i-BEST

An International Collaborative Barometer for the Health and Well-being of Education Personnel

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1. Background

Education staff = 100 million people worldwide whose health/wellbeing are essential for public health & society

"We do the most beautiful job in the world, education, participating to the construction of the citizens of the future"
A Teacher, Cameroon, I-BEST 2026 focus group



2. Objectives

- To collect standardized and up-to-date data on the work and well-being of education personnel across borders
- To contribute to identify key levers of educators' health prevention/promotion
- To guide stakeholders as closely as possible to local realities

3. Methodology

- International, recurring online survey of education personnel disseminated through local partners
  - Teaching and support staff
  - From kindergarten to high school
  - Across a variety of socioeconomic and cultural contexts
- Data weighted according to gender, age, and education level; national statistics from UNESCO/OECD



Fig 1. I-BEST involved more than 40 organizations from its inception

A collaborative project involving…

- MGEN ↔ a French health insurance non-profit society
- Its corporate foundation ↔ a public health research team
- Education International ↔ the global trade union federation of education personnel
- Locally engaged partners in each participating territory
- Other stakeholders in educators' health promotion



Fig 2. QR code linking to the website displaying I-BEST results and selected sample of outputs

4. Results

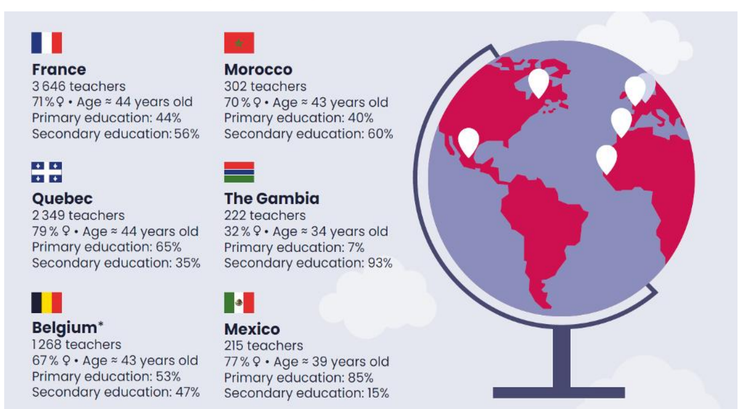


Fig3. I-BEST 2021 ↔ 6 territories, 8 000 teachers

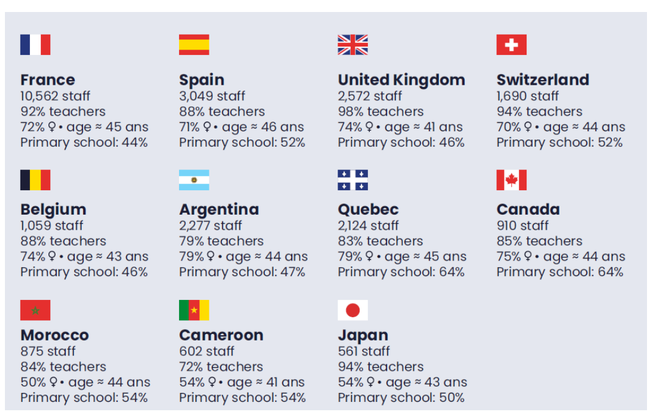


Fig 4. I-BEST 2023 ↔ 11 territories, 26 000 educators

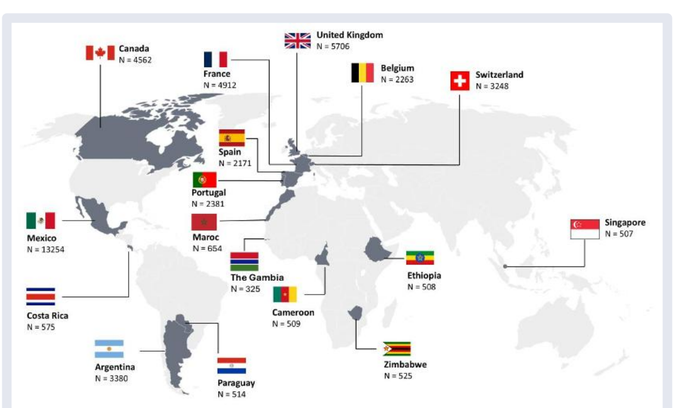


Fig 5. I-BEST 2026 ↔ 17 countries, 46 000 educators

I-BEST 2021 objectively demonstrated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the teaching profession while documenting structural issues such as:
► school violence, lack of hierarchical support, and insufficient recognition.
I-BEST 2023, extended to all education professions, confirmed these challenges and highlighted certain national specificities.
The 2023 edition included specific analyses on: ► Early Childhood Education personnel's well-being and gender differences in the well-being of teachers.
I-BEST 2026 was enriched with qualitative data (focus groups). The findings the 2026 edition will be released on 20 November 2026.

5. Conclusion

- I-BEST provides rigorous data to establish a robust evidence base, identify priority areas for action, and specific avenues for improvement, country by country.
- The main strength of I-BEST lies in the involvement of participating organizations at all stages: design, data collection, valorization, and dissemination of results.



"I would change many things about education policy, but the work itself, is amazing. I love it!"
An educator, Argentina, I-BEST 2026 focus group

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Geneva Health Forum

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