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## PRESS RELEASE

### **European higher education employers and trade unions publish joint report on supporting early career researchers in Europe 10 years after European Charter for researchers**

During the past two years the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE), the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) and Universities and Colleges Employers Association of the UK (UCEA) have been examining in their joint project the role of social dialogue and social partners in supporting HE researchers in the early stages of their careers.

The project's report, 'Supporting early career researchers in higher education in Europe: the role of employers and trade unions', emphasising their commitment to improving the quality of education and research in Europe, has now been released.

Europe's ambitious agenda for economic and social development is critically dependent on the strength of its knowledge economy and the human capital that underpins it. Supporting and developing our next generation of researchers is therefore of fundamental importance if we want to guarantee Europe's competitiveness in a global economy, underlined both Bianka Stege, General Secretary of EFEE and Martin Rømer, European Director of ETUCE in the report.

EFEE and ETUCE further emphasise in the report and the accompanying European Sectoral Social Dialogue in Education Joint Declaration, how important promoting the employability and mobility of early career researchers is, alongside a commitment to improving gender equality and equity among this group. The report and Declaration offer several recommendations in these key areas based on case study evidence from HE researchers in Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Italy, Romania and the UK.

The research identifies specific challenges and barriers facing research staff in EU HE institutions including work/life balance issues, the short-term nature of some research contracts and related job insecurity, social security rights, and career progression. The report also highlights a range of successful initiatives that have enabled progress towards the objectives of the EU Charter & Code in six in-depth country studies.

This report's launch has coincided with the European Commission's celebration of the 10th anniversary of the 'European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers'. The Code of Conduct anniversary and Report launch serve as timely reminders that ensure that the selection process for hiring and promoting researchers is fair, merit-based and transparent.

The report is available at the website of [EFEE](#), [ETUCE](#) and [UCEA](#). The executive summary is also available in [French](#) and [German](#).

## ENDS

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