Hearing Right to Education: Freedom of Parental Choice

School autonomy and school values: religion, pedagogical concepts and philosophical approaches

European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
24 January 2017
Summary

• Ethos

• Autonomy

• Values: religion, pedagogical concepts and philosophical approaches
ETHOS
Ethos (ˈiːθəs/ or US ˈiːθoʊs/) is a Greek word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology.
ECNAIS vision

It is our vision that Independent Schools are perceived as:
Socially responsible and value based entrepreneurs in education;
Leading to bottom-up innovation in education;
Having a strong connection to the community as a whole;
Responsive to the new demands of the modern society;
Proactive towards the growing diversity in society;
Promoters of strong social cohesion, stimulating integration.

Strategy plan 2012-2016
In 1982, Peter Mason, the former High Master of Manchester Grammar School, initiated the founding of ECNAIS.


The European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools, ECNAIS, is an international association for collaboration between national associations of independent schools in European countries.

In 1982, the former High Master of Manchester Grammar School, Peter Mason, already retired, visited a number of Associations of Independent schools in Europe. These visits revealed how very little contact and knowledge national associations of independent schools had of their counterparts in other countries. Consequently, in 1988, Peter Mason initiated the founding of ECNAIS.

To bring together national associations of independent schools in European countries.

To assist its members in promoting understanding of the rights of pluralism in the national systems, of education and of parental choice of education for their children and of the vital role of independent schools in a modern democratic society.

To further the interests of all kinds of independent education, confessional and lay, whose principles conform to those set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When so requested, to make agreed representation to the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Union Commission and other international organisations on matters of joint concern.

To assist its members in promoting understanding of the rights of pluralism in the national systems of education, and of parental choice of education for their children and of the vital role of independent schools in a modern democratic society.
AUTONOMY
“what the arrangements for the provision of schooling tell us about how each country conceives the role of the State and Society in Educating the young and thus is shaping the future.”
On skills ....

We will offer examples from our experience but we would rather present an approach to skills and skill acquisition on conceptual, belief and emotional level that might be different to mainstream and is meant to challenge some of the modern myths about education and skills.
Thank you
www.ecnais.org
Historical institutionalism (HI) is a new institutionalist social science method that uses institutions to find sequences of social, political, economic behaviour and change across time. It is a comparative approach to the study of all aspects of human organizations and does so by relying heavily on case studies.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_institutionalism
Sources and resources

- **Eurydice**
  

- **European Union**
  
  http://europa.eu/
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union

- **Data**
  
  http://www.pordata.pt/en/
  http://data.uis.unesco.org/

**Experts studying Educational systems and comparing**

Charles Glenn (Boston University)
Jan De Groof (University of Antwerp)

Last but not least:

www.ecnais.org