

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Third Annual Meeting of Editors of  
National Surveys of Educational Research

Strasbourg, 27-28 February 1975

DRAFT REPORT

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The editors of national surveys of educational research in Member States participating in the project meet regularly to co-ordinate the surveys. The first meeting was held at Strasbourg on 29-30 March 1973 (see document DECS/Rech (73) 16 rev.0 and the second on 7-8 February 1974 (see document DECS/Rech (74) 16 rev.). The third annual meeting took place at Strasbourg on 27-28 February 1975. The meeting was chaired by the Secretariat. The list of participants is given in Appendix A and the Agenda in Appendix B.

## II. THE 1973/74 NATIONAL SURVEYS

2. A brief report on the present situation and the future prospects was given for each of the 15 countries represented. The reports may be summarised as follows.

Austria: The 1973/74 survey to be published jointly by the Ministries of Education and of Science at present with the printers. Some 200 projects covering both on-going and completed research. German and English versions. Indexed with the EUDISED thesaurus and where necessary with the Thesaurus Pädagogik. Computer access at the Austrian School Data Centre (Schulrechenzentrum) expected from mid-1975 onwards; the 1975/76 survey, which will be based on the EUDISED worksheet, could therefore be computer processed in Austria.

Belgium: The 1971/72 survey having been published only for the French-speaking part of the country by the corresponding Education Ministry, and reorganisation in this Ministry having made it impossible to continue this activity for the present, the whole question is under study in the Education Ministries of both language regions.

Denmark: The 1973/74 survey to appear by mid-1975, English version only, some 50 projects covering both on-going and completed research. Indexed with the EUDISED thesaurus. Published by Denmark's Educational Library, Copenhagen.

Finland: The 1973 survey published in English and Finnish; 162 projects. The 1974 survey will be published in two volumes, one containing on-going and the other completed research. It will appear in both English and Finnish. The first volume of the Finnish edition is at present available. Whereas indexing was before on the basis of the ERIC thesaurus, since 1973 the EUDISED thesaurus has been used. The surveys are published by the Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä.

France: The 1973/74 survey, French version, is at present being completed. As was the case with the 1971/72 survey, it contains

only on-going research. Some 150 projects. EUDISED thesaurus. Published jointly by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Institut National de la Recherche et de la Documentation Pédagogiques (INRDP).

Federal Republic of Germany: As the collation of data for the 1973/74 survey is at present being completed, the survey will appear in the course of 1975. Some 150 projects. Only one language version (German), titles will be translated into English and the EUDISED descriptors given in English, French and German. Published by the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Laender, Bonn.

Ireland: A survey of on-going and completed research for the period 1971-74 is at present being prepared by the Education Ministry. Some 40 projects. EUDISED thesaurus.

Italy: Full participation in the project remains under study.

Netherlands: The 1973/74 survey to appear in the course of 1975, English version only. Some 160 projects of on-going and completed research. EUDISED thesaurus. Publisher: Dutch Foundation for Educational Research, The Hague.

Norway: English version of 1973/74 survey to appear shortly. Some 60 projects covering both on-going and completed research. EUDISED thesaurus. Publisher: National Council for Innovation in Education, Oslo.

Spain: .. Full participation in the project still under study.

Sweden: 1973/74 survey published in both English and Swedish. Some 160 projects covering both on-going and completed research. EUDISED thesaurus and where necessary descriptors from the ERIC thesaurus. Published by the National Library for Psychology and Education, Stockholm.- There are furthermore the newsletters which give detailed reports on individual research projects and are published by the two national agencies, namely the Board of Education and the Office of the Chancellor of the Swedish Universities. The catalogue of Swedish Behavioural Science Research 1974 containing some 750 titles, Swedish only, is to appear shortly.

Switzerland: A committee of experts has recently been set up by the Federal Department of the Interior and by the Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education to investigate the field of educational research documentation/information and to make recommendations. The questionnaire at present used in the German- and French-speaking parts of the country comprises the Council of Europe questionnaire and further questions added for national purposes. On the basis of the replies received to the questionnaire it is intended to publish continuous information on

individual research and development projects and to produce annual cumulations. This continuous information (news-letter) will from April 1975 onwards be distributed to some 500 addressees, of whom 400 are in Switzerland, and will cover some 100 on-going and completed research projects per year. Those parts of the replies to the questionnaire concerning statistical and financial data will be computer processed in the course of 1975 in Switzerland. In the years to come it is intended to computer process the complete replies. The EUDISED thesaurus with descriptors in English, French and German will be used. All publications will be in German and French and will for the time being be issued for the German-speaking region by the Swiss Co-ordination Bureau for Educational Research, Aarau, and for the French-speaking region by the Institut Romand de Recherche et de Documentation Pédagogiques, Neuchâtel. The new system will apply to the 1973/74 and subsequent surveys.

Turkey: The 1973/74 survey in English and Turkish will soon be published by the Planning and Co-ordination Office of the Education Ministry. Some 50 projects of on-going and completed research. EUDISED thesaurus.

United Kingdom: Documentation and information on educational research is centred with the National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales (NFER), the Scottish Council for Research in Education (SCRE) and the Northern Ireland Council for Educational Research. At the NFER a register of on-going and completed research with some 1500 project entries has been set up. The EUDISED thesaurus is being used for indexing. At present a study is being carried out on how best to use this register. At the SCRE a study on retrieval problems was funded by the Scottish Department of Education and has been published (John L. Powell: Information retrieval in the field of education, a report on the SCRE information retrieval feasibility study.- SCRE 1974.- Distributed to participants in the meeting.)). A news-letter service giving detailed reports on individual research projects has recently been established at the NFER and exists also at the SCRE.

[- The bibliographic list of the National Surveys as published at the time of the meeting is appended: document DECS/Rech (74) 5 bil. final + addendum 7

3. The agreements on the surveys reached at the 1974 meeting (see document DECS/Rech (74) 16 rev.) were re-examined. It was found that no modifications were necessary. As for the common mailing list on the basis of which the surveys should be distributed free of charge, it was agreed that each country should revise its list, if necessary, and send the revised version to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The layout of

the revised national contributions to the list should allow for duplication by photocopy, following the example of the Swedish list circulated at the meeting. The new national lists will be distributed by the Secretariat to the editors in master-copy form ready for photocopying.

### III. THE 1975/76 NATIONAL SURVEYS

4. The Secretariat reported on the development of the EUDISED project, in particular in the field of educational research and development since the 1974 meeting of the editors. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities gave an account of the proposed co-operation between the Commission and the Council of Europe in the EUDISED project. The implications of these new developments for the surveys were discussed in great detail. It was agreed that - if the new system became operational as from 1976 onwards - the following procedure might be applied:

- The national agencies responsible for information on educational research and development would use their national questionnaires containing as a minimum requirement the items of the EUDISED R & D worksheet, and would, on the basis of the information thus collected, complete EUDISED R & D worksheets for the on-going and completed research projects (including any pilot projects). The completed worksheets would be transmitted to the central agency which would check them for conformity with the EUDISED thesaurus and format requirements and process them. The computer printouts would be sent to the national agency concerned for offset reproduction in the form of national EUDISED R & D Bulletins to be issued at regular intervals.
- At the request of a national agency the central agency would provide annual cumulations, with author and descriptor indexes, of the input received from the former. The cumulation would take the form of a computer printout for offset printing. The annual national surveys would thus be continued.
- National R & D news-letters giving more detailed information on individual on-going and in particular completed research projects should as far as possible be published from 1976 onwards by each national agency in the national language and/or in either English or French, and should be distributed at home and abroad. The distribution abroad should be based on the common mailing list. It was emphasized that the involvement of decision-makers, teachers, administrators, etc. in the educational research and development domain could be greatly promoted by such news-letters. The meeting was unanimous in recognising the value of such news-letters.

- Those national agencies which had computer access would send their tapes to the central agency for further processing and for exchange with other national agencies having computer access.

These questions would be examined further at the 1976 annual meeting of editors in the light of experience gained.

5. In this context the following supplementary agreements were reached:

- The Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information would meet on 3-4 July 1975 in Paris to revise the EUDISED R & D worksheet and the corresponding instructions in the light of the discussion. The Secretariat would thereafter distribute the modified worksheet and instructions to the editors.
- As a rule the abstracts on the worksheets would contain the EUDISED descriptors within slashes in the text itself. However, national agencies would, if they so wished, have the possibility to insert the EUDISED descriptors in a new special field of the worksheet.
- A further special field would be provided on the worksheet for supplementary descriptors to be taken from e.g. the ERIC Thesaurus or the Thesaurus Pädagogik, if necessary. The adoption of such descriptors in a revised version of the EUDISED Thesaurus would be a matter for later decision.
- Any country should have the right to use its own language for the abstracts. However, it was strongly emphasized that communication would be greatly facilitated if the abstracts were also written in either English or French. The EUDISED descriptors which exist at present in English, French and German, and will become available also in Spanish and Dutch, should be given at least in both English and French.
- It was recommended that the problems of retrieval should be examined at a meeting or workshop and thereafter be followed up by a study to be commissioned from one or more experts.

#### IV. NEXT MEETING

6. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of editors on 25-26 May 1976 at Strasbourg.

The meeting rose on 28 February 1975 at 1 p.m.

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A P P E N D I X    A  
A N N E X E    A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Dr. H. SCHWANDA  
Bundesministerium für Unterricht und Kunst  
Minoritenplatz 5  
1010 WIEN

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE

M. J. HEENE  
Leeuw van Vlaanderenlaan 13  
9950 WAARSCHOOT

DENMARK/DANEMARK

Mr. R. HELLNER  
Chief Librarian  
Danmarks Paedagogiske Bibliotek  
Lersø Parkalle 101  
2100 KØPENHAGEN Ø

FINLAND/FINLANDE

Mr. S. TAKALA  
Head of Department of Information and  
Documentation at the Institute for  
Educational Research  
University of Jyväskylä  
Seminaarinkatu 15  
40100 JYVASKYLÄ 10

FRANCE

M. C. BONNEFOI (excusé)  
Institut National de Recherche et de  
Documentation pédagogiques  
PARIS

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY/  
REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE D'ALLEMAGNE

Regierungsdirektor Dr. HASEMANN  
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft  
Stresemannstrasse 2  
53 BONN-BAD GODESBERG

Oberregierungsrat Dr. H. ROCHE  
Sekretariat der Kultusministerkonferenz  
Nassestrasse 8  
53 BONN

IRELAND/IRLANDE

Mr. W. J. HYLAND  
Department of Education  
Baile Atha Cliath 1  
DUBLIN 1

ITALY/ITALIE

Madame M. CORDA COSTA  
Professeur  
Institut de Pédagogie  
Faculté de Magistère de l'Université de Rome  
Via Teodorico 22  
ROME

Dr. G. VELARDO  
Directeur de la Division du Bureau  
d'Etudes et Programmation du  
Ministère de l'Instruction Publique  
ROME

NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS

Drs. J. L. E. M. SCHULTZ  
Stichting voor onderzoek van het onderwijs  
Jan van Nassaustraet 19  
DEN HAAG

NORWAY/NORVEGE

Mr. R. KRISTIANSEN  
P.A. Homswei 2/B  
OSLO II

SPAIN/ESPAGNE

M. J. RODRIGUEZ-ARAMBERRI  
INCIE  
Ciudad Universitaria  
MADRID

SWEDEN/SUEDE

Miss E. EKMAN  
Chief Librarian at Psykologisk-pedagogiska biblioteket  
PO Box 23 099  
104 35 STOCKHOLM 23

SWITZERLAND/SUISSE

M. B. KEHRLI  
Centre suisse de documentation et de recherche  
en matière d'enseignement et d'éducation  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
1211 GENEVE 14



SWITZERLAND/SUISSE (continued/suite)

M. J. COMBES  
Chef du service de la documentation  
Institut romand de recherches et de documentation  
pédagogiques  
Faubourg de l'Hôpital 43  
2000 NEUCHÂTEL

M. A. GRETHER  
Secrétaire du Centre de coordination  
pour la recherche en matière d'éducation  
Entfelderstrasse 61  
5000 AARAU

TURKEY/TURQUIE

M. I. ÖZGENTAS  
Millî Egitim Bakanligi  
Planlama-Arastirma ve  
Koordinasyon Dairesi Uzmani  
Bahcelievler  
ANKARA

UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI

Mrs. J. FOSKETT  
National Foundation for Educational Research  
The Mere  
Upton Park  
SLOUGH  
Bucks

Mr. A. MACGREGOR  
Department of Education and Science  
Sheraton House  
Great Chapel Street  
LONDON W1V 4BH

Mr. J. POWELL  
Assistant Director  
Scottish Council for Research in Education  
16 Moray Place  
EDINBURGH 3

Mr. M. J. TYERMAN  
HM Inspector  
109 Cassiobury Drive  
WATFORD  
Hertfordshire WD1 1AA

MEMBRES DU BUREAU DU COMITE POUR LA  
DOCUMENTATION ET L'INFORMATION PEDAGOGIQUES

M. J. VIET  
Directeur  
Service d'échange des informations scientifiques  
Maison des Sciences de l'Homme  
54 Boulevard Raspail  
75270 PARIS CEDEX 06

Mr. B. GRAN  
Department of Educational and Psychological Research  
School of Education  
Pack 200  
45 MALMO 23

Mr. J. LINFORD  
British Library Planning Secretariat  
Africa House  
Kingsway  
LONDON WC2B 6BD

Mr. W. F. DE REGT  
Department of Documentation  
Ministry of Education and Sciences  
Nieuwe Uitleg 1  
THE HAGUE

Dr. K. SPANGENBERG  
Pädagogisches Zentrum  
Uhlandstrasse 96-97  
1 BERLIN 31

OBSERVER/OBSERVATEUR

M. J. M. GIBB  
DG XIII  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
29 rue Aldringen  
LUXEMBOURG

SECRETARIAT

Mr. B. von MUTIUS  
Chef de la Division de la Documentation  
et de la Recherche pédagogiques

Mme B. BJÖRNBERG-PARDO  
Documentaliste

Melle C. PARVE  
Documentaliste

A P P E N D I X    B

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Reports by participants on the present situation and the development prospects concerning the National Surveys in each member State represented  
  
/See also bibliographical list of National Surveys as at early 1974, document DECS/Rech (74) 5 bil. final/
4. Co-ordination of the National Surveys with particular regard to matters not settled at the second annual meeting  
  
/See report on second annual meeting document DECS/Rech (74) 16, Section III, and European mailing list document DECS/Inf (74) 7 with two addenda/
5. Further development of the National Surveys in connection with the EUDISED project  
  
/See documents DECS/Inf (75) 1 and DECS/Doc (74) 22/
6. Any other business