

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



**OIDEL**



# INTRODUCTION

We are happy to share with you the Activity report 2019. This has been a year of changes, of big challenges, but also of positive steps for the realization of the right to education.

The Human Rights Council has focused on the phenomenon of the privatization in the field of education. OIDEL has supported the work of the Special Rapporteur, Ms Koumbou Boly Barry, on the right to education, trying to reconcile regulation of non-state actors with a respect for freedom of education.

As part of our mission at the United Nations, OIDEL has been in charge of coordinating the NGO Platform for the Right to Education. In addition, we hold the vice-presidency of the NGO Committee on Human Rights and chaired up to December 2019 the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning.

We also have been active at UNESCO, the specialized institution in education of the United Nations. OIDEL participated in the 9th World Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs (CCNGO) and the 40th General Conference of UNESCO. In these meetings, OIDEL focused its efforts recalling the importance of an holistic vision of the right to education and, in this regard, the important role that civil society schools play in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4, on the right to education.

Action in Europe continues to be one of the main axes of our activity. OIDEL, together with EMIE (European Meeting for Independent Education) and ECNAIS (European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools), organized an event with European parliamentarians of different groups, in which it was claimed the role of freedom of education in the modernization of European education.

Finally, together with the multiple activities of OIDEL in 2019, we have relaunched the organization of training courses. For that purpose, we have signed collaboration agreements with the University of La Rioja and we have organized four training courses in Geneva.

I want to finish this introduction by referring to the people who during 2019 have allowed OIDEL to carry out its mission. First of all, we want to thank Claire de Lavernette for her work at the United Nations, both as a representative of OIDEL and as coordinator of different NGO platforms. Likewise, we thank the work of Claudia Neury, who after twenty years of work has left OIDEL in 2019, we thank her for her professionalism and dedication during the period that Alfred was with us. During this year, Noemí Goust, as administrative manager and Isabel Márquez de Prado, as head of training have joined OIDEL. We also continue counting with the invaluable help of Eva Pérez on communication, and Ignasi Grau has been ratified as director, after our General Assembly in Paris.

We hope you enjoy reading our activity report.



Diego Barroso  
OIDEL President

# UNITED NATIONS ACTION



# INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT OF EDUCATION

The Special Rapporteur, Dr Koumbou Boly Barry, presented her report during the Interactive Dialogue on the right to education that took place on June 26 and 27, in the framework of the 41st Human Rights Council (HRC) held in Geneva. The report that the rapporteur presented was about the right to education and the increasing participation of private actors in this field.



Ms. Bouly Barry with Ignasi Grau last 26th of June in Geneva

Part of the content of this report could be misinterpreted by some states, in particular the parts concerning the funding of non-governmental schools. These concerns were privately exposed to the Special Rapporteur, during a meeting organized by OIDEL that served to clarify some of the most problematic points during the interactive dialogue with the states. Previously, OIDEL had sent several written contributions to prepare the report.

During the debate, the Special Rapporteur made a short introduction recalling the obligation of states to guarantee a free, quality and public education. This duty appears in Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda.

Ms Boly Barry communicated her concern at the growth of private actors in the education sector. In this sense, the rapporteur underlined the need for states to establish a framework that regulates the activity of these actors and insisted on the fact that these recommendations were based on the Abidjan Principles

However, despite the insistence of the Special Rapporteur on the funding of public education, she recalled that this obligation cannot be carried out to the detriment of the right of parents to choose the education they want for their children. The state must respect this freedom of choice and guarantee the right to create new non-governmental schools by civil society. The Rapporteur pointed out the importance of this freedom to guarantee the religious, pedagogical and philosophical convictions of the parents. Ms. Boly Barry pointed that private actors can offer alternative educational methods, but under a

state-regulated framework aiming not to increase inequalities.

During this debate, OIDEL thanked the Special Rapporteur for her work, however, we asked for clarification on several controversial points. In particular, OIDEL insisted on the importance of non-governmental schools to guarantee a plural educational system that reflects cultural and diversity. Some parts of the report could lead to a misinterpretation that could result in a limitation of the right and freedom of education.

The debate ended with a last intervention of the Special Rapporteur. She recognized the important role of non-governmental non-profit schools, especially in those places in which the state does not have the means to guarantee the right to education. In particular, Mrs Boly Barry pointed out as a good example, the strategies carried out by countries such as France and its école sous contrat, very similar to Spanish conciertos económicos.

By the end of the debate, Ms Boly Barry pointed out that, when she mentioned that private actors might pose a risk for the full realization of the right to education, she referred to for-profit schools, and not to schools that emerge from the civil society, such as religious schools. The Special Rapporteur also recalled the importance of state support and collaboration to civil society in the framework of education to ensure its full realization.

## PARALLEL EVENT ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION: TOWARDS A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION.



On November 19th, OIDEL, together with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, the Permanent Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Caritas in Veritate Foundation, Catholic International Education Office and Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance, organized an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the United Nations. The other Permanent Missions that sponsored this event were Lebanon, Poland, the Philippines and Zambia.

The title of the event was « The right to education. Towards a Renewed Commitment to Education ». The event presented the «Education as a Driver to Integral Growth and Peace» in which OIDEL was very involved. The panellists for this event were Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Benyam Dawit Mezmur, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Chantal Paisant of BICE, Jan de Groof, professor at the College d'Europe and Inès de Franclieu founder of «Com je'taime».

OIDEL, through Claire de Lavernette and Ignasi Grau, took the floor at the end of the panelist's intervention to explain OIDEL's work.



Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic



Ms. Chantal Paisan



Ms. Claire de Lavernette



Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur



Ms. Inès de Franclieu, Mr. Jan De Groof



Ms. Amparo Alonso, director of Caritas Internacional

## UNESCO

### 9TH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE CCNGO - EDUCATION 2030- TUNISIA

From 2 to 4 of December, OIDEL participated in the 9th World CCNGO - Education 2030 Meeting that took place in Hammamet (Tunisia) entitled «Educating for an inclusive and sustainable future».

This meeting was organized by UNESCO and took place during the termination of the first cycle of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda (SDGs). The meeting served, above all as a platform for discussion to assess the situation of civil society after the last CCNGO meeting, the activities carried out, the main challenges encountered, the progresses made, the opportunities identified and the paths to follow.

Several high-level participants attended the meeting, such as the Tunisian Minister of Education Hatem Ben Salem or the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Education Ms Stefania Giannini.

This meeting was particularly beneficial for OIDEL due to the exchanges that took place during these days with different NGOs. OIDEL spoke on several occasions, pointing out the important role that civil society schools play in the realization of the SDGs. In this sense, OIDEL highlight the importance of public funding and, of the clarification from a human rights perspective of the legal frameworks under which civil society institutions can provide education.

### PARIS 40th UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE- PARIS

From 3 to 18 November, UNESCO held its 40th General Conference, which determines the organization's activities and priorities. This meeting is held every 2 years at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

OIDEL, through Bertrand Doncieux (pictured below), member of the Executive Committee, participated in the debate on public policies in which he recalled the important role of the non-state sector, in particular the role of parents and civil society, for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.



# CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS

## ORAL AND WRITTEN STATEMENTS

During 2019, OIDEL was present at the different sessions of the Human Rights Council. OIDEL made five oral statements during the Human Rights Council and another during the Social Forum. In addition, OIDEL made two written statements during the Human Rights Council and another during the Universal Periodic Review of Sweden to denounce the on-going debate concerning the closure of religious schools in that country.

## PLATFORM COORDINATION

During 2019, OIDEL has carried out numerous activities through the NGO Platform for the right to education. This Platform, with more than 20 NGOs, is coordinated by OIDEL and supports the work of the Special Rapporteur.

Likewise, OIDEL has been active in the Working Group for Human Rights Education and has continued, through Claire de Lavernette, to serve as vice-chair of the NGO Committee ECOSOC.

The NGO WG on HREL represented by OIDEL and SGI, was invited in the International School in Geneva to conduct a workshop on HRE, on the topic of sustainable cities and human rights. On this occasion, some panels of the exhibition: "Transforming Lives: the power of HRE" were displayed.



Ignasi Grau



Claudia Gonçalves



# ACTION EUROPE



# THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL SCHOOLS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF EDUCATION IN EUROPE



The year 2019 began for OIDEL with the organization of an event in the European Parliament on February 5 together with ECNAIS, EMIE (European Meeting of Independent Education) and the MEP Remo Sernagiotto to vindicate freedom of education. The title of the event was «Freedom of education, a pillar for the modernization of education in Europe».

Among the MEPs who participated in this event there were Remo Sernagiotto and Innocenzo Leotini from the European Conservatives and Reformists group (ECR), Nuno Melo from the European People's Party (PPE) and Luigi Morgano and Silvia Costa from the Progressive Alliance Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). Susanne Conze, Director General of Education and Culture representing the European Commission also participated. Finally, there were three presentations made by members of civil society: Georg Jürgens (ECSWE), Rodrigo Melo (ECNAIS) and Ignasi Grau (OIDEL). We took this opportunity to present some results of the 2018 Freedom of Education Index adapted to the context of the European Union. It was very interesting for MEPs to see the positive effect that freedom of education has on building strong democracies and as a cornerstone of individual freedoms.

The 2019 European elections caused the entry and exit of many Members of the European Parliament. An important task of the second half of 2019 consisted on making contact with the new parliamentarians of the Committee on Education and Culture.

CONGRÈS  
MUNDIAL  
OIEC  
8 JUIN 2019



# EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OIDEL

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN PARIS «EDUCATION AS A CULTURAL RIGHT»



Inaugural meeting: I. Grau, L. Ribolzi, D. Barroso, G.Haddad, C. Glenn y Armel Pécheul



Mr. Georges Haddad

In May 9, 2019, OIDEL organized a symposium in Paris, at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne entitled «Education as a cultural right». For OIDEL, the cultural approach of the right to education is one of the great challenges for its complete realization, taking into account the plurality of the society in which we live. To reflect on this topic, OIDEL decided to bring together a group of experts in two panels and thus present different and varied reflections for this purpose.

The first panel was introduced by the President of the Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Mr Georges Haddad, who took the opportunity to tribute the former director of OIDEL, Alfred Fernández. Among the other speakers on this first panel there was the former Special Rapporteur on the right to education at the United Nations, Mr Kishore Singh; the head of UNESCO's Research Department of Education

and Forecasting, Sobhi Tawil; the professor at the University of Paris II Pantheón-Assas, Mr Emmanuel Decaux; and the Inspector General of the French National Education and Research Administration (IGAENR), Ms Dubourg-Lavroff.



Mr. Emmanuel Decaux, Mr. Kishore Singh and Ms. Dubourg-Lavroff

At the second table, chaired by Mr Diego Barroso,- President of OIDEL, participated the Dean of the Boston University School of Education, Mr Charles Glenn; the Professor of the University of Genoa, Ms Luisa Ribolzi and the Associate Professor of Public Law and Rector of the Academy at the University of Angers and President of Enseignement et Liberté, Mr Armel Pécheul, and the Director of OIDEL, Ignasi Grau.



Mr. Charles Glenn and Mr. Armel Pécheul

After the symposium a book was published with the interventions of the different speakers, which is available on our website for free



## TRIBUTE TO ALFRED FERNANDEZ



An event to remember the first anniversary of the death of the former director of OIDEL, Alfred Fernández.

In October 29, an event co-organized by OIDEL, the CUHD (Collège Universitaire Henry Dunand), New Humanity and the NGO Forum of Catholic Inspiration took place near the United Nations.

The event had three central interventions made by Mr Georges Ferreira, New Humanity representative to the United Nations; Mr Michel Veuthey, President of the CUHD and Ignasi Grau, Director of OIDEL.

After these interventions, several people from the public took the floor to remember their legacy and joint work.

## EVENTS IN WHICH OIDEL HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHOICE AND REFORM OF SCHOOLS: LISBON

From January 12 to 15, OIDEL participated in the 7th International School Choice and Reform Conference (ISCRC). This conference was sponsored by EdChoice and took place in Lisbon (Portugal).

This annual conference is a great opportunity for OIDEL as it enables us to connect with researchers from around the world and share our own research, such as the Freedom of Education Index.

In a broad sense, the ISCRC is a forum that includes multiple perspectives and approaches. In it we can find researchers who are critical of educational freedom, and researchers who support multiple and diverse methods of implementing it. This diversity of actors allow researchers and other actors in the world of education to clarify the best way to implement policies with a freedom approach.



During this congress, OIDEL organized a colloquium to present the Freedom of Education Index. The moderator was Mr Jan de Groof, founder and president of the Association Education Law and Policy (ELA).

The presentation of the Freedom of Education Index was made by the Director of OIDEL, Ignasi Grau. Subsequently, Mr Michael Donnelly from HSLDA gave a short presentation on the global situation of Homeschooling and María Smirnova, from the University of Manchester, offered a critical and constructive

comment on the mentioned Index.

## CONGRESS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN NEW YORK



The International Congress on Catholic Education took place from June 5 to 8 at Fordham University in New York. The Congress started with an opening mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

During the Congress, OIDEL was in charge of organizing a LAB to explain the importance of the presence of organizations such as OIEC or OIDEL before international organizations such as the United Nations or UNESCO. In addition, Ignasi Grau, director of OIDEL had several meetings with different representatives of Catholic education to listen to their national problems and see how they could be supported from Geneva.

In June 8, the closure event took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This session was chaired by the Nuncio of the Holy See to the United Nations, Monsignor Bernadito Auza, and Monsignor Zani Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education and by Philippe Richard Secretary General of the OIEC. The Congress was a real success. Almost a thousand people representing the more than 200,000 Catholic schools present in more than 100 countries attended the event. The OIEC

Secretary had some kind words at the closing to thank the work of OIDEL.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR IN MEXICO

On July 24 at the Borda Garden in Cuernavaca, capital of the Mexican state of Morelos, an International Human Rights Seminar took place. The Seminar organized by the Mexican Commission on Human Rights (CMDH) was preceded by an introduction by its president José Abel Flores and the president of the Morelos CMDH and the former Mexican ambassador in Greece Dr Tarcisio Navarrete Montes de Oca .

Ignasi Grau made a presentation on the global situation of human rights, with an emphasis on the situation of the right to education and OIDEL's actions in this field. Ignasi Grau spoke about the possibilities and the need for Mexican civil society to be more present in international organizations. Likewise, he took the opportunity to discuss various challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals in which Mexican civil society can play an important role, especially in the field of education.

Dr Erika Flores from the UNAM Institute for Legal Research made an interesting presentation on cultural rights and the cultural dimension of the right to education. Later, the professor from UNAM, Alejandro Carlos Espinosa, made an intervention on human rights education and the important role it plays in the protection of human rights defenders.

This meeting in Cuernavaca was an excellent occasion for OIDEL to be updated on the educational challenges in Mexico, to know better the Mexican Commission of Human Rights and to work on the possibility of carrying out new projects. The seminar had an important follow-up by the press and was followed by more than 200 people.



## FORUM OF ROME

Last November, Claire de Lavernette and Ignasi Grau participated in the Forum of Rome of Catholic-inspired NGOs, representing OIDEL, which coordinates also the thematic group on Education. This Forum brings together a hundred different NGOs present and active at the international level.

The colloquium was the conclusion of a two-year period devoted to the following theme “Toward a more inclusive society”, which was discussed through different big topics, respectively human rights, youth, development, family, health, human rights and migration. OIDEL moderated one of the panels and in another explained good advocacy practices that can be carried out at the United Nations.

For OIDEL, this Forum was a great opportunity to strengthen its relations with different actors in the world of education, in particular with those responsible for Catholic teaching.



Family photo with all the participants, presided by His Holiness Pope Francis.

## IGNASI GRAU: NEW DIRECTOR OF OIDEL



In 2019, after the death of Alfred Fernandez, OIDEL appointed its new director Ignasi Grau, who was ratified at the last Assembly held on May 10, 2019 at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Ignasi Grau has a degree in Law from the Pompeu Fabra University and another in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalunya. He has a master’s degree in Political Theory from the Université de Genève.

For the last 5 years, Ignasi Grau has worked at OIDEL holding different responsibilities.



During this year, Claudia Neury, a great pillar for more than 20 years, has left OIDEL. Her professionalism and dedication have been an important cornerstone of OIDEL during all these years.

# TRAINING PROVIDED BY OIDEL IN 2019





One of the main objectives that OI DEL set in 2019 was to carry out training courses to enable a better understanding of Human Rights system.

These trainings were targeted towards public administration professionals, NGO members, university students and professors. This audience is crucial for the development and progress of societies in order they focus their attention toward the more vulnerable.

The main objective of these formations is to provide the necessary tools to the different stakeholders to implement public policies based on human rights.

These sessions have taken place in Geneva (Switzerland), coinciding with international meetings on the protection of human rights, held at the United Nations Palace.

In this first year, four trainings have successfully taken place.

## SUMMER COURSE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LA RIOJA. FROM JULY 15 TO 19, 2019

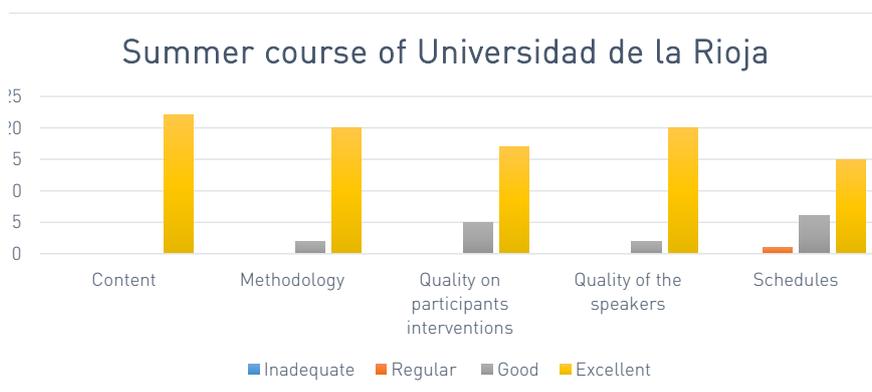
The course called «Derechos y progreso para todos los niños en la era de los ODS: una agenda universal, un desafío universal». A program organized with the University of La Rioja in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair Democratic citizenship and cultural freedom.

In total, the course had 36 participants, 24 of them from the University of La Rioja (Spain) and 12 of them from the University of La Sabana (Colombia).

Course location : Center d' Accueil de la Genève Internationale (CAGI)

The theme of this course was related to the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, therefore, most of the presentations were about the child as an object of law. To address gender issues, we focus on the rights of girls, taking advantage of the fact that students could follow the meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during the course. The «girl-woman» was also studied as a subject of vulnerability, following the Mechanism of Indigenous Peoples.

Evaluation of the course by the participants:



**CURSOS DE VERANO**  
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA RIOJA

**DERECHOS Y PROGRESO PARA TODOS LOS NIÑOS EN LA ERA DE LOS ODS**  
UNA AGENDA UNIVERSAL. UN DESAFÍO UNIVERSAL

#CDVDDHH  
DEL 15 AL 19 DE JULIO DE 2019  
Ginebra, Suiza  
Geneva Hostel  
Rue Nestlé 28 - 30  
Palais des Nations  
Avenue de la Paix 14  
[www.unirioja.es/cursosdeverano](http://www.unirioja.es/cursosdeverano)  
campus UNIVERSIDAD



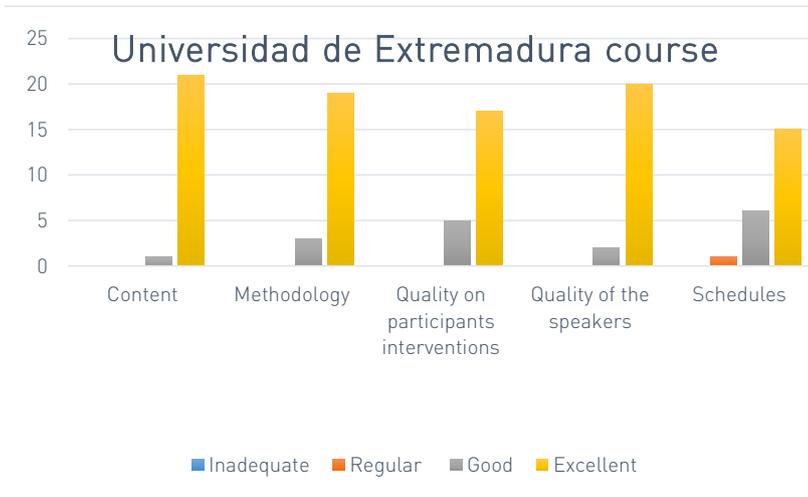
COURSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA. FROM OCTOBER 28 TO 31, 2019

The course called «Derechos humanos y siniestralidad a escala glocal»

28 participants from the Extremadura Security Corps and National Forces (Spain) attended this training.

Course location: Ferney Voltaire (France)

Through this training and the agreement with the University of Extremadura, officials from different security forces were provided with a new approach to public policies in which citizens are recognized as holders of rights and public administrations as holders of obligations.



**TRAINING “WOMEN EMPOWERMENT” IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAM. FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO 15, 2019**

The course called «Woman empowerment» was a Human rights training for women of African origin in collaboration with the UNESCO Participation Program.

10 women from different African countries, among them Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Benin, and Togo, participated in this course.

Course location : Center d’Accueil de la Genève Internationale (CAGI).

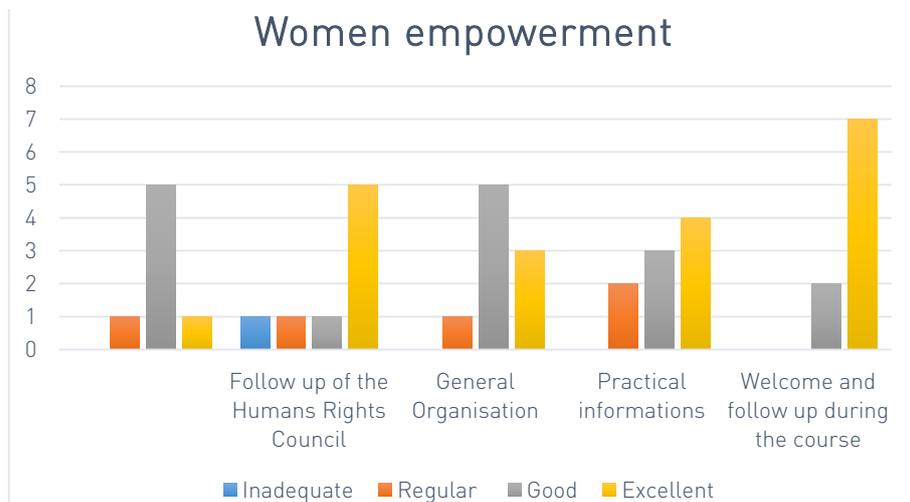
The aim of this training was to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal n°5 «Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls», teaching the attendees how to be an autonomous force of change for their communities.

As this training was held in Geneva, the students could follow different international meetings (mostly Working Groups). These experiences allowed participants to get to know with the functioning of the United Nations system.

During the different presentations the participants were taught the different procedures to be able to work at the institutional level with the United Nations, and thus how to appeal to them for their problems.

The realization of this course has been possible thanks to the UNESCO Participation Program and has consisted of two parts. The first part was online, this part consisted on the theoretical training of the human rights protection system. The second part was face to face and it took place in Geneva.

Evaluation of the course by the participants:



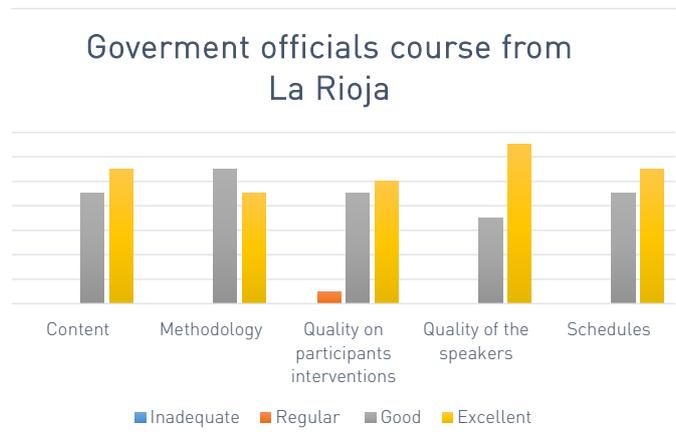
TRAINING COURSE FOR LA RIOJA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FROM NOVEMBER 25 TO 27, 2019

The course called «Gobernanza y métodos de trabajo para la implementación de la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible en La Rioja»

26 officials from the Government of La Rioja (Spain) participated in the course.

Place of course: Center Jean – Jacques Gautier - APT (Geneva) and the Varembé Conference Center (Geneva).

Evaluation of the course by the participants:



The objective of this training was to provide tools to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level. The training consisted on different practical and theoretical sessions in order to think how to bear into consideration the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

The training focused on three specific objectives. SDG No. 4: Ensure inclusive, equitable and inclusive quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; SDG No. 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies in public policies, and finally SDG No.13 Action for Climate. In addition to several sessions led by experts on different issues related to human rights and sustainable development, attendees were able to attend different meetings of the Business and Human Rights Forum and meet other international mechanisms such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



# PRESS AND SPECIALIZED MAGAZINES



## La liberté d

*Depuis 2016, un rapport paraît tous les ans dans le monde. En 2018, cette liberté a été évaluée par l'OIDEI, deux ans plus tard.*

Sylvie Horguelin

En 2016, l'OIDEI a publié le premier *Indice de liberté d'enseignement (ILE)* pour dresser un état des lieux dans 136 pays couvrant 94 % de la population mondiale <sup>1</sup>, explique Ignasi Grau, chargé de mission pour cette ONG suisse (voir encadré). « Nous voulions mettre en évidence le rôle que l'École indépendante joue dans la construction des sociétés démocratiques, poursuit l'expert. Notre recherche a été bien accueillie et, deux ans plus tard, nous publions un nouveau rapport centré sur les relations de notre indice avec d'autres indicateurs relatifs à la gouvernance des sociétés au sens large. »<sup>2</sup>

Peu connu en France, ce document se révèle passionnant ! Il permet de vérifier certaines hypothèses de recherche, « telles que la corrélation entre l'ILE et les indicateurs de bonne gouvernance qui font la part belle à la participation de la société civile », complète Claire de Lavermette, représentante de l'OIDEI auprès des Nations unies où le rapport a déjà été présenté. Autant dire qu'il peut contribuer à fonder des politiques éducatives sur des données pertinentes, comme l'exige l'agenda mondial de l'Unesco Éducation 2030.

Mais sur quoi repose l'ILE ? Cet indice prend en compte quatre éléments : les textes constitutionnels et législatifs concernant la liberté de choix des

# PRESS

During 2019, OIDEL appeared in various media in different countries to explain its activities. We can highlight three articles:

Earlier this year, the French bimonthly magazine ECA published a two-page article on OIDEL's advocacy activities regarding freedom of education. [https://twitter.com/oidel\\_edu/status/110874005627839232](https://twitter.com/oidel_edu/status/110874005627839232)

In April 9, the Magisterio newspaper, a specialist in education in Spain, published three pages on the activity of OIDEL and in particular on the results of the Freedom of Education Index.

[https://twitter.com/oidel\\_edu/status/1115647869229457411](https://twitter.com/oidel_edu/status/1115647869229457411)

In July 9, Forbes magazine published an interview with OIDEL director Ignasi Grau, about the privatization debate that took place at the United Nations.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikemcshane/2019/07/09/is-the-united-nations-coming-after-private-schools/#3bc4f79e74ba>

I



## Is The United Nations Coming After Private Schools?



Mike McShane Contributor Education



As we speak, the UN Human Rights Council is discussing and debating a host of issues as it sits for its 41st session. One of the issues that it is discussing is education. In its Sustainable Development Goals, [goal number four](#) is dedicated to education, pushing for, amongst other things, that "By 2030...all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education."

How we reach that goal is a matter of some debate. One particular flashpoint is the [report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education](#) and the degree to which it is or is not hostile towards private education.

To get to the bottom of this, I spoke with [Ignasi Grau](#), Executive Director of Geneva-based [OIDEL](#), which describes itself as "an NGO specialized in the right

**Vive por la libertad de enseñanza**

El director de OIDEL, Ignasi Grau, ha publicado un artículo en el que defiende la libertad de enseñanza como un derecho fundamental de los ciudadanos. Grau argumenta que la libertad de enseñanza es esencial para garantizar la calidad y la equidad de la educación, y que el Estado debe garantizarla para todos los ciudadanos.

**Ignasi Grau: "La libertad de enseñanza indica la confianza del Estado en sus ciudadanos"**

El director de OIDEL, Ignasi Grau, ha publicado un artículo en el que defiende la libertad de enseñanza como un derecho fundamental de los ciudadanos. Grau argumenta que la libertad de enseñanza es esencial para garantizar la calidad y la equidad de la educación, y que el Estado debe garantizarla para todos los ciudadanos.

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# RESEARCH

## ARTICLE IN THE SPANISH MAGAZINE OF COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

At the beginning of the year, a scientific article carried out by the Director of OIDEL, on religious schools in democratic societies was published in the Spanish Journal of Comparative Education.

<http://revistas.uned.es/index.php/REEC/article/view/21339>

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

ESTUDIOS E INVESTIGACIONES

4

UNED

seec  
Sociedad Española de  
Educación Comparada

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

*¿Cuál es el lugar de los colegios religiosos en las  
sociedades democráticas y plurales? Un acercamiento  
liberal a la problemática de los colegios religiosos  
en las sociedades occidentales. El caso de España*

**Ignasi Grau Callizo\***

DOI: 10.5944/reec.32.2018.21339

Recibido: 19 de febrero de 2018  
Aceptado: 26 de noviembre de 2018

\*Ignasi Grau Callizo: He studied Law at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Economics at the Universitat

During this year, OIDEL has published the latest version of the selected Bibliography on the right to education and educational policies. This publication is part of the Corpus of the right to education and aims to help experts and researchers in the world of education. This document was made possible by the former Director of the UNESCO Office in Geneva, Mr Zachariev. This publication is available on our website.

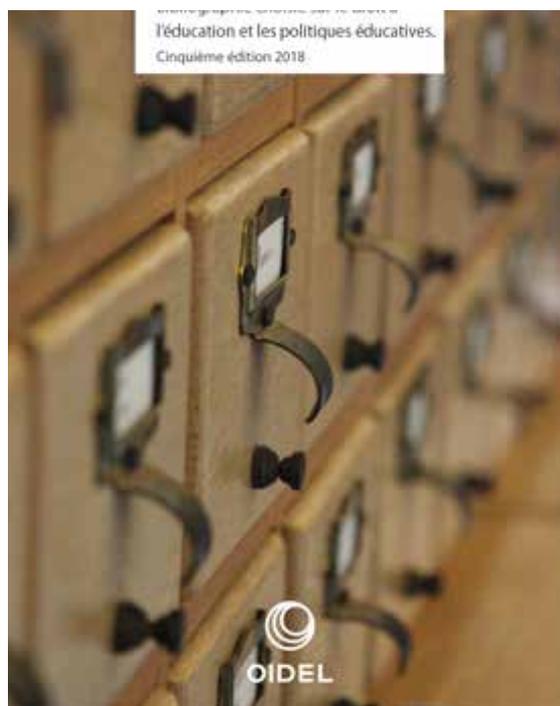
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lawyer and  
economist.



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Main representative  
of OIDEL in United  
Nations, jurist.



*Eva Pérez*  
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responsible, jurist.



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**OIDEL**

8, rue Le Corbusier CH- 1208 Genève  
Tel. +41 22 789 29 49 Fax. +41 22 789 29 22  
oidel@oidel.org www.oidel.org  
oidel\_edu f oidel