



European Forum on Educational Administration
Forum Européen des Administrateurs de l'Éducation

Newsletter Winter 2014

Editorial

Dear friends,

As we approach the end of the year, it is timely to reflect on those things that have occupied our professional thoughts and actions over the last twelve months. This year, much of my time has been spent as Chair of Governors in two schools, helping and challenging their leaders to build their school's capacity for excellence. Sometimes, it has felt as though current educational policy is stacked against schools in challenging circumstances, where it is imperative that teachers spend their time to ensure that pupils feel safe, cared for and valued. This surely is the minimum necessary for a child to be in the right frame of mind to learn. Some of the pupils in the schools I have been working with face unspeakable difficulties, on a day to day basis. We need to make sure that our political leaders and policy makers do not fail our most vulnerable and challenged pupils and their families.

As I ponder on the impact of educational policy as it is translated into practice, it is good to know that I have friends and colleagues across Europe with whom I can exchange ideas, experiences and reflections. This demonstrates the value of EFEA in practice. As our educational systems become more diverse and fragmented, I think that it will become increasingly important for us to build on our existing links and to strengthen them. This in turn will help us to build up a good understanding of effective educational

policy and practice across Europe - and work together for better education for all pupils.

2015 will be an important year for EFEA. We are looking to all our members to renew their links and commitment, and to collaborate in a shared plan for the future that will enable us to move forward confidently. Over the last year, we have renewed our website, developed an electronic newsletter and we are now working on new proposals for ESEM, our journal. We also have plans to hold seminars on topics of joint interest and to strengthen our networks across Europe. We hope that all EFEA members will want to play their part in building a new future for EFEA, and look forward to a lively exchange of views and ideas over the coming months. All members of EFEA Executive look forward to working with you to build a strong and dynamic organisation.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, rewarding and Happy New Year.

Gill Howland
(EFEA Publications Officer)



Next Steering Committee

Dusseldorf

March 2015



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The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in Dusseldorf on Saturday 7 March 2015.

This is a very important meeting at which we will discuss the future of EFEA.

We look forward to welcoming all of you to join us to contribute to shaping the important decisions we will be making.

Ana Patricia Almeida
(EFEA's President)

National Associations Corner. *Belmas*

The British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society (BELMAS) is an independent voice supporting quality education through effective leadership and management.

Ideas and practice, and the relationship between them, are at the centre of BELMAS. BELMAS' members are a mixture of practitioners in schools, colleges and universities and working academics, encouraging a unique perspective which brings together the theoretical and the practical and encourages stimulating debate at conferences and events.

BELMAS aims to:

- encourage and facilitate discussion and dissemination of ideas related to good practice
- encourage and facilitate collaboration between practitioners and academics within and across educational sectors
- encourage and facilitate reflective and research-based approaches to leadership and management
- encourage and facilitate networking
- represent nationally and internationally the importance of effective leadership and management for educational improvement

BELMAS Conference is an annual event bringing together over 100 educational professional from all around the world. The 2014 Conference posed the question: How a can leaders shape the educational landscape? The event included lively discussion, academic presentations, practical workshop, exchanges of ideas and practice and networking and relationship building.



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ESEM Release date

We will shortly be publishing in hard copy the next two editions of ESEM, the EFEA Journal.

After this, future copies of the journal will be available electronically and we will be setting up arrangements for a subscription service and the facility to purchase individual articles.

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Call for papers ESEM

Early School Leaving (ESL) is the special issue of the journal *European Studies of Educational Management* set out to analyze and discuss the connection between theory, research, methodology and practice. We propose a multiple approach to ESL, in different educational contexts, and covering a broad range of sub-themes.

**Manuscripts due:
February 28, 2015**

Some news/events of National Members....

Belmas Conference 2014

Xavier Chavarría Navarro, Vice President of EFEA, with Gill Howland, Publications Officer and Rafael Quesada Quesada, Spanish Correspondent, with colleagues from Spain at the BELMAS Conference dinner.



Next BELMAS Conference 2015

Date for your diary: 10th - 12th July 2015

The theme of our next conference is 'Democracy: Time for Renewal or Retreat in Educational Leadership'.

See the website for more details: [www. BELMAS.org.uk](http://www.BELMAS.org.uk)

Ronda Pyrenees III

The third edition of Ronda Pyrenees is going to take place at Narbonne (in the premises of Lycée Diderot-Eiffel), Saturday March 21, 2015.

The theme of this Seminar will be "The practices of vocational training: trends"



Seasons Greetings



*With good wishes
to everyone for a
happy and
peaceful Christmas
and for a happy,
healthy and
prosperous New
Year.*