



NEWSLETTER N°13 - DECEMBER 2009

EUCIS-LLL LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE !

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) has just launched its **new website**. It has been redesigned to better meet the needs of our members and others in the education and training community. For the moment, it is only available in English.

We invite you to have a look at it on www.eucis-lll.eu

EUCIS-LLL POSITION PAPER ON THE “EQF-NQF: TOOLS FOR LEARNING CONTINUITY?”

EUCIS-LLL organised a first working group on “EQF-NQF: tools for learning continuity” on 22 September 2009 in Brussels. This exchange was followed by an internal consultation on the implementation of the EQF-NQFs.

The European Qualification Framework (EQF) works as a translation device between different national qualifications systems (NQF). EUCIS-LLL supports this initiative that contributes to the implementation of lifelong learning strategies in Europe. It nevertheless wants to raise a few concerns such as the need to develop the validation of non formal and informal learning, to promote continuity and progression or to better involve civil society stakeholders.

These proposals have been synthesised in a **position paper** that you will find on our website: <http://www.eucis-lll.eu/pages/education-training.html>

EUCIS-LLL REPORT ON “LIFELONG LEARNING, A KEY TO ACHIEVE EUROPEAN ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP?”

EUCIS-LLL organised a public hearing on “LLL, a key to achieve European active citizenship” on 22 September in Brussels. This event is part of a broader reflection on how to promote active citizenship in education and training. EUCIS-LLL had already organised a workshop on this topic during the European Civic Days of La Rochelle in September 2008.

During this event, participants were invited to share ideas and experiences on how to foster active citizenship in lifelong learning - taking into account the different contexts of learning: formal but also non formal and informal, from “cradle to death”. The participants also outlined its limits.

We have gathered the main ideas that emerged from these debates around **10 key proposals** that you will find on our website: <http://www.eucis-lll.eu/pages/public-hearings.html>

MEETING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS MEMBER OF THE EESC LIAISON GROUP, 25/11/09



EUCIS-LLL participated in the meeting of the civil society organisations member of the European Economic and Social Committee’s (EESC) Liaison Group on 25 March 2009. The members of the group notably agreed to launch national campaigns to raise public awareness on the nomination by their governments of a greater number of representatives from associations and NGOs in the EESC Group III.

The EESC is a consultative body made up of 344 members split into three groups. Group I represents the “Employers”, Group II the “Employees” and Group III the “Various Interests”, which brings together representatives from sectors of economic and social life that are not covered by the first two groups.

The current composition of Group III does not reflect well enough the diversity of organized civil society in the Member States. Today, amongst the 109 members who sit in Group III, only about 35% are representatives of associations and NGOs, and quite large is the number of those who, according to the specificity of their fields of activity, should seat in Group I or in Group II. This is why it is imperative that **associations and NGOs actively campaign at local and national levels to raise public awareness on those challenges and influence the nomination by their governments of a greater number of representatives from associations and NGOs in the Group III.**

Furthermore, the members announced that the next “Civil Society Day” will take place on 22 March 2010 in the EESC Hemicycle. It is organised in partnership with the Group III and with the support of its president, Staffan Nilsson.

EUCIS-LLL PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE ON “EDUCATION AND MIGRATION”, 20/10/09

The coordinator of the platform participated in the conference organised by the DG EAC on "*Migration and Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities for EU Education Systems*" that took place on 20 October in Brussels. This conference notably aimed to discuss the results of the public consultation and its Green Paper.



The discussions were notably focused on language acquisition, teachers’ professional development, positive approaches to diversity, pre-school education, etc. If the debates were very interesting, the role of the third sector was barely mentioned. EUCIS-LLL always tries to consider these issues in a more global perspective. Teachers alone cannot solve all the problems. The issue of partnerships notably between the non formal and the formal sector is crucial. A lot of innovative practices exist around Europe that should be better shared.

One of the greatest urgency is the fact that many education systems remain segregated in Europe. There is a crucial need for more equity which implies important targeted investments! We thus invite Member States to go beyond good intentions and take concrete actions to improve education systems.

More on the DG EAC website: http://ec.europa.eu/education/focus/focus842_en.htm

EUCIS-LLL PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE ON “IMPROVING EDUCATION...”, 30/11/09 & 01/12/09



The coordinator of the platform participated in the conference organised by the DG EAC and the Swedish EU Presidency on “*Improving education: evidence from secondary analysis of international studies*”, that was held in Stockholm on 30 November-1 December 2009. This conference aimed to give an insight on the latest international researches in the field of education.

Most of the researches examined the different factors that explain the different performances of educative systems around the world. In her researches, Sylke V. Schnepf from the University of Southampton notably showed that in order to promote more equity between native students and first and second generation students the focus should be put on the secondary level - whereas today policies seem to point out mainly on early childhood education. Other researches were more controversial as the one conducted by Maciej Jakubowski from the OECD on the effect of early tracking. According to him, the average achievement growth is lower in tracking countries especially in Eastern European countries. In Poland, the reform towards more comprehensive systems seem to have had very positive effects on school achievement as the PISA 2003 and 2006 seem to show. Other researchers pointed out that trends towards decentralisation and deregulation could have very negative results - in Sweden for example student’s results are slightly declining since the 90’s.

These researches could be very useful for policy-makers but remain little used today. Why? As it was acknowledged by some of the speakers, researches and politicians have different time frames, languages and values. Politicians tend to use research to confirm their own policies rather than to develop new ones. Hence, if we support evidence-based policy we really need to be cautious that research is used advisedly by decision-makers. We also regret that action research was not mentioned during this conference. This kind of methods could be further developed as they enable to link policies and researches in a closer timeframe.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS GOING ON : TAKE PART !

Currently, we invite civil society organisations in education and training to consider:

- Public consultation on mobility opportunities for young people
- Public consultation on the review of the Financial Regulation
- Public consultation on the European Citizens' Initiative
- Consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy

This list is not exhaustive. More on : <http://www.eucis-lll.eu/pages/consultations.html>

AGENDA

- [ISCA European Seminar on "Sport and Integration", 18-24 February 2010](#)
- [AIVE exhibition "Educating cities: local actions, global values", 2009- 2010](#)
- [22 March 2010 : Second "Civil Society Day", Brussels](#)

More events on our website...