



## 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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### EUCIS-LLL welcomes the European Commission's proposal to further engage stakeholders in policy dialogue and calls for a Structured Dialogue in the field of Education and Training!

On 20 December 2011, the European Commission adopted the draft Joint Report of the Council and the Commission "Education and Training in a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe", on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in education and training ("ET2020"). The report summarises the actions and developments during the first 2009-2011 cycle of implementing "ET2020" and suggests priority areas for the next cycle 2012-14. The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) welcomes the will to increase stakeholders' involvement in the proposal and particularly the launch of a "New Annual Education and Training Forum" to exchange views with education and training stakeholders in the framework of the European Semester. EUCIS-LLL feels this proposal goes in the right direction and further calls for a Structured Dialogue in Education and Training.

EUCIS-LLL welcomes the idea to strengthen the **European Stakeholders' Forum**, co-organised by EUCIS-LLL and the European Commission (DG EAC) since 2008, as a basis for the "New Annual Education and Training Forum". These [Forums](#) proved to be very successful in gathering the main stakeholders, in creating new synergies among them and in providing policy inputs to decision-makers on the ET2010 and ET2020 implementation. During the last Forum, stakeholders made proposals in order to improve ET2020 governance and stakeholders' participation. In that respect, EUCIS-LLL feels the proposal of the Commission to connect the Forums to the European Semester goes in the right direction. The Forums should continue to be organized with the **full participation of civil society organizations**. EUCIS-LLL<sup>1</sup> has participated for many years in the civil dialogue with the EU institutions including the organisation of the Stakeholders' Forum. It remains available to work on this new version of the Forums to ensure that they become an efficient tool to promote a constructive dialogue between decision-makers and stakeholders.

However, in EUCIS-LLL view, such cooperation is not enough in order to increase stakeholders' participation and facilitate the implementation of the ET2020. European organisations play a specific role as multipliers and their involvement is a critical factor for the success of the ET2020 implementation and to advance in the modernisation of education and training systems. In the spirit of EU2020's partnership approach, **a structured dialogue has to be established in the field of education and training**. The open, transparent and regular dialogue evoked by article 11 of the EU Treaty is the only way to achieve the EU strategic objectives in lifelong learning successfully; this will not be possible without clear mechanisms of communication, consultation and cooperation. This intention has been expressed on many occasions but no clear guidelines have been adopted yet. EUCIS-LLL, as the main partner of EU institutions in education and training, is in a privileged position to lead this cooperation towards a structured dialogue. Concrete proposals for a structured dialogue in education and training will soon be published by EUCIS-LLL.

*EUCIS-LLL gathers 25 European networks in education and training. Together, they cover all sectors of education and training including networks for secondary and higher education, vocational education and training, adult education and popular education; networks for students, school heads, parents, HRD professionals, teachers and trainers.*



<sup>1</sup> In 2009 the European Commission acknowledged EUCIS-LLL as a "unique representation" on LLL of the various education and training actors organised at European level. In the annual Work Programme on grants and contracts it states that EUCIS-LLL is "in a unique position to support European networks in education and training to work collectively at European, national and local levels and to contribute to a structured policy dialogue within the open method of coordination in education and training".