

Application membership Administrative Council ATEE

Michiel Heijnen, June 2018

Thanks to my recent experience as head of the organizing committee of the 2018 ATEE winter conference in Utrecht, I had the pleasure of getting to know ATEE very well in a relatively short time. I enjoyed the 2017 annual conference in Dubrovnik, enjoyed the ATEE meetings I attended at the Brussels office, enjoyed representing ATEE by giving a presentation during the recent Life Long Learning Week in November 2017, was honored by representing ATEE during an EP-meeting in March 2018 and representing ATEE as a speaker during a special interest group meeting at the EP in June 2018.

I have met many engaged and expert teacher educators, researchers and policymakers who, through their work, actively contribute to the quality of teachers and thus to education in a broader sense. The ATEE facilitates international cooperation and exchange of ideas by stimulating active dialogue. This results in inspiring and exciting conversations, I have experienced myself. So, I am very much looking forward to the Annual conference in Gävle.

At the moment I am employed by the institute for teacher education of Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (HU), which has been an institutional member of ATEE for many years. Currently, I work as program manager educational innovation. Within our institutes innovation program, we collaborate and co-create with partners in secondary, vocational and higher education on the topics of innovative learning and teaching and we conduct research in this field. I work with partners in the Utrecht region, but my focus is mainly on international cooperation. Before that I worked as a biology and science teacher in schools for secondary education and at HU as a teacher educator, project leader and manager. Thanks to my studies at Utrecht Research University and TIAS school for business & society, I have become skilled in educational leadership, change management and strategic management. In my career I have been able to make good use of the acquired knowledge and skills. Both in collaboration with secondary schools during innovative projects as well as in my work at HU.

I think the inspiring and exciting conversations that ATEE facilitates and stimulates are very necessary. The world and with it European societies are constantly changing. Globalization, digitization, robotisation, flexibilisation, socio-cultural and economic developments impose new demands on Europeans; demands that we partly cannot yet oversee. Education has an important responsibility here. It prepares children for sustainable living, learning and working in the 21st century. This requires a structure of education in which more tailor-made work is carried out, based on the needs and talents of children, but also based on a solid foundation of general knowledge and skills. In future-proof education, talents of children should be the starting point of learning. This requires committed educational professionals who join children in their learning journey; the teacher is therefore crucial. With this movement towards more differentiated and personalized learning, the role of the teacher is changing, from knowledge carrier and expert to supervisor and designer.

Universities and other institutions that provide teacher education play an important role here. They educate, in close cooperation with schools, the teachers of the future. These teachers will give substance to new ambitions and will become part of professional, learning school organizations. This means that teacher education programs should pay plenty attention to skills such as collaboration, creative thinking, computational thinking, research and self-regulation. That teachers are trained in educational entrepreneurship, that they are at the forefront of educational innovation and thus are prepared to inspire their future colleagues and employers. Connecting is a key word here, qualitative and innovative education can only be made by means of collaboration.

That is why I think ATEE can play an even greater role as a forerunner in educational innovation and the changing role of teachers. ATEE provides a powerful network with a lot of expertise. If this expertise is bundled, with a strong focus on innovation, then ATEE can have even more impact on realizing future-oriented education in Europe, with teachers who lead the way and will make the difference in the coming years. By working together on new educational ideas and conducting research, ATEE will get European teachers moving. ATEE will challenge teacher educators, teachers and researchers to be creative, dare them to think outside of existing systems and frameworks.

I would be honored to contribute to the mission of ATEE from the innovative perspective. Addressing new themes and stimulating members to explore new territories. I believe I am capable of this, because of my track record as a change maker. I have an entrepreneurial spirit, have guts, speak out and bring inspiration from there. I have contributed to educational innovation in all kinds of projects and from various (managerial) roles. For example, I managed the innovation towards blended learning, the design of more flexible education and the transition of our organization structure. I have time to take my responsibility, to attend meetings of the AC in Brussels and to actively contribute to the policy and strategy of ATEE. And I am committed to help increasing ATEE memberships and expanding the ATEE network. With my positive energy and with my experience, I would love to be part of the AC of ATEE.

Michiel Heijnen