



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

NEWSLETTER N°12

EUCIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 19 MARCH 2009



EUCIS-LLL members met for their General Assembly on 19th March 2009 in Brussels. They adopted their financial, moral and activity reports and welcomed four new members, ESHA, EPA, EUROCLIO and FEECA. They also adopted an action plan for 2009-2010 around four key priorities: strengthening the functioning and visibility of the platform; raising awareness on lifelong learning; facilitating exchanges and debates between actors in education and training and contributing to EU civil dialogue.

With 19 members, the platform wishes to continue its efforts to strengthen the cooperation between the different actors of education and training by providing a space of exchange and of elaboration of common proposals to have an impact on EU decisions. This is even more important in the frame of the budget review and the post Lisbon processes and the recent adoption of the new framework of cooperation in Education and training (ET2020).

This General Assembly also elected a new steering committee and a new president, Gina Ebner, Secretary General of the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA). The members celebrated the successful mandate of the outgoing president, Jean-Marc Roirant, and thanked him for his strong commitment to develop the platform since its creation.

EUCIS MANIFESTO TO EU DEPUTIES



The European Commission supports, develops and implements lifelong learning policies with the aim of enabling countries to work together and to learn from each other. It does so through the "open method of coordination" while respecting the full competencies of Member States in education and training. It is clear that the EU has a growing influence on national lifelong learning policies. Members of the European Parliament, as representatives of Europe's citizens, should ensure that EU decisions respect EU citizens' interests.

Too often, lifelong learning is limited to adult education or to vocational training while it should encompass the whole spectrum of formal, non-formal and informal learning in a life-wide perspective. It shall not be limited to economic growth and competitiveness but shall also aim to social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development. Investment in lifelong learning is of utmost importance notably in times of economic recovery.

EUCIS-LLL thus invites future deputies to foster and adopt policies that are owned by the citizens and answer their needs, to increase access to learning continuity, to recognise the social dimension of education and training and to contribute in the implementation of inclusive and coherent lifelong learning strategies at national and European levels. Download the manifesto on [EUCIS-LLL website](#).

ADOPTION OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2020 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



The Council conclusions on the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) were adopted on 12th May 2009. As this framework will guide our work until 2020 it is an important document to everyone working in field of European cooperation in education and training. The text of the conclusions as well a press release are available on the DG EAC website at http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1383_en.htm.

CIVIL SOCIETY MANIFESTO FOR A TRUE CIVIL DIALOGUE

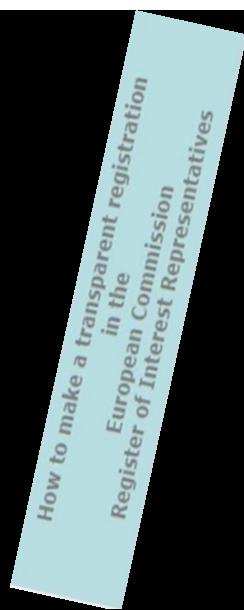


At European level, many civil society players have been active in the process of building and unifying Europe. They have a key role to play in carrying forward this process so that it fully meets the expectations of the peoples of the EU. Politicians are confronted with problems of growing complexity and scope, and the challenges facing the EU are such that tackling them demands that account be taken of all grassroots stakeholders. At a time when many citizens feel that the European institutions are remote from their concerns, the stakes could not be higher.

In the run-up to the European elections, 18 European associative networks wished to call on all political parties. In addition to the relatively permanent and structured sectoral dialogue that the European networks have succeeded in building up over the years with the European institutions, there is now a need to devise a structured, efficient and sustainable overall framework for European civil dialogue.

This manifesto was officially launched in Brussels on 14th April 2009. You can download it on [EUCIS-LLL Website](#).

GUIDELINES ON THE EU LOBBY REGISTER



The European Commission has implemented a voluntary register for lobbyists one year ago. The Civil Society Contact Group and ALTER-EU have criticized the register because much of the required information is insufficient or questionable. For instance, a meaningful register should disclose: the names of lobbyists, the finances involved in any lobbying effort and the specific lobbying issues. They have therefore decided to adopt a higher standard of transparency. The guidelines thus invites you to register in the lobby register for transparency sake... while mentioning its limits.

An updated version of the Civil Society Contact Group Guidelines on the European Commission's lobby register is [now online](#). They are addressed to all entities that want to register in the voluntary European Commission "Lobby Register".

In the guidelines you can find: which additional information we believe you should submit in the interest of transparency; an example of how to calculate your expenditures related to lobbying and a short text with our critique of the register that we recommend you to publish in your registration

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE: LESSONS FROM RESEARCH FOR POLICY MAKERS

The report highlights key findings from European and international research on ECEC and their implications for policy development and implementation. It is written primarily for policy-makers and other actors in the fields of early

childhood and education. It will also be useful to a large number of policy makers in related fields of public policy (such as health, employment, family, gender and migration) as well as to researchers, practitioners, parents, students and journalists.

This new European Commission/NESSE report is now available at: http://www.nesse.fr/nesse/nesse_top/tasks/analytical-reports/eccec-report-pdf.

INCOMING SWEDISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL



Sweden is getting set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU which means that from 1 July until the end of the year, Sweden will lead the work of the EU Council. The website will become the main communication tool for the Presidency and its aim is to make it a transparent, open and up-to-date website useful for EU citizens, media and, generally speaking, people interested in EU affairs. The Swedish EU Council Presidency website is [now open](#).

KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM ON LIFELONG LEARNING: A RESOURCE CENTER ON THE OMC



In order to enhance the visibility of the outputs of the Education and Training 2010 work programme, the European Commission has developed the KSLLL (Knowledge System on Lifelong Learning) [website](#) which will offer you the possibility to find easily accessible and up-to-date information on mutual learning in the fields of education and training for the development of lifelong learning in Europe.

A CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM TO PROMOTE MULTILINGUALISM...



The European Commission, in particular the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, would like to draw your attention to the recently published call for expression of interest for the new civil society platform to promote multilingualism in the areas of culture, media and non-formal education in Europe.

The aim is to involve a wide range of stakeholders in a permanent discussion and exchange of practices with a view to promoting multilingualism in Europe. Organisations wishing to participate in this platform are kindly requested to submit their application by 30 August 2009 at the latest ([link](#)).

EUCEN CONCLUSIONS ON "TRANSFORMING UNIVERSITIES IN LIFELONG LEARNING UNIVERSITIES".



As you very likely know, EUCEN has been very active in promoting University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) in the Bologna Process. Our most recent action has been a conference in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve entitled "*Transforming Universities in Lifelong Learning Universities*". From the discussions and work done during the conference we have written and published a set of Conclusions and Recommendations for universities which you can download on EUCEN [website](#).

SOLIDAR'S 10 PRIORITIES FOR 2009 – 2014: WE NEED A NEW DIRECTION FOR EUROPE!



SOLIDAR calls upon the new European Parliament and Commission to decide upon a new direction for Europe in both its internal and external policies. In order to do this, SOLIDAR has defined 10 priorities for the next 5 years. This new direction is needed in order to change the often devastating social realities in

Europe and the rest of the world, which are only likely to increase as a consequence of the current economic crisis. [Download](#) it on SOLIDAR's website.

2011: EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING!



Taking up a civil society initiative supported by the European Civic Forum in the framework of the first "European Civic Days" September last in La Rochelle, the European Commission has recently accepted to declare 2011 as a European Year of Volunteering and intends to make a formal proposal during the first half of 2009. Download the press release on the European Civil Forum [Website](#).

AGENDA - MEMBERS' EVENTS



- **Financing Adult Education for Development**, EAEA, June 23-24,2 2009, Bonn, Germany ([more](#))

- 18th EfVET International Conference "**Creativity and Innovation in Vocational Education and Training**", Bilbao, Pais Vasco, Spain, 21st October to 24th October 2009 ([more](#))

- 38th EUCEN Conference "**Quality and Innovation in Lifelong Learning - Meeting the individual demands**", Jönköping, 05-07 November 2009 ([more](#))

- EUROCLIO 17th Annual Professional Training and Development Conference "**A Bridge Too Far? Teaching Common European History Themes, Perspectives and Levels**", March 22-28 2010 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands ([more](#))

- EPA Conference "**How can parents help improve the learning of their children**" 19th-21st of June 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark ([more](#))

- The World Congress on "**Active Cities: Sport, Health and Citizenship**" will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 21-24 October 2009 ([more](#)).