



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)

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Position on Youth on the Move: "Learning mobility should be a reality for all!"

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) gathers 20 European networks in education and training. Together, they represent thousands of teachers, animators, school heads, HR professionals and trainers, in training centres, schools, associations or universities. We very much welcome the focus on smart, inclusive and sustainable growth of the Europe 2020 Strategy. We also believe it is important to have some flagship initiatives that make EU cooperation more visible for European citizens. One of them is "Youth on the Move". We welcome this initiative that comes in a period of economic and social crisis, which proves to be especially tough for young people.

We appreciate the transversal approach taken within the Commission's Communication through its four main lines of actions. We are of course very much attached to the need to implement lifelong learning systems that take into account the **whole spectrum of learning** and do wish to contribute to its success. EUCIS-LLL nevertheless insists that it is important to consider learning mobility "for all" and not only focus on students' mobility in higher education. In order to give everyone a chance to **access learning mobility it should happen in all sectors** (vocational education and training, schools, non-formal education, etc). We thus recommend developing the access to learning mobility for all types of learners and targeting those that are further away from learning. Today access remains non-egalitarian. As stated in "Europe 2020", "*about 80 million people have low or basic skills, but lifelong learning benefits mostly the more educated*". Learning mobility can be a great tool to reconnect some publics to learning, to society at large and especially to the European idea. But this requires sufficient financial support to **enable socially excluded groups to participate** and to ensure the **dignity** of those undergoing mobility.

Furthermore we believe that **learning mobility should not only aim at better employability but should be seen as equal to active citizenship and personal development**. It contributes to a better understanding of cultural, social and personal differences, to a more active participation within society and more generally to greater social cohesion. Learning mobility should always attempt to support all three aims. This way, the benefits of mobility programmes will truly reach the individual, society, the labour market and Europe.

Making mobility a reality for all requires a strong political and financial commitment from the Members states at national and European level. EUCIS-LLL stresses the **need for a strong Lifelong Learning Programme encompassing all the sectors and all the ages** as well as for a strong Youth in Action Programme that matches the challenges ahead in a global way including as equally important active citizenship, social cohesion and employment. We do hope that Members of the European Parliament will support this sustainable, smart and inclusive approach to learning mobility.

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