

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Droit à l'éducation  
et liberté d'enseignement

Right to education  
and freedom of education





... un déni d'éducation n'est rien d'autre qu'un déni d'humanité...

Université  
inter  
Alfred Fernandez †

# INTRODUCTION

2018, has been particularly special for the return to the Father of our beloved General Director Alfred Fernandez. It is impossible to think about our organization without taking into account his figure, which he shaped with such generosity and magnanimity. OIDEL is currently a strong organization, recognized as a leading NGO in the world in the field of Freedom of Education and the Right to Education. In addition, Alfred has left us a legacy in the form of texts that have allowed us and will allow us to continue promoting the right to education as a cultural right of the human being.

In the past 2018 academic year, we have had two priorities: First, to make available for the States instruments allowing them to understand better their obligations and their reality; and second, base the universality of human rights on a new reflection on common values. OIDEL has actively contributed to the realization of both objectives. OIDEL has worked in the promotion of the cultural approach and the freedom approach to the right to education, as well as the promotion of the human rights education .

We want to highlight the publication and dissemination of the "Freedom of Education Index -2018. Correlations with selected indicators». Likewise, OIDEL has been active in several debates related to the right to education to ensure a holistic and acceptable approach for all.

Within the framework of our European action, OIDEL has been very active in the process of negotiation of the European Parliament Resolution of 12 June 2018 on the modernization of education in the Union. OIDEL welcomes the approval of a Resolution that recognizes that freedom of education is an essential part of the right to education. Moreover, the resolution encourages that, «within the framework of the increase of inclusiveness and the respect of educational freedom of choice, adequate financial support is granted to schools of all categories and levels, both public and private, without profit motive. This resolution was approved by the European Parliament by a large majority.

At OIDEL, we know that the best we can do to remember Alfred is to preserve his legacy and continue with the work of promoting the Right to Education throughout the world. Alfred often said that «to deny education is to deny humanity». He was aware that education is one of the biggest and most complicated problems that can be proposed to us. As Emmanuel Kant said: «Man is the only creature which has to be educated. Man can only become a man through education.»

Therefore, OIDEL will continue to be committed to its mission and the reason of its existence , which is none other than the promotion of the right to education and freedom of education.

Respectfully,

Diego Barroso. President of OIDEL

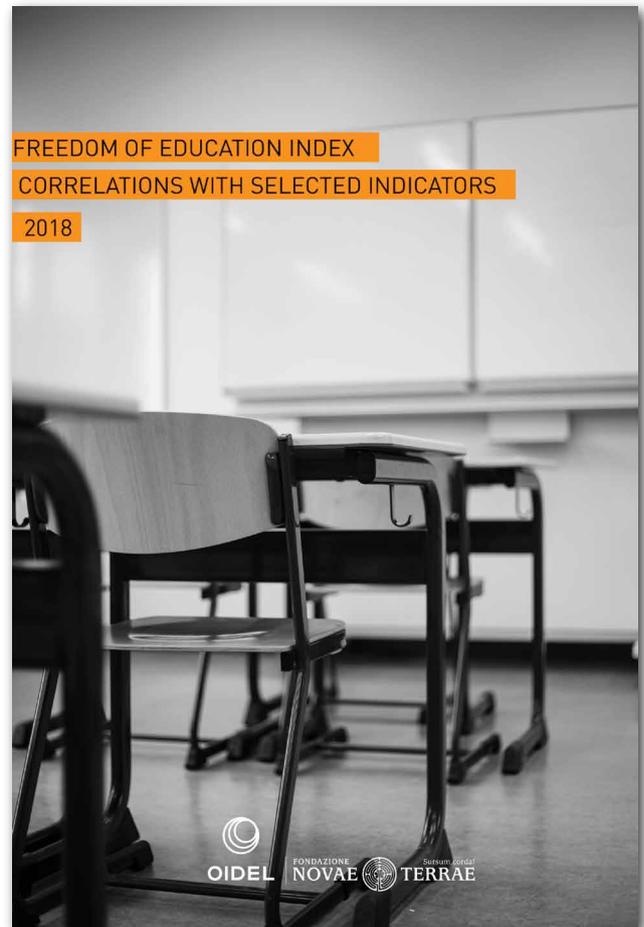
# FEI: FREEDOM OF EDUCATION INDEX 2018 - CORRELATIONS WITH SELECTED INDICATORS

In 2018, OI DEL published the report “Freedom of Education Index 2018- Correlations with selected indicators”.

The aim of this report was to verify some hypothesis such as the correlation between the FEI and the Democracy Index, or with indicators of good governance.

Furthermore, we have assessed the accuracy of two arguments referred to criticize freedom of education, that it implies an increase of public expenditure or that it is detrimental to social cohesion. Also this research has been an opportunity to show that civil society is able to producing quality research that helps governments to manage the educational system. Finally, this document hopes to produce high quality research to show that civil society is able to contribute to base educational policies on evidences, as set out in Education 2030.

The main conclusions of the “Freedom of Education Index 2018- Correlations with selected indicators” are:



- Freedom of education has increased in all the regions of the world since 2002
- Freedom of education does not lead to an increase of public expenditure on education
- Freedom of education has a significant positive correlation with quality of education
- Freedom of education does not encompass a negative effect over social cohesion
- 74% of the countries in the world grant some sort of funding to non-governmental schools

→ OI DEL has made great efforts to disseminate this document around the world, with a special emphasis on the centres of political decision-making.

## PRESENTATIONS OF THE «FREEDOM OF EDUCATION INDEX 2018- CORRELATIONS WITH SELECTED INDICATORS»

Presentation, the **12th of March**, during the seminar “The importance of pluralism in a national school system” sponsored by Swedish Christian Schools and the Christian Democrat Party. The seminar was held in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm (Sweden).

The Launch presentation, the **17th of April**, took place during the event “Freedom Approach to the SDG 4”. The event was co-organised by the Chair UNESCO of the University of Bergamo and the Chair UNESCO of the University of La Rioja. M. Pablo Nuño of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UNOG was in charge of the moderation. The launch presentation was held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).



Presentation, the **20th of April**, during the General Assembly of the European Committee of Catholic Education that took place in Berlin (Germany).

Presentation, the **25th of September**, in the Universitat Abat Oliba in Barcelona (Spain).

Presentation, the **1st of October**, during the Nordic National Christian School Organizations Meeting in Furu-sund (Sweden).

Presentation the, **19th of October**, during the event “Le nuove prospettive per l’educazione in Italia e in Europa” organized by the Conservative and Reformist European Group (CECR) in Verona (Italy).

**« Il  
ne s'agit  
du privé ou  
public, il s'agit de  
régler l'éducation  
afin d'assurer que  
l'éducation soit basée  
sur une approche des  
droits de l'homme »**

**Mme. Boly,  
Special Rapporteur on  
the right to education**

# DISSEMINATION

The new “Freedom of Education Index 2018 – Correlations with selected indicators” has had an important dissemination in media around the world. Among the countries where our research has appeared in media, we can highlight Brazil, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Spain and Switzerland.

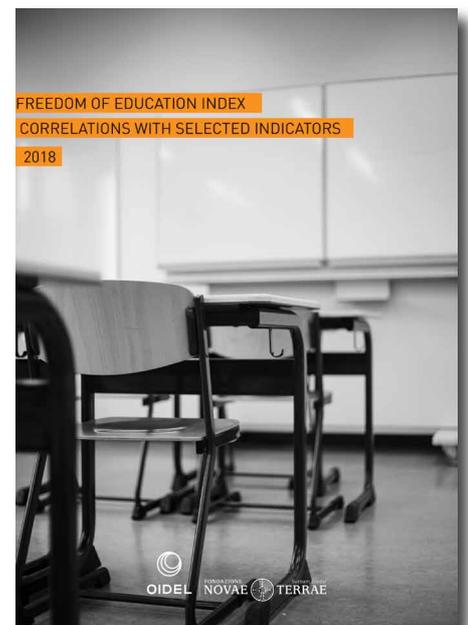


Also, Ignasi Grau has participated in the Radio Program “Educar por la Paz” of «Radio Nacional de España» to discuss the results of this publication.

Finally, OIDEL published an article in the Scientific Educational magazine Quaderns de Polítiques Familiars of the International University of Catalonia under the title “Freedom of Education Index 2018. Correlations with selected indicators”.

Three languages versions:

In order that this publication reaches the widest possible audience, OIDEL has produced the “Freedom of Education Index 2018. Correlations with selected indicators” in



# UNITED NATIONS ACTIONS

## NGO Platform on the Right to Education

The NGO Platform on the Right to Education comprises 31 NGOs with the Consultative Statute in the UN whose aim is to support the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. OI DEL is the coordinator of the Platform. The aim of the Platform in 2018 was its reorganization and to reestablish the contact with the new Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Ms. Koumbou Bolly. On this regard, OI DEL as Coordinator of the Platform, held two private meetings with Ms. Bolly and one open Q&A session with the rest of the members of the NGO Platform on the Right to Education.

## NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education – NGO Committee on Human Rights

### Privatization

One of the priorities of OI DEL in 2018 was the discussion on the phenomenon of privatization of the right to education. OI DEL has acknowledged the importance of considering this phenomenon from a human rights perspective. The main priority of OI DEL on this field is that the International Community focuses on the essence of this problem without jeopardizing the cultural dimension of the right to education, the parent rights to choose the education they want for their children and the right of civil society to play a role on the realizations of the right to education. On this regard, OI DEL has participated in the Geneva consultation on the Human Rights Guiding Principles on State Obligations with relation with the Private Involvement in Education. OI DEL also has sent different written contributions to the Secretariat of NGOs in charge of this consultation. OI DEL together with the Permanent Mission of Portugal organized a Side-Event during the 38th Human Rights Council to discuss this phenomenon with other members of the Civil Society such as The Right to Education Project and the International Office of Catholic Education.



### Others

During the 37<sup>TH</sup> Human Rights Council, OI DEL did a presentation on the role of civil society on the realization of the right to education during a Side-Event on Education organised by the NGO IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association.

OI DEL, together with the Permanent Mission of Spain and Smart Internet Users organized a side event during the 38th Human Rights Council “Right to Education and New Technologies: A necessary dialogue”

→ OI DEL has made 8 Oral Statements and 1 Written Statement.



## ACTION EUROPE

During 2018, OIDEL has invested great efforts on its action in the European Parliament. Specially due to the European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2018 on modernisation of education in the EU. On this regard, OIDEL together with different members of EMIE has worked in order that the voice of the non-State actors was taken into consideration.

In 2017, OIDEL set up the Freinet Group to promote freedom of education in the different activities of the European Parliament. During 2018, OIDEL has held meeting with the different Members of this group of the Parliament to make some proposals for the European Parliament resolution on modernisation of education in the EU.

The result of this collaboration was the approval of the resolution on 12 June 2018, with a huge majority of the European Parliament. OIDEL welcomes this resolution because it bears in mind a holistic perspective of the right to education respectful with human rights. Among many good parts of the resolution, we would like to highlight point 76: " Encourages, with regard to increasing inclusiveness and ensuring freedom of educational choice, the provision of adequate financial support for schools of all categories and levels, both state schools and not-for-profit private schools, provided the curriculum offered is based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and complies with the legal systems and rules and regulations regarding the quality of education and the use of such applicable funds in the Member State concerned".



## OTHERS

### Investing in Education and Innovation -Thessaloniki (Greece)

From 11th until the 12th of October, OI DEL was invited in Thessaloniki to participate in the Seminar “Investing in Education and Innovation”. During these days, OI DEL was able to share their priorities and activities with different members of the European Popular Party and with members of the European Ideas Network. It was also a good opportunity to be more aware of the priorities of the EPP on education for the coming years.

### II Congress “Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals” – Valencia (Spain)

The 26th October, OI DEL participated in the II Congress on Human Rights “Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals” organized by Mainel Foundation. Among the speakers of the Congress there were Miguel Ángel Moratinos, former Spanish Minister and Stefano Semplici, former President of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee. Representanting OI DEL, Ignasi Grau made a presentation on the topic “Human Rights Education - the Key to Sustainability” together with Vicente Bellver, professor of Philosophy of Law and Political Philosophy at Valencia University.



### International Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in the UNESCO – Paris (France)

From 17th until the 19th of December, OI DEL participated in the International Conference of NGO of UNESCO in Paris. During these three days, OI DEL shared their activities with some NGOs also interested on the field of education and voted for the new leaders for the different NGO Commissions. Paralel to the NGO International Conference, Ignasi Grau and Claire de Lavernette held different meetings in France with stakeholders of education such as officers of UNESCO or principals in charge of some nongovernmental schools.

# PUBLICATIONS

- Working Paper n ° 22: «Human Rights Considerations to tackle privatization respecting freedom of education», Ignasi Grau.
- Article in Revista Española de Derecho Comparado: «What is the place of religious schools in pluralistic democratic societies? A liberal approach to the problematic of religious schools and democratic citizenship in Western societies», Ignasi Grau .
- Article in the Tribune de Genève : It is the moment to go all together, Claire de Lavernette and Ignasi Grau

## C'est le moment d'y aller tous ensemble



**Invités**

**Claire de Lavernette,**  
**Ignasi Grau**  
Organisation internationale pour le Droit à l'Éducation et la Liberté d'Enseignement (OIDELE)

L'adoptent, ce qui est relativement nouveau et qui implicitement reconnaît un partage de responsabilités et de pouvoir entre l'État et la société civile. En ce sens là le document remarque que l'éducation est une cause commune qui implique que la formulation et la mise en œuvre des politiques publiques soient un processus inclusif comprenant parmi d'autres acteurs, la société civile. Et sur les organisations de la société civile le document remarque qu'elles doivent être engagées et impliquées à tous les stades, depuis la planification jusqu'au suivi et à l'évaluation, et leur participation doit être institutionnalisée et garantie.

Nous, comme d'autres ONG, avons pris au sérieux l'appel de la communauté internationale à jouer un rôle lors de l'implémentation du programme Education 2030. Nous avons promu le texte à travers des événements et la publication du texte «Education 2030 - Le rôle

de la société civile». De plus, nous avons développé des critères d'évaluation comme l'Indice de Liberté d'enseignement - corrélations

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«Education 2030 concrétise la réalisation de l'Objectif 4 des Objectifs du développement durable»

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avec des indicateurs choisis. C'est dans ce contexte que l'OIDELE, à nouveau, vient de publier un nouvel indice qui permet d'évaluer l'attitude des États vis-à-vis de ses partenaires et ses effets. Dans ce rapport nous avons observé que de plus en plus depuis 2002 les états font confiance à la création d'établissements de la société

civile dans toutes les régions. Nous pouvons signaler que les pays qui ont amélioré le plus les conditions qui favorisent l'existence de ces écoles sont la Slovaquie, Israël, l'Angola et le Pérou. Ainsi, nous avons observé que favoriser l'existence des écoles de la société civile peut améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement. Finalement, on constate qu'assurer le financement des écoles de la société civile n'a pas d'impact sur le budget de l'éducation.

Comme nous, il y a plusieurs organisations de la société civile qui font des propositions concrètes pour le Programme Education 2030. Nos recherches nous permettent de constater que cette nouvelle approche participative du droit à l'éducation est essentielle pour l'accomplissement de l'objectif 4. Il ne s'agit pas d'un problème financier ou de résultats, mais de volonté politique. C'est l'heure de prendre au sérieux l'éducation.

- Interview in AZperiodistas : “Renowned personalities of the left as Gramsci, Marx or Clemenceau were strong defenders of the freedom of education”, Ignasi Grau




**Revista Española de Educación Comparada**

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Home > No 32 (2018) > **Grau Callizo**

**What is the place of religious schools in pluralistic democratic societies? A liberal approach to the problematic of religious schools and democratic citizenship in Western societies. The Spanish case**

*Ignasi Grau Callizo*

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## THE OIDEL TEAM

*Ignasi Grau:* Executive Director, lawyer and economist.

*Claire de Lavernette:* OIDEL Main Representative to the United Nations, jurist.

*Claudia Neury:* Direction Assistant, bachelor in tourism and graduated in Human Rights .

*Eva Pérez:* Responsible for Communication, jurist.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

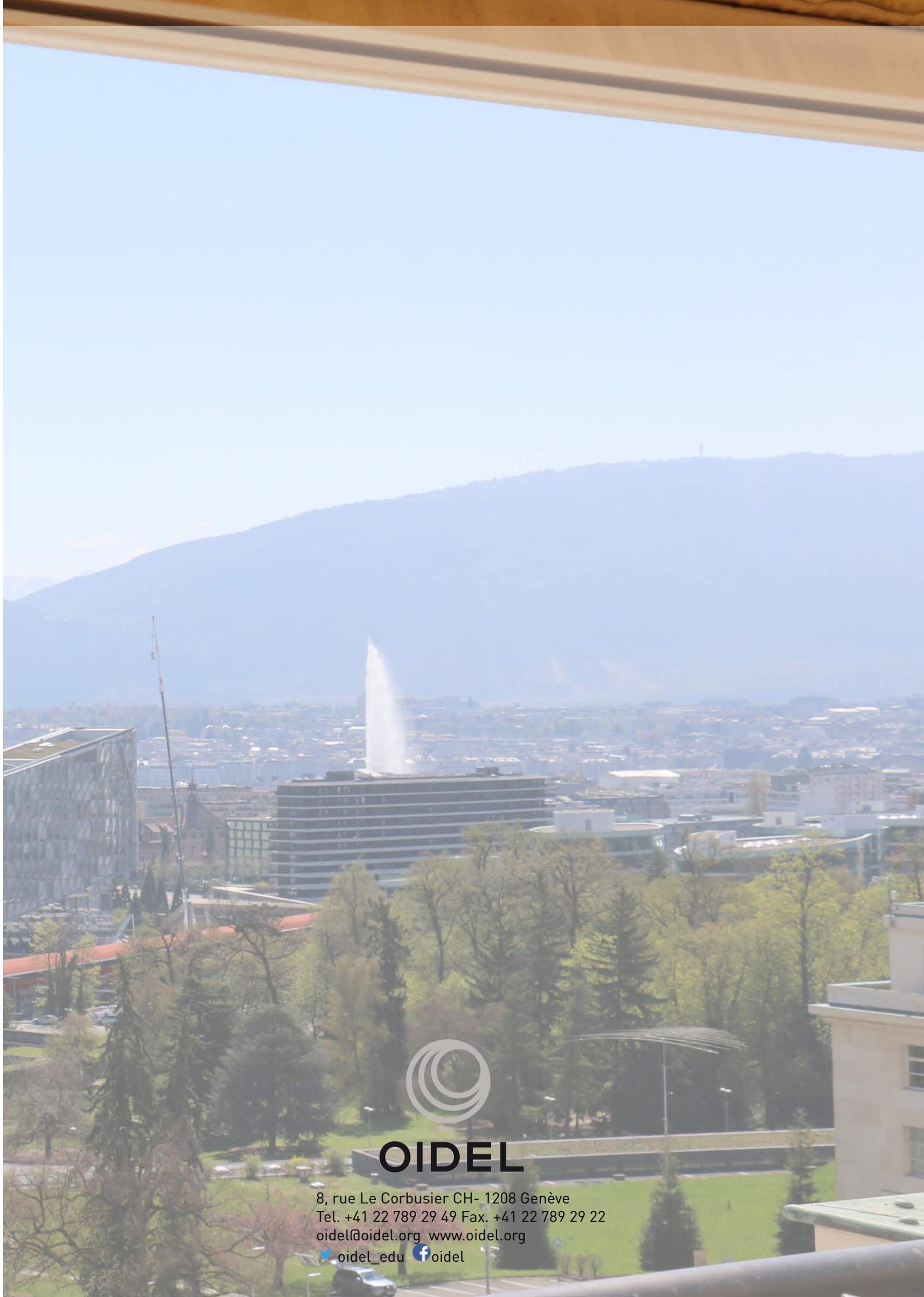
President: *Diego Barroso*, former director of EPA.

Vice-presidents: *Charles L. Glenn*, Former Dean of the Faculty of Education, Boston University, *Guy Guermeur*, Former Member of the French National Assembly and the European Parliament, *Ernesto Marín Coto*, Former Education Minister in El Salvador.

General Secretary of the committee: *Ángel Sánchez*, General Director of IFE.

Members: *Joan Curcó*, General Director of Fomento. *Francis Delpérée*, Profesor in Louvain University and Member of the Belgium Parliament, *Claire de Lavernette*, Coordinator of the NGO WG on Human Rights Education and Learning, *Bertrand Doncieux*, Executive Director of AEFLIB, *Joan Gallostra*, President of IFE, *Paz Gutiérrez Cortina*, Former President-Secretary of Education Commission of the Deputies Chamber in Mexico and President of the NGO Enlance, *Georges Haddad*, President of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, *Luisa Ribolzi*, Profesor at the University of Genova, *María de Lurdes Rodrigues*, Former Minister of Education in Portugal, *Luca Volontè*, Honorary President of the EPP in the Parliamentary Assembly in the Council of Europe and President of the Novae Terrae Foundation.





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