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Education International - European Region

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ETUCE Position on the impact of ChatGPT and other generative Artificial Intelligence on the teaching profession

Adopted by the ETUCE Committee on 21 March 2023

Since the early months of 2023, the education sector has been involved in intense debate revolving around the use of a new Artificial Intelligence-powered chatbot known as ChatGPT. Launched in November 2022 by the company OpenAI, ChatGPT is a machine learning-based language model able to interact with users by generating human-like text in 95 languages. The acronym "GPT" stands for "Generative Pre-trained Transformer", meaning that the language model has been pre-trained on vast datasets of text and some code languages. Based on the input it receives, ChatGPT can engage in written conversation with the users, generating coherent sentences. ChatGPT can also write in different code languages (e.g., Python, JavaScript C ++, etc.). As it is currently freely accessible to all users, ChatGPT has immediately sparked debates on student cheating and educational assessment, with several education institutions banning ChatGPT. As the representative of 11 million education professionals across Europe, ETUCE is particularly concerned about the opportunities and challenges that ChatGPT and other AI generative models bring about for teachers, academics, researchers, and other education personnel and their working conditions.

Building on the ETUCE Resolution on Artificial Intelligence (2021) and in consistency with education trade unions' policies on artificial intelligence and digitalisation at European level, the European Trade Union Committee for Education, ETUCE*:

• Urges education institutions and education authorities at local, national and European levels to seriously en**gage in concrete social dialogue with education professionals and education trade unions** to address the impact of generative Artificial Intelligence such as ChatGPT on the **working conditions** of teachers, academics, researchers and other education personnel.

• Requests governments and education authorities to **include generative AI models such as ChatGPT within the scope of existing and upcoming regulations** on the use of Artificial Intelligence.

• Expresses serious concern that generative AI such as ChatGPT will further trigger existing violations of the **intellectual property rights of teachers**, academics, and researchers due to the uncertainty in the lawfulness of the datasets used to train these

AI systems and the lack of reliable references. In this light, legislation on AI, such as the upcoming EU Artificial Intelligence Act must include the requirement for developers to declare that the datasets used to train their AI systems were obtained legally. Besides, AI developers should be held liable for copyright violations in the framework of national and European legislations on copyright. Finally, generative AI systems must include better safeguards on copyright, including improved reference systems and timely deletion of any material violating intellectual property rights.

- Demands that **initial education and continuous professional development** truly equip teachers, academics and other education personnel to address the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence both in their working conditions and educational pedagogies. Such training should be easily accessible free of charge in working time and continuously updated in accordance with education workers' needs.

- Calls on the governments and education authorities to foster **opportunities for discussion with education trade unions on the impact of Artificial intelligence systems** such as ChatGPT on teachers, academics, researchers and other education personnel from the perspective of **working conditions and attractiveness and status of the teaching professio**n. Specific initiatives involving education trade unions must be organised in the context of national and European sectoral social dialogue in education (ESSDE) and the Open Method of Coordination on education and training.

ETUCE will continue to closely monitor the developments of Artificial Intelligence in education and support its member organisations to ensure that digital technologies, including AI systems, are implemented to benefit quality education and respond to the professional needs of teachers, academics and other education personnel.

The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 127 Education Trade Unions and 11 million teachers in 51 countries of Europe. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International, the global federation of education trade unions.