM

Edinburgh, Glasgow

April 2016, Thursday 24 to Saturday 16 April

World Education, 20-24 All Saints Dublin 10, D11 7A2

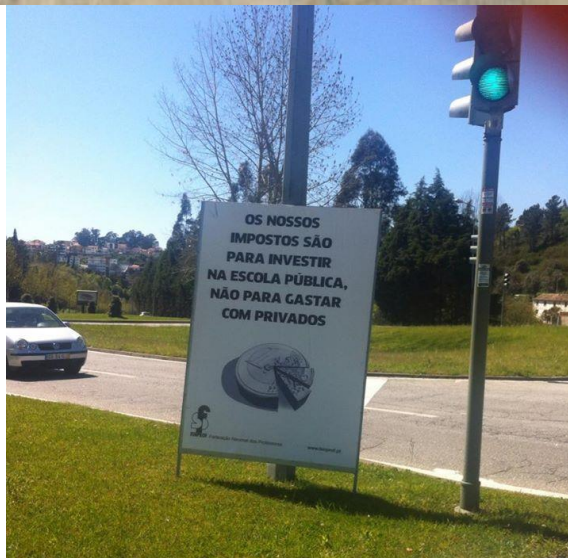
www.ecnaeis.com

The empowerment of society
through freedom of education

“Democratic” uprising 2016: the message

- Memos with common message + a lot of numbers
- Memos with “how to contact” members of parliament
- Petitions to Parliament (heads of schools + **teachers + non teaching staff + parents**)
- **hundreds of e-mails to centre left MP**
- Meetings with political groups within Parliament
- Informal meetings with Members of Parliament
- Meetings with politicians at the municipal level

The fight goes on (radical left union conditioning the government)...



“Our taxes are for investment in public education, not for spending with private schools”

National Federation of Teachers

United we stand!



European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

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ECNAIS » News » Open letter to the Greek Government, the Greek Parliament, the Greek Political Parties and the Greek Mass Media and the Press.

News

Open letter to the Greek Government, the Greek Parliament, the Greek Political Parties and the Greek Mass Media and the Press.

Posted on March 31st, 2016
by

The Hague, 29 March 2016

ECNAIS is a NGO, which enjoys consultative status with the European Commission and the European Council. ECNAIS is a non-political, non-religious, international union of national associations of independent schools all over Europe, which supports pluralism and decentralization in the national education systems as a means of empowering society, and the parental right of choice of school as this is described in article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Right of the Citizens of the EU.

This open letter is intended to express our grave concerns over the proposed legislation by the Greek Ministry of Education, known as article 40, which if implemented will seriously curtail pluralism and educational freedom within the Greek Education System, will increase centralization, will practically negate the effectiveness of Greek Private Schools and lastly will seriously reduce the educational choices offered to parents.

We understand the proposed Article 40 stipulates the following:

Articles 1 & 2. Prohibit private schools from being providers of informal education and extra-curricular programs. Informal education classes for students and foreign language classes outside the compulsory standard Ministry of Education.

Tuesday 26 January 2016
from 17.00 to 19.00 hrs
Room A1E.2
European Parliament
Brussels

Public Hearing on the
**Right to Education:
Freedom of parental Choice**

Hosted by **Nuno Melo** MEP (EPP Group)
and **Andrew Lewer** MEP (ECR Group)

NATIONAL School Choice WEEK
JANUARY 24-30, 2016

LIBERDADE DE ESCOLHA DA ESCOLA

Register Your School 2015

Hungarian Association of Private Schools meet with ECNAIS chairman and treasurer

On 8 and 9 May 2015 the ECNAIS executives Simon Steen and Per Kristensen visited Budapest as invitees of the Hungarian Association of Private Schools (AME, www.maganiskolak.hu). Upon the request of Mr. György Horn, chairman of the Association, they were received by the State Secretariat of Education. Simon Steen and Per Kristensen were accompanied by Zsofi Bak, vice-chair and executive director of AME and representative in ECNAIS' MCM.... [Read](#)

Posted on May 22nd, 2015
by

LIBERDADE DE ESCOLHA DA ESCOLA
Parlamento Europeu

ECNAIS

CONFERENCE / AGM
Athens, Greece
April 2016, Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 April
Event Calendar: 28-30 Am October 2015
www.ecnaismcm.com

The empowerment of society,
through freedom of education

“We, **socialists**, should **fight for free schools**, schools promoted by private and communitary initiatives. Freedom *at* school is only possible if the **schools are free from State control** (...) We should fight for free schools and conquer the **freedom to create *our* school**. **Catholics** will do the same where they are a majority; who has more thread will sow more cloth”

Gramsci “Il grido del popolo”, 1918