



Plate-forme européenne de la société civile pour l'éducation tout au long de la vie
European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning - EUCIS-LLL

PRESS RELEASE

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In times of crisis, the social dimension of education and training should remain high in the political agenda of the European Union!

Brussels, 17th October 2011 // EUCIS-LLL releases its publication on the social dimension of education and training. It calls for a stronger political commitment in the fight against poverty and exclusion at EU and national level. In times of socio-economic crisis and of constant change, it is vital to invest in European citizens, the best capital of Europe, and support initiatives that aim to correct social, economic and cultural inequalities.

To mark the release of its publication on the social dimension of education and training, EUCIS-LLL would like to remind European policy engagements¹ to invest in education and training and particularly to ensure that nobody is left behind in the current economic crisis. *"The austerity measures put in place by EU Member States are having an adverse effect by acting on investments in education and training. They could impede reaching of headline targets in the Europe 2020 strategy and be a burden on people that are already disadvantaged"* said Gina Ebner, EUCIS-LLL President. Cuts in adult education, schools, teacher training or popular education will have far-reaching consequences that will hurt Europe in the long-term. Instead we invite the EU and its Member States to adopt sustainable, inclusive and smart strategies.

This publication aims to present the outcomes of the exchanges that took place within our platform in 2010-2011. *"EUCIS-LLL wanted to offer a constructive analysis of its members' concerns, underlining that it is crucial to invest in alternative paths that can substantially improve the conditions of many excluded people"* said Audrey Frith, EUCIS-LLL Director. The publication includes policy recommendations as well as some very concrete initiatives taking place around Europe that ought to be better known, shared and supported. 39 good practice examples from the different sectors of education and training are thus presented under each priority action in order to illustrate concrete ways forward.

EUCIS-LLL also takes this opportunity to invite the European Commission to strengthen the third pillar of the "ET2020"² aimed at promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship and to facilitate progress towards the implementation of the May 2010 Council Conclusions on the social dimension of education and training³. EUCIS-LLL proposes a broad and overarching initiative that covers all sectors of education and training and will build on the results of the European Year 2010 but also on what was achieved in ET2010; Europe needs a new momentum in this crucial area of cooperation and of progress in Europe.

Notes to the editors:

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) gathers 24 European networks working in education and training. Together, they cover all sectors of education and training and gather thousands of organizations in higher education, vocational education and training, adult education or popular education. Together they represent millions of students, school heads, parents, HR professionals, teachers and trainers.



¹ Council [conclusions](#) on the role of education and training in the implementation of the 'Europe 2020' strategy of March 2011.

² Education and Training Work Programme ('[ET2020](#)') sets the priority areas of EU cooperation in education and training.