

Résumé of the CV of Prof. dr. Jan De Groof

Jan De Groof (Belgium, °1953) has dedicated his academic and professional career to education rights, education policy and governance, the legislative framework of education, international and European law, constitutional law, fundamental rights in the domain of religion, culture and ethics. His professional activities can be divided into three main domains: (i) Academic Career; (ii) International Expert and Mandate Holder of various International Organizations and Conferences; and (iii) University Governance.

He recently received an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), giving “recognition to his significant role as leader in various fields of education and law, his global influence in education law during the late 20th and the 21st century, as well as his assiduous campaigning for justice and good governance in education”. He is also honoured with the Honorary Doctorate at the South East European University (Tetovo, Macedonia).

He is lately elected as Deputy Chair of the Appeals Committee of the ‘European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education’ (EQAR) and as full member of the *Club of Rome – EU Chapter (CoR-EU)*.

He is appointed (2016) by Pope Franciscus as Consultor on Education for the next five years.

He chaired both World Conferences on the *Right to and the Rights in Education*. He also presided the Law Conferences in the framework of the World Conference ‘*Educating Today and Tomorrow. A renewing passion*’ (Vatican and Castelgandolfo, November 2015).

(i) Academic Career

Jan De Groof is currently professor at the ‘College of Europe’ in Bruges (Belgium) at the European Interdisciplinary Studies Department (Legal Studies, Political and Administrative Studies, Economic Studies) and holder of the UNESCO-Chair on the Right to Education. He is also professor at the TIAS School for Business and Society (the Netherlands) at the University of Tilburg where he also acts in his capacity of promoter of Ph.D at the Graduate School of Law, and also at the Higher School of Economics, National Research University in Moscow (Russia). He recently is appointed as extraordinary professor at the Edu-HRight Research Unit, North West University, Potchefstroom (South Africa).

His doctoral students, coming from several continents, focus on various aspects of the Right to Education.

Formerly, Jan De Groof was professor at Ghent University (Belgium), at the University of Antwerp (Public Law), and he has been visiting professor and lecturer at universities worldwide: Boston University, University of Lisbon, University of Pretoria, University of Malaya, Seton Hall University in New York, University of Salvador-Bahia and Sao Paulo in Brazil, Beijing Normal University, University of Padova and Hanyang University (Korea), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev.

He was invited for conferences worldwide.

Jan De Groof is known for his international experience and contribution to the promotion of fundamental rights in the sphere of education, research, minority issues, and culture. He was honoured with the appointment as *UNESCO Chargé de mission* (2007-2010) by UNESCO’s director-general Mr. Koichiro Matsuura.

Jan De Groof publishes extensively on the Right to Education, Education Policy, Fundamental Rights in Education, Culture and Religion, as author or co-author of books (95), book chapters (95) and academic articles (109). He co-edited, with Charles Glenn, a set of profiles of government policies on civic society and

education worldwide, of which the third, four-volume, edition (November 2012) includes 100 authors discussing 65 countries. He lectured on ‘*Academic Freedom*’ and his book on ‘*Civic Education*’ (Nijmegen: Wolf Legal Publishers) with Prof. Thomas Misco is recently published.

Jan De Groof has organized and chaired the *First World Conference on Global Justice and Education* (The Hague, Amsterdam, 2004) during which he was unanimously asked to pilot the network of international and regional education policy and law associations worldwide. The *Second World Conference on Global Justice and Education* took place in November 2012 in Brussels with the cooperation of the highest representatives of the international Courts of Human Rights, many Constitutional Courts and several Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.

He chaired the legal conferences within the World Congress ‘*Educating Today and Tomorrow, A Renewing Passion*’ of the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican and in Castelgandolfo on 17 November 2015 – 22 November 2015 and held the concluding speech in the Plenary Session in the Pope Paul VI Hall.

De Groof was recently appointed as International Member of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, Department of Higher Education.

(ii) *International Expert and Mandate Holder of Various International Organizations and Conferences*

Jan De Groof has been entrusted frequently with international assignments and has acted as an expert for OECD, the EU, the Council of Europe and the World Bank. He has fulfilled several missions with H.E. Max van der Stoep, the previous *OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities* in the Balkan region and has acted as one of the five founding fathers of the ‘*South East European University (SEEU)*’ after the civil war in Macedonia.

He was asked to steer an international panel of experts on the EU Program “*Rule of Law*” in Iraq and neighbouring countries (2013-2014). He was also invited to co-chair at the request of the *Commission for the African Union* the Task Force in charge of drafting a research and innovation policy for Africa and for the Pan-African University (2011-2012).

He provided at large consultancy and advisory services to legislatures and the government in the Russian Federation (1990-2002), South Africa (1995-2005), and Central and East European countries on education, research policy, constitutional rights and human rights. The topics for consultancy vis-à-vis the South African leadership concerned constitutional and human rights in the domain of education, religion, language, culture, but also the repartition of competences between the national state and the provinces, techniques of reconciliation, ...

He is founder and chairman of the ‘*European Association for Education Law and Policy*’ (1993) and co-founder of similar academic platforms in the Russian Federation, South Africa and Latin America. In this capacity, he is also responsible for fund raising for capacity building projects. Prof. De Groof organized training courses on university management for the academic leadership of various Chinese provinces. He organized several summer schools for (post-)doctoral students.

Jan De Groof served as the President of the ‘EuroHESC Review Panel’ on ‘Research in Humanities’ of the ‘*European Science Foundation*’ (Strasbourg 2007-2012).

He is the European member of the ‘*Council of Senior Advisors*’ of the *International University Presidents Association*, accredited to the UN. He has coordinated the missions of the Flemish Rector’s Conference to the universities in Israel and Palestine (2010-2011) and he was currently organizing academic workshops with experts from both regions.

De Groof embraced sustainability of academic cooperation thereby making successful use of European calls under the Framework Programme, the Lifelong Learning Programme, and the TEMPUS Programme.¹

He chaired a high profile commission, financed by the 'National Bank of Belgium' on '*Good Governance in Universities and Research Institutes*' and presented the 'Code' to the legislator. This Code inspired a similar initiative in the cultural domain.

(iii) *Academic Management and Policy*

Since 1989, Jan De Groof holds the position of *Government Commissioner for Universities* in the Flemish Community of Belgium.

Before being appointed as Commissioner, he served as the *Chef de Cabinet* of the Flemish Minister for Education and Training (1985-1988); as *legal advisor* of the Minister-President of the Flemish Government and of the Minister of Culture; and as *expert* at the Belgian think tank, the 'Centre of Economic, Political and Social Studies' in Brussels (CEPESS) under the leadership of Herman Van Rompuy.

De Groof has taken the leadership in the Board of Trustees of several national highly profiled cultural institutions.

¹ EU project grant, 'Building safe schools for children with rights', 527588-LLP-1-2012-1-BE-COMENIUS-CAM, 2012-2013; EU project grant, 'Language Policies and Legal Action to Overcome Language Barriers in Education for non-EU member states long-term residents', 518052-LLP-1-2011-1-BE-COMENIUS-CAM, 2011-2012; EU project grant, 'Islam instruction in state-funded schools: what is at stake?', 510439-2010-LLP-BE-COMENIUS-CAM, 2010-2011; EU project grant, 'Restructuring Higher Education in the Azerbaijan', SM_SCM-T021A06; EU project grant, 'Restructuring Higher Education in Albania', SM_SCM-C004B06-2006; EU project grant, 'Restructuring Higher Education in the Ukraine', SM_SCM-T020A06; EU project grant, 'Restructuring Higher Education in the Russian Federation', SM_SCM-TO19A06; EU project grant, 'European and comparative education law and policy III', 2009/LLP/ERAMOB-IP/18; EU project grant, 'European and comparative education law and policy II', 2008/ERA/MOB-IP/19; EU project grant, 'European and comparative education law and policy I', BENl-2007-LLP-ERA-IP10; EPOS-Vlaanderen, 'Setting up a cooperation with Jordanian Institutions', 2010; 'Creating Safety Cultures in Education', 2011-1-BE3-ERA10-04131; 'Summerschool on building safe schools for children with rights', 2012-ERA-IP03.