

# European Parents' Association



Arja Krauchenberg  
Project coordinator

## The European parents' perspective

*DUNE-BB-EU Parents' Dialogue Forum  
Online, 25th March 2021*

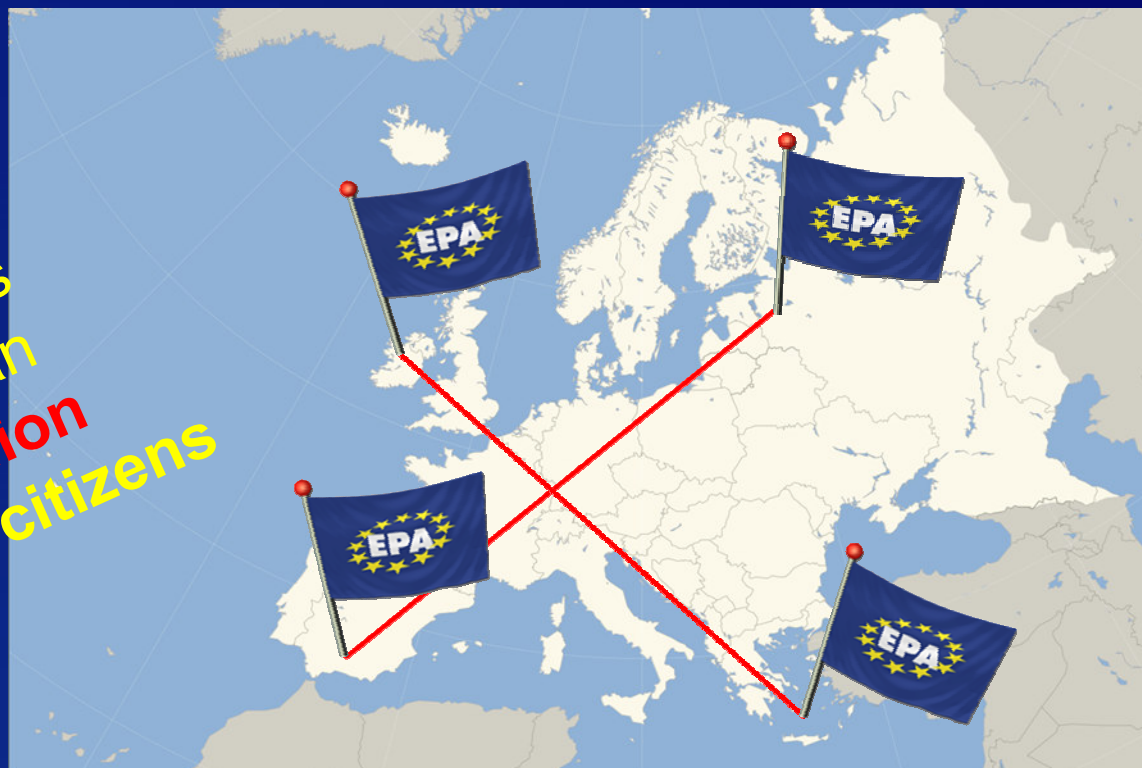


EPA - The Voice of Parents in Europe

# European Parents' Association

From Ireland  
to Cyprus

**EPA**  
represents  
more than  
**150 million**  
European citizens



From Estonia to Spain

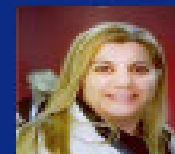


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# European Parents' Association

- Founded in 1985 in Milano
- Umbrella association for national and regional federations of parents associations
- More than 35 members in 25 countries
- Three categories of membership: full, associated and affiliated member
- Working structure: board of directors: 7 members from 7 different countries, elected for 3 years with possible re-election, maximum 6 years successively on the board

## EPA – Board members



- **Víctor Petuya** (E) - President
- **Valérie Gardette** (F) - VP & Treasurer
- **Elena Odysseos** (CY) – Vice President
- **Aivar Haller** (EST) - Vice President
- **Boštjan Bobič** (SLO) – VP & Secretary
- **Claudio Masotti** (I) - Vice President



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# objectives

## 1. Parent Representation On European Level



Representation in working groups and seminars (Multilingualism, Early School Leaving, VET...) of different European institutions (EU Commission, ECML,...)

Representation at conferences organized by the European Commission (DG EAC, DG EMPL,...), European Parliament, Council of Europe

Participation in EU-projects (Erasmus+, Horizon 2020)



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# objectives



## 2. Fostering exchange among our members

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Cooperation and exchange of experiences

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Dissemination of good practice examples

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Supporting the creation of parents' representation in all European countries

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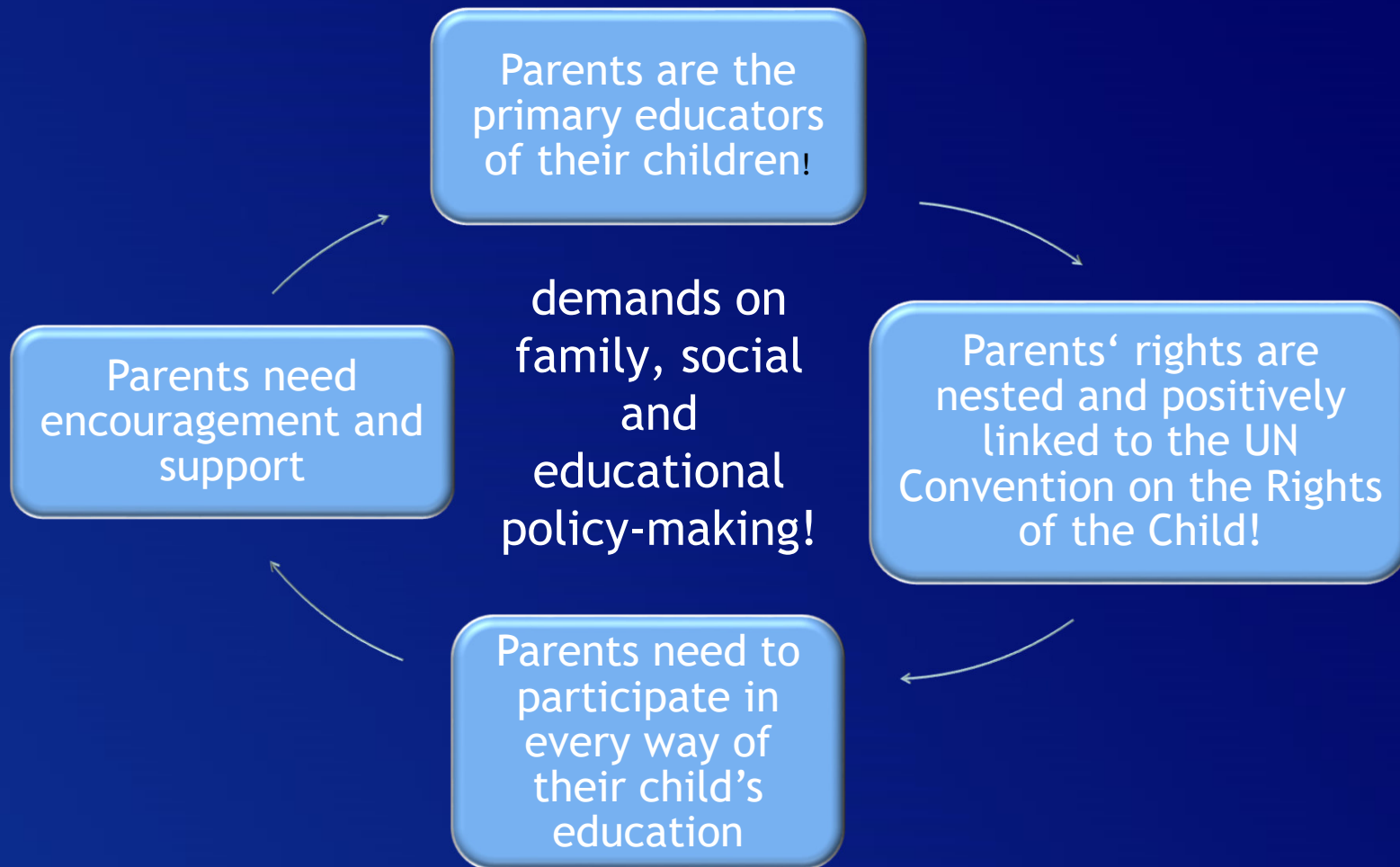
Focus on parental involvement in education

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# Core paradigmas



# Primary educators?

Primary?  
**FIRST**  
chronologically

**BEST**  
most impacting

Statistician:

“Parents spoil the results of every survey on (public) education.”

(International Conference,  
Improving Education”

Dec. 1st 2009)

EPA:

“Don’t blame active parents for impacting on the learning of their children! Rather help all parents to do so!”



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# implementation



General assemblies and international conferences

Regional meetings (i.e. Nordic countries)

Participation of Board Members in members' events

Representation at meetings at European level

Newsletters

Communication on Social Media



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# Engagement in the VET sector

Member of EAfA

School visits to VET schools

Collaboration with Cedefop





# EAfA - European Alliance for Apprenticeship

Created in 2016 to enhance quality, image, supply and mobility

Over 300 members

Organizes regional meetings, webinars and awards



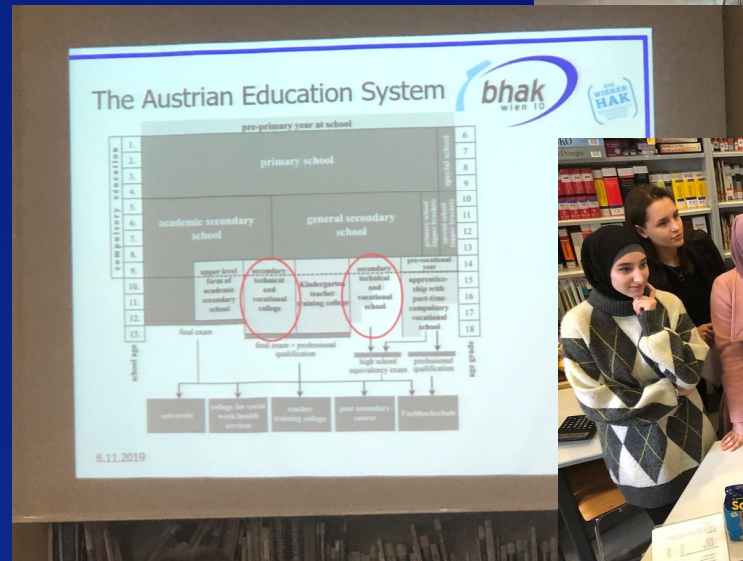
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# Visit to VET Schools

EPA's Vienna  
conference in  
November 2019

Visit to a  
Business  
school



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# Collaboration with Cedefop

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Seminars,  
workshops  
publications

Photoaward for students

Policy conferences

Research and studies



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# Vocational Skills Week

Last one online 2020

VET for all – skills for life

Register your event

Share your story

Awards for VET excellence

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-skills-week/latest\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-skills-week/latest_en)



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# Examples of projects

Involving parents in  
intercultural and  
plurilingual education  
– ECML project

ELPIDA – supporting  
parents of children  
with disabilities  
[www.elpida-  
project.eu](http://www.elpida-project.eu)

**projects**

IntegratedED –fostering the  
inclusion of migrant  
children in schools  
[www.integrated-project.eu](http://www.integrated-project.eu)

New Sirius: Peer learning  
activities on the inclusion  
of migrants in their host  
societies





# New projects

## Media Literacy for Parents

[www.medialiteracy4parents.eu](http://www.medialiteracy4parents.eu)

## Creative parents

[www.creativethinking4parents.eu](http://www.creativethinking4parents.eu)

BEYOND

ALLINTERACT

Family  
Skills

Child Rights  
UP!



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*How should regional digitally supported  
and sustainability oriented centres of  
vocational excellence be designed from  
the perspective of parents?*



# Sustainability

**Railway station Uelzen**

©Wikipedia.de



**Hundertwasserhaus, Vienna**

©Kunsthhaus Vienna



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# What do parents expect in general?

- A holistic approach that puts the learner in the focus
- Education and training that helps their children to develop not only their professional skills but also their personality
- Excellent cooperation with companies
- Balanced and concerted programs
- Well established mobility offers



# What would parents like to see in particular?

- Inclusiveness:
  - Be open and accessible to all
  - Take into account the special needs of students (disabilities, language and cultural differences, gender)
- Project based teaching and learning
  - Focus on professional and transversal skills
  - Practice oriented - working on meaningful goals
  - Hubs of innovation



# What would parents like to see in particular?

- Digitally supported teaching and learning
  - Get inspiration through exchange with other centres
  - Working in networks on innovation
  - Cooperating
  - Update their training programs – adapt to the newest technology
- Summative assessment ⇔ formative assessment
  - Many ideas ex. EBBD (European Business Baccalaureate Diploma)





# Thank you for listening

[arja.krauchenberg@europarents.eu](mailto:arja.krauchenberg@europarents.eu)

[www.europarents.eu](http://www.europarents.eu)



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