



Newsletter #10 June-July 2008

EUCIS-LLL

European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning

EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR EU COOPERATION IN EDUCATION & TRAINING

The European Commission, in partnership with the EUCIS-LLL platform, organised a stakeholders' Forum for broad consultation of the European Stakeholders representing civil society on 20 May 2008 in Brussels. Around sixty stakeholders representing various organisations in education and training participated in the Forum. This event is very important as it is the first time civil society organisations are consulted as such in the preparation of the strategic framework for education and training.

Indeed, the Commission plans to come forward in December 2008 with a proposal for an updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (as part of its end 2008 Lisbon package). It will

be based on discussions on the future perspectives for education and training and the experience made with the development and implementation of the Education & Training 2010 work programme to date.

The participants to the Forum participated in four different workshops: "Citizenship and intercultural dialogue", "Sustainability and resources", "Access and participation" and "Reference tools and instruments". Even if the stakeholders came from different sectors, they managed to exchange ideas and proposals and to agree on key points.

Download the minutes of the meeting [[EN](#)] and the key points [[EN](#)]

PROMOTING LLL WEEKS IN EUROPE - DG EAC CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The European Commission has published a call for proposals about "Raising awareness of Lifelong Learning strategies" (EAC/23/2008). "Lifelong Learning Weeks" could be proposed in that frame. EUCIS-LLL members have organizations in the 32 countries concerned by this call. National members could build consortiums in order to present the project. Of course, the weeks would remain open to other stakeholders and could take different forms in each country. The deadline is July, 31th 2008.

The proposals have to be submitted by the Ministry in charge of education and training in each country (one project per country). The activities shall involve a wide range of stakeholders at all levels. Hence the use of

building and proposing "national EUCIS-LLL platforms" to the Ministries.

The consortium could use what we have already produced on "LLL weeks". This idea was presented during the Education and Training Coordination Group (ETCG) meeting in 2006 and 2008 and received the support of the Commission. We have also presented the idea to Gordon Clark, head of unit in DG EAC and who is in charge of this tender when we met him to prepare the 20th May Forum. The LLL Weeks could for instance be a follow-up of the debates we had during this EC Forum but at national level. Cofounding is max. 75% with a budget from 20 000 to 100 000 € (12 months max.).

[More](#) information about the tender.

REGISTER ON INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES: PRUDENCE IS NEEDED

The European Commission as part of the European Transparency Initiative has launched its register for interest representatives on 23 June. This register is a voluntary register for lobbyists/interest representatives, including public interest organisations (NGOs). The Commission is likely to propose that the register will be evaluated after about 12 months of being operational.

The Civil Society Contact Group, in which EUCIS-LLL is member, has on several occasions raised difficulties with the format of the register for public interest organisations with the European Commission. It is likely that the final version of the register will fail to respond to some of the key concerns we have expressed.

One of the Civil Society Contact Group main concerns is that the information requested of the different categories of actors who will complete the register (public and private interest representatives), will not lead to comparable information. In particular, the register is likely to fail making comparable financial information available. We therefore think that the register falls short of the original expressed intention of the Commission to enhance transparency.

Other inconsistencies and difficulties for public interest organisations to sign up to the register are to be expected. We therefore decided with our colleagues in the Civil Society Contact Group to carefully analyse the final version of the register before deciding whether to

sign. We think it is important, that in so far as possible public interest organisations take a common stance with regards to the register.

Even if the Commission may put pressure on our organisations to sign the register, we think we should not be rushed into signing. We therefore advise you to await further discussions of the register with our colleagues in the Civil Society Contact Group before registering. We will evaluate the register and further discuss a coordinated approach on 10 September in the Civil Society Contact Group.

You can find the register as form June 23 [online](#).

Useful documents [online](#).

EUROPEAN YEAR 2009: CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

The Education Youth and Culture Council held an exchange of views on promoting creativity and innovation through education and training on 22 May 2008. The 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation aims to raise awareness amongst the public and to support Member states' efforts to favour creativity notably through education, as a driving force for innovation.

Innovation in education and training implies not only research on new lessons, more interdisciplinary, new teaching methods, but also teacher training notably through continuing education and the integration of the results of researches on didactics within education.

The ministers agreed on the fact that creativity and innovation can only take place within a context of schools' autonomy. It favours a certain openness to

society and to innovation in learning. To stimulate creativity from early ages and to develop them all lifelong, the ministers said it was necessary to open schools to culture and businesses.

The Minister of education of the United Kingdom, Bill Rammell, presented his country's experience, where 5 hours of cultural activities per week are planned in schools and where 90% of secondary schools offer a work experience to the 14-16 years old. In Ireland, before the last two years of secondary education, the pupils benefit from a transitory year dedicated to personal development during which they can do internships, participate in scientific projects, etc.

Download the press release of the European Council 2868 [\[EN\]](#), Draft conclusions [\[EN\]](#)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES

The Education Youth and Culture Council adopted a Resolution on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities on, 22 May 2008.

The Member States invite the European Commission to consider possible lines of action at European level, based on good practices identified in cooperation with Member States, to facilitate the inclusion of young

people with fewer opportunities and their participation in society and to take into account the objectives of the current Resolution when proposing the priorities for the future framework of cooperation in the field of youth.

More information [here](#).

SEMINAR ON THE BOLOGNA PROCESS AFTER 2010

The seminar " *Bologna 2020: Unlocking Europe's potential - Contributing to a better world* » to discuss the future of the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area after 2010, was organised in Ghent (Belgium), on 19 and 20 May 2008. This seminar prepares the ministries encounter that will be held in Louvain in May 2009.

This seminar fostered a series of topics and questions that should be discussed during the Bologna follow up

group in Sarajevo, on 24-25 June 2008. If important progresses were made on the harmonization with BMD, on quality, there is for example more work to do on mobility and lifelong learning. In the context of a lack of connections between higher education and the labour market, some participants outlined the need to establish a catalogue on future skill needs before 2020.

In the coming months the draft report on the future of the Bologna Process will receive more focus through

further contributions and discussions

Report of the seminar [here](#).

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION ON THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL IN ENCOURAGING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

At their informal meeting held in Oslo on 5 and 6 June 2008, European Ministers of Education adopted a communication on the role of the school in encouraging intercultural dialogue, which symbolically rounds off the 18-month trio Presidency programme. The ministers stressed that *“Europe is becoming increasingly diverse, therefore the discussions on intercultural dialogue and encouraging multilingualism with emphasis on the role of the school are of key importance for our future.”*

The European Commissioner for Multilingualism Leonard Orban noted the importance of learning the languages of minorities and pointed up the integration

of migrants, which is a great challenge for Europe. With the countries of South Eastern Europe coming ever closer to the processes of European integration, at the conclusion of the conference the representatives of these countries presented special statements to the participants associating themselves with the opinion that it was only through dialogue that historic divisions could be overcome and a single European area built. To live actively together and not simply side by side was one of the key messages of the meeting.

Download the press release [here](#).

FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD CURIOSITY TO EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING, EFFE COLLOQUIUM

This Colloquium, entitled *From Early Childhood Curiosity to Early School Leaving*, which has taken place in Brussels in May, was the 32nd Colloquium of the EFFE. It attracted 60 participants from 18 countries. Participants included teachers, head teachers, advisers, parents, policy makers and a wide range of educational organisations.

Participants explored the causes of early school leaving. These are many and varied and include failure; the curriculum being too academic; young people needing to have a job; health problems; conflict at school; students feeling misunderstood at school and not treated as individuals and pupils being thrown out. There are different solutions depending on the cause of the problem. Smaller classes and individual education plans were seen as central in enabling teachers to meet the diverse needs of their students.

The provision of alternative and non-formal settings were considered helpful in giving young people

“It is not school systems which should support longterm sustainable economic growth in Europe. The economy is only the basis for development of education and culture and is there to enable people to have a humane life”

options about where they study and enabling them to find a place which suits them. Furthermore the image of vocational pathways needs to be improved so that these are not always seen as second class options. The architecture and physical environment of learning settings was considered important in creating places where young people like to be. Finally and crucially, the need for education to link closely with social services and health services was seen as absolutely central in providing “joined-up” support to young people who are at risk and their families.

During the Colloquium, much was said about the need for a highly professional and skilled workforce able to meet the needs of individual children. EFFE also pointed the need for a thorough review of testing and accountability mechanisms as testing is strangling education..

Contact EFFE coordinator, [Lies Feron](#), to receive the conclusions of the Colloquium.

FOR A EUROPEAN STATUTE OF ASSOCIATION, OPINION OF THE FRENCH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Very early associations, as well as cooperatives and mutual companies, have been on the list of the organisations that could aspire to obtain a European statute. The Commission had presented a proposal to adopt a statute for a European association but, on September 27th 2005, it withdrew its proposal owing to a “simplification”, without any previous impact study. The French Economic and Social Council, wished to re-open this case, in a communication adopted in June 2008.

A statute for a “European association” should be granted to non-governmental, non-profit-making organisations, working out of the field of market relationships, for the general interest and at European level. It would be a happy end after many years of negotiations and misunderstandings to, at last, recognise the civic, social and economic functions of the intermediary bodies that gather free voluntary citizens, engaged in the European construction through the most

diverse activities: social, cultural, sports, education and environmental activities, amongst others.

This would be a response to the old legitimate aspirations of the volunteers who wish to benefit from a fundamental freedom, the right of association, and who want to participate in the emergence of a European

citizenship. On the other hand, it would be a response to the tentative steps of the Commission in the implementation of procedures of identification and qualification of the various actors of civil society, in the past few years.

To read the opinion [[FR](#)]

OBSERVAL : OBSERVATORY ON VALIDATION OF NON FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING

EUCEN, the European University Continuing Education Network, is leading a Leonardo project called OBSERVAL. Partners are teams in 24 countries of the European Union representing the different educational sectors (higher education, vocational education and training, adult education). The main objective of this project is to create a database on validation of non formal and informal learning in European countries, which will be regularly updated, available in a European Observatory and accessible by Internet. The perspective is to provide documents

useful for a large range of actors (decision makers at national and institutional level, social partners, human resources managers, people in charge of validation,...) which are usually confidential or limited in use and dissemination outside the country or the Region or the institution where they have been produced. The project aims at presenting them on common formats in a way that facilitates understanding and allows comparison.

For more information, please contact the Project [administrator](#).

EUROPEAN E-SKILLS 2008 CONFERENCE "IMPLEMENTING A LONG TERM E-SKILLS STRATEGY IN EUROPE"

The conference is organised by the European Commission and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) in partnership with the e-Skills Industry Leadership Board. It will bring together experts from government, ICT industry, social partners, academia and other stakeholders to discuss best practices, flagship projects and report on progress.

The European Commission adopted on 7 September 2007 a Communication on "e-Skills for the 21st Century: Fostering Competitiveness, Growth and Jobs" presenting a long term e-skills agenda and including

five major action lines at EU level. The Competitiveness Council of Ministers adopted Conclusions on a long term e-skills strategy on 22-23 November 2007.

Its successful implementation is of great importance within the renewed Lisbon strategy and as a part of lifelong learning strategies and the Recommendation on key competences. This challenge will be discussed at the forthcoming European e-Skills 2008 Conference "Implementing a long term e-skills strategy in Europe" which will take place in Thessaloniki on 9-10 October 2008.

Agenda and how to participate [here](#).

NEXT EVENTS

- 4-6 September** [European Civic Days](#): workshop on "Education (formal, non formal, informal): driving force of European active citizenship" co-organised by EUCIS-LLL, 5 September, La Rochelle (Fr)
- 27-30 November** European Fair of Education, Paris

EUCIS-LLL is a European platform that gathers 16 important European organisations or networks active in education or training that work together to promote a certain vision of lifelong learning: **AEGEE** (European Students' Forum); **EAEA** (European Association for Education of Adults), **EAICY** (European Association of Institutions of Non-Formal Education for Children and Young People), **ECSWE** (European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education), **EFFE** (European Forum for Freedom in Education), **EfVET** (European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training), **ETDF** (European Training and Development Federation), **EUCEN** (European University Continuing Education Network), **EURO-WEA** (European Workers Education Association), **EVTA/AEFP** (European Vocational Training Association), **FEEC** (European Federation for Education and Culture), **FICEMEA** (International Federation of Training Centres for the Promotion of New Education), **IAEC/AIVE** (International Association of Educating Cities), **ISCA** (International Sport and Culture Association), **SOLIDAR** (European Platform on Social Affairs, International Solidarity and Lifelong Learning).