

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning



Issue #20 - December 2010 - EUCIS-LLL Newsletter

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EUCIS-LLL News

Public hearing on the role of volunteering for social cohesion and active citizenship

On 30 November 2010, EUCIS-LLL co-organised a public hearing on «*Recognising the role of volunteers and volunteering for social cohesion and active citizenship*» with the European Civic Forum and Volonteuropa in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. Around 50 participants participated in a very interesting debate on the recognition of volunteers and volunteering in the context of formal, non-formal and informal learning for social inclusion and active citizenship and the role of civil society organisations as the main supporters of volunteers. The event held the public launch of the informal "European Alliance for the Statute of the European Association" (EASEA) that campaigns for the adoption of a Statute of the European Association (WD 84/2010). The [minutes](#) are available on our website and the photos on our [Facebook](#) page.

For the European Statute for the European Association, Mutual and Foundation, act now!

The European Parliament has launched a [written declaration](#) calling on the European Commission to table three proposals for European statutes for foundations, associations and mutuals respectively. It was launched on 10 November by Marc Tarabella (S&D, B), Regina Bastos (EPP, P), Renate Weber (ALDE, RO), Pascal Canfin (Greens, F) and Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE, F). A group of European associations (EASEA) promoting the adoption of a European Statute of European Association have decided to join their forces with the [mutuals](#) and [foundations](#) in order to support this declaration and to help to collect a majority of MEP signatures. European associations have been asking a Statute of the European Association for more than 30 years! Today, 90 MEPs have signed the written declaration, but there is still a need for 289 deputies more to sign it before 17 February 2011. If you support this initiative, you can download the declaration in 27 languages on the [dedicated website](#), and handle it to your MPS and invite them to sign the written declaration!

EUCIS-LLL participates in the last meeting of the European Active Citizenship Group

The European Active Citizenship Group was established in 2008 to structure the dialogue with NGOs participating in the Europe for Citizens Programme and the Commission. The main goal of this group is

to address how to encourage the participation of European citizens in the EU project and activities. In its last meeting on 24 November, the group discussion turned around the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme, the future programmes 2014-2020, the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and the possible European Year of Citizens in 2013. Concerning the future programme, the EC is carrying out an online public [consultation](#) until the next 5 January 2011. The next EC steps in this process will consist in the publication of an impact assessment around July 2011, followed by an EC proposal on November 2011. Finally, the EC is working on the legal basis of the European Year of Citizens that could be free movement.

[EUCIS-LLL participation and involvement in education policy making](#)

EUCIS-LLL was invited to take part in the European Network of Education Councils (EUNEC) conference on "Participation and stakeholder involvement in education policy making", 1-3 December in Brussels. The aim of this event was to present the main results of the study on education councils and advisory bodies in the EU as well as to exchange on stakeholders' involvement in policy-making. Gina Ebner, EUCIS-LLL President, presented the platform's activities and mission and highlighted its unique role in creating bridges across the European civil society in the lifelong learning sector. She also remarked EUCIS-LLL commitment in the promotion of a holistic LLL approach and the cooperation with other European civil society organisations in several joint campaigns.

[Education & Training and Youth Stakeholders together for a common position on the future programmes](#)

On 2 December, several representatives of Education, Training and Youth stakeholders met in Brussels to start working on a common position on the future of the Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action Programmes. The position will be based on the key messages that came up from the last Stakeholders' Forum on EU cooperation on Education, Training and Youth and will present several recommendations for a stronger LLL programme and Youth in Action in order to cope with the ambitious objectives and benchmarks of the EU2020 strategy. Organisations willing to join this initiative can contact us; the next meeting is planned in February. You can access the key messages from the Stakeholders' Forum online. If you are interested by this initiative you can contact [Audrey Frith](#) at EUCIS-LLL Secretariat.

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[News from the members](#)

[SOLIDAR: Education to promote decent work and quality jobs in Europe](#)

On 23-24 November 2011, [SOLIDAR](#) together with Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF) and the Europäische Akademie der Arbeit (EAdA) held a workshop in Stockholm on "The role of educators in promoting Decent Work & Quality Jobs in Europe". All the organisations present at the meeting from Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France and Finland agreed that in light of the Europe 2020 strategy, they would work together at European level to strengthen the social dimension of education and training as a public good to achieve decent work, social cohesion and social inclusion. Audrey Frith was invited to do a presentation on EQF-NQFs developments in Europe. She explained that these tools served as catalysts for reforming Education and Training systems in Europe. It is crucial for popular education or workers' education movements to be aware of their impact and contribute to on-going debates and reforms.

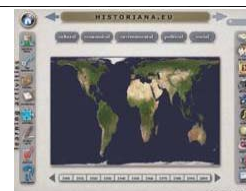
[ISCA: Sport Action Network of Europe \(SANTE\) project seminar in Cassino, Italy](#)

[SANTE](#) is an ambitious project led by 17 partners across Europe representing sport organizations, universities, businesses and local governments. The partners have united resources in the SANTE project to address and act upon the contemporary challenge of improving Europeans' health. SANTE welcomes you to join the Platform for development and recognition of Human Resources in Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) and participate in the thematic seminars to be held in Cassino in Italy from 31 January to 2 February. The seminar aims to discuss future perspectives and expected trends in health challenges and HEPA Human Resources including the possibility of innovative partnerships.

[EUROCLIO 3rd Historiana initiative seminar](#)

The Third EUROCLIO Seminar within the Historiana initiative will be focused

on the theme "Rights and Responsibilities" and will take place on July 7-10 2011 in Riga, Latvia. The series of Historiana Seminars took off in November in The Hague, the Netherlands, with a very successful event attended by more than 30 participants from more than 20 countries in Europe. The preparations for the Second Seminar in Istanbul, Turkey are in full speed and we hope now to attract your interest and attention to this event. Apply for Comenius Grants before January 15th 2011! [Register online](#) via the Historiana [website](#). For more information, please contact the Event Coordinator [Maria Kazamiaki](#).



"Higher Education Days" - the voice of students!

"Higher Education Days" (HED) is a European project carried out by members of the European Students' Forum AEGEE. The [HED project](#) aims to reach students and enable and encourage them to have a greater influence on the decision-making process in Higher Education. The Project started with three successful national events in Groningen, The Netherlands (4 November), in Bucharest (26-28 November) and Delft (2 December). Following the structure of HED Project, these national events organised by AEGEE locals took the form of conferences or workshops. Students, teachers, policy makers were put face to face and discussed about the higher education system of their countries. Up to now hundreds of students participated in more than 30 workshops discussing the future of higher education in Europe. This is only the beginning! For more information please contact [AEGEE](#).

EAEA Conference on the integration of non-formal adult learning in National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs)

On 25-26 November, the European Association for Adult Education (EAEA) and the Nordic Network for Adult learning (NVL) organised an international conference on the role of non-formal learning and NGOs in the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and its implementation in the National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs). 130 participants from 35 countries gathered to discuss the NQFs especially in relation to non-formal learning and to look for ways of developing the civic society approach to have informal and non-formal learning included in the EQF. The conference report is now available [online](#).

EURASHE co-organises official Bologna seminar in Budapest

On 20-21 January 2011, EURASHE is co-organising, together with the Hungarian Ministry of National Resources, an official [Bologna seminar](#) focused on embedding the Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) in the Education System. SCHE plays an important role in the education systems, as a 'bridge' between VET and HE, Higher Vocational and Professional Education and (professional) Bachelor and between Colleges and Universities, combining professional and academic competences. The upcoming Bologna seminar on SCHE will examine the actual situation of the SCHE in the European Higher Education Area and will also provide a platform for sharing experience and best practices among the participants from different countries. It should lead to identification of perspectives and priorities of further development of the sector and its role within the Bologna process.

effe's Newsletter is out!

The latest [newsletter](#) of the "European Forum for Freedom in Education" (*effe*) has been published. It includes a brief summary of Effe's colloquium "For a Healthy School", held in Germany last November 2010, and an interesting article about the "European Stakeholders' Forum 2010".

ESHA Magazine vol.7, December 2010

The European School Heads Association Magazine No. 7, December 2010, is out. You can read it [online](#) or download from ESHA [website](#).

ECSWE Newsletter 24 (November 2010) on social inclusion

Many Steiner Waldorf schools have actively worked on the question of how to build bridges to different social groups and make the impulse of Steiner Waldorf pedagogy fruitful in the wider society. "Social inclusion by intercultural education" was the topic of ECSWE 's International [Congress](#) held last September in Germany.

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Institutional news

Belgian EU Presidency conference on Quality Assurance and transparency, 6 December

The Belgian presidency organised a [Conference](#) on “Quality assurance and transparency as interface between Vocational Education and Training, Schools and Higher Education to enhance mobility and to support easier pathways to lifelong learning”, in Bruges. Various initiatives and policy instruments have been developed in recent years for quality, transparency and recognition of qualifications, under both the Copenhagen Process and the Bologna Process. Nonetheless, a better-coordinated approach should be available to answer the specific questions from each component of the education sector. EUCIS-LLL very much welcomes this approach as there is indeed a great need to consolidate and coordinate existing European frameworks across the sectors.

Bruges Communiqué on the future of the Copenhagen process, 7 December

The Informal Council of Ministers for Education and Training followed this conference on 7 December. The Ministers outlined the priorities for vocational education and training (VET) cooperation for the new decade (2010-2020) in the [Bruges Communiqué](#). In a joint [declaration](#), EfVET, EUproVET, EVTA and EVBB, the main European networks of VET providers expressed their appreciation for the Communiqué which in a distinct way places VET at the centre of European attention. It is the first time that stakeholders are invited to present some recommendations during an informal meeting of Ministers.

EC consultation on the promotion and validation of non-formal and informal learning

The validation of the skills, knowledge and competences gained through work and life experience has been a foundation of EU lifelong learning policy since 1995, but many steps still need to be taken to make lifelong learning an everyday reality for all European citizens. The European Commission's consultation launched this month, calls for advice on how to design further action and collecting the views on the promotion and validation of non-formal and informal learning. Get your views heard by [contributing to the consultation](#) by 9 February 2011.

An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment

As part of the EU2020 Strategy the European Commission endorsed the flagship initiative “[An Agenda for New Skills and New Jobs](#)”, on 23 November 2010. It aims at (re)addressing flexicurity in Member States' labour market, providing workers the skills they need, improving working conditions and creating jobs. The main goal – by 2020 – is to achieve an employment rate of 75% for all people between 20 and 64. It is one of the five key elements of the EU's growth and jobs strategy, Europe 2020. The [communication](#) focuses on four key priorities in order to meet all these challenges and raise employment rates substantially: better functioning labour markets; a more skilled workforce; better job quality and working conditions; stronger policies to promote job creation and demand for labour.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council meeting, 18-19 November 2010

Several topics in the field of education and training were dealt with during the last [Council meeting](#) on 18 and 19 November. In the context of the European Year 2010, ministers addressed the roles of education, sport, culture and youth policy as instruments for social inclusion. The Council adopted a resolution establishing a high-level structured dialogue with sport stakeholders. The council also adopted conclusions on the Youth on the Move initiative, on increasing the level of basic skills in the context of European cooperation on schools for the 21st century and on education for sustainable development (ESD). Regarding vocational education and training (VET), the Council adopted conclusions on the priorities for the period 2011-2020.

EC consultation on the next “Europe for Citizens” Programme 2014 – 2020

The existing “Europe for Citizens” Programme 2007-2013 aims at fostering active European citizenship and, thus, creating a sense of ownership of the European Union among its citizens, enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding and developing European identity. On October 27, the Commission has launched a broad online [consultation](#) on the next generation of the “Europe for Citizens” Programme. The consultation is published on the Interactive Policy Making website and will be open until 5 January 2011.

Closing conference of the European Year 2010, 17 December

The official closing ceremony of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010) took place on the 17 December in Brussels. Keynote speakers mentioned the specific role of education and training in combating poverty and exclusion. They notably mentioned the headline target on early school leavers of Europe 2020. Ludo Horemans, president of EAPN presented the EY2010 NGO coalition. He warned governments that austerity measures resulting in cuts in social affairs, health and education could have disastrous effects that will impede the political will showed during the EY2010. In the afternoon Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium were present. The Ministers present at the conference signed the [The Employment Council declaration on the 2010 European Year](#). You can watch the video of the conference [online](#).

Launch of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010) has come to an end. The highlights include the adoption of the poverty reduction target under the EU 2020 Strategy and a guideline dedicated to social inclusion and fighting poverty as part of the Integrated Guidelines. On 16 December, the European Commission published a [communication](#) on "The European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion". It followed a Council Declaration of 6 December. The Platform against poverty and social exclusion is a key element in the EU's 2020 strategy (one of its seven flagship initiatives). The Platform aims at creating a joint commitment among the Member States, EU Institutions and the key stakeholders to fight poverty and social exclusion. It is complementary and strongly linked to the other flagships that focus on raising employment and improving education and skills.

The European Citizens' Initiative, a step forward

On 15 December, one year after the Lisbon Treaty came into effect, the European Parliament approved in Strasbourg the new [regulation](#) on the European Citizens' Initiative. Lower threshold of participating countries, earlier admissibility checks and a proper follow-up are some of the key achievements in this new regulation. However signature collection and verification rules are still excessively bureaucratic and a serious response from the European Commission is not guaranteed. The first European Citizens' Initiatives could be launched from the beginning of 2012.

EC Media launch of the European Year of Volunteering 2011

The European Commission officially [launched](#) the European Year of Volunteering 2011 on 2 December. Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, joined by Jean-Marc Delizée, Belgium's Federal Secretary of State for Social Affairs, and European Parliament Member Marian Harkin, presented the year's slogan: "Volunteer! Make a difference."

European Disability Strategy launched for the Next Decade

On 15 November Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Viviane Reding, announced the adoption of a [10-year strategy](#) which should promote equal opportunities and eliminate barriers for the 80 million people with disabilities across the EU at the 4th Equality Summit. The overall aim of this Strategy is to empower people with disabilities so that they can enjoy their full rights, and benefit fully from participating in society and in the European economy, notably through the Single market. The Commission has identified eight main areas for action: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health, and external action. The Commission will also consider whether to propose a "European Accessibility Act" by 2012 to further develop the Single Market for accessible products and services.

Innovation Union: Commission launches consultation on active & healthy ageing

The European Commission is seeking the views of public and private organisations, companies and individual citizens on how Europe could scale up innovation to meet the challenges of the ageing population in Europe as set out in the [Innovation Union](#) Flagship Initiative, presented on 6 October by the Commission. The EIP, which the Commission has proposed should be launched in 2011, would seek to meet three goals: to improve the health and quality of life of older people, enabling them to live active and independent lives; to contribute to the sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems; and to foster competitiveness and business opportunities. The [consultation](#) runs until 28 January 2011.

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Research and Innovation

A bridge to the future: European policy for vocational education and training 2002 - 2010

Cedefop's latest policy [report](#) evaluates the progress achieved in European policy-making in the field since the beginning of the Copenhagen process. It also looks ahead to how the new policy framework, Europe 2020, will underpin continuing reform in vocational education and training and lifelong learning in the next decade. The report was officially presented at the ministerial meeting held in Bruges on 7 December 2010, along with the Bruges Communiqué.

Diversity and inclusion: challenges for teacher education, Council of Europe

This fourth and final [volume](#) of the series of publications from the Council of Europe project Policies and Practices for Teaching Sociocultural Diversity (2006-09) includes case studies presented at the final conference held in Oslo (Norway) from 26 to 28 October 2009. These concrete examples illustrate the conditions of implementation and adaptation to national contexts of the "Framework of teacher competences for engaging with diversity", which is one of the final products of the project.

Employment in Europe 2010 report, European Commission

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has published the report "[Employment in Europe 2010](#)". Employment in Europe 2010 assesses EU labour market adjustment since the onset of the economic crisis, taking account of the crisis' impact and future prospects. It also analyses EU and Member State policies aimed at mitigating the effects of the crisis and supporting recovery, and looks ahead to their gradual phasing out.

PISA 2009 results, OECD

PISA 2009 [Results](#) presents the findings from the most recent PISA survey, which focused on reading and also assessed mathematics and science performance. The report comprises six volumes. PISA 2009 marks the beginning of the second cycle of surveys, with an assessment in mathematics scheduled for 2012 and one in science for 2015.

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EU funding and opportunities

Lifelong Learning Programme - 2011 call for proposals

The general [call for proposals](#) for 2011 (EAC/49/10) for the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme has been launched. Both citizens and organisations in the field of school and higher education, vocational training and adult learning can now apply again for the numerous activities supported by the programme.

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Agenda

January 2011

[7-8: European Year 2011 NGO Alliance kick-off conference and Opening conference EY2011 on Recognition of Volunteering, Budapest, Hungary](#)

[20-21: Official Bologna Seminar, Budapest, Hungary](#)

[27-28: European Parliament's Citizens' Agora on crises and poverty, Brussels](#)

February-March 2011

[14-18 March: Lifelong learning Week at the European Parliament](#)

[17 March: Public Hearing on mobility](#)

31/01- 02/02: ISCA, SANTE project
seminar, Cassino, Italy



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