

4th AXIA CONVENTION CONCLUSIONS
BARCELONA 4th – 5th November

THE AUTONOMY OF SCHOOLS, A FACTOR IN EDUCATIONAL QUALITY?

The 4th Axia Convention was very successful, with more than 300 people, mainly from primary and secondary school governing boards, registering. The different state administrations were also represented at the convention. It is a measure of the event's importance that the closing speech was given by the President of Catalonia's autonomous government.

The general theme of the sessions, which achieved a high level of excellence thanks to the quality of the rapporteurs, was the idea of the autonomy of schools. Other subjects discussed included expectations (sometimes contrasting) about the effect of the new education law (Organic Educational Act), aspects regarding the autonomy of schools in the National Agreement on Education, the foundation of the State Federation of School Principals (FEDADI), and the impact of the Pisa Report.

The main contributions were:

- Presentations on the French, Irish and Finnish Educational Systems, enriching the understanding of the Catalan school board members,
- Two accurate and realistic presentations of the functioning and analyses of the so-called Pisa Tests.
- The statement by AXIA and FEDADI that the quality of school management could get worse under the new Organic Educational Act.
- Different Catalan and State educational authorities' projects and proposals, particularly as regards the autonomy of schools, in the current political context.
- Presentations of the leading trade unions' views on the projects of the Catalan Department of Education with regard to the autonomy of schools.