



**European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning - EUCIS-LLL
Newsletter #32 - JANUARY 2012**

/// NEWS FROM THE PLATFORM ///

EUCIS-LLL public hearing on Social Innovation on Education & Training, 6 March 2012

Today little is known about social innovation compared to the vast amount of research into innovation in business and science. EUCIS-LLL understands social innovation as changes in ideas, practices and institutions that aim to resolve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges for the general interest. This [public hearing](#) aims to give an insight on social innovation dynamics that are generally bottom-up and on how to create a favourable environment in Europe to stimulate innovation in teaching and learning. To register, please send us an [e-mail](#).

EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference “Activating Solidarity and Innovation”, 14 May 2012, Leuven

EUCIS-LLL is organising its annual Conference on “Lifelong Learning Contribution for a Better Tomorrow: Activating Solidarity and Innovation” on 14 May 2012 in Leuven, Belgium. This event will gather actors coming from the various sectors of education and training. It will tackle and propose innovative ways to combat educational disadvantage and fight youth unemployment. The conference will also provide a specific insight on the opportunities of intergenerational learning, in the context of the current European Year 2012 on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. More information will be published soon on our [website](#).

EUCIS-LLL welcomes the will to strengthen civil dialogue in the Commission Joint ET2020 report

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) will meet for the first time this year on 10 February 2012 in Brussels. One of the main issues on the agenda’s meeting will be the adoption of the [Joint Report](#) of the Council and the Commission 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 and suggests confirming the same five priority areas for the next cycle 2012-14. EUCIS-LLL welcomes the will to increase stakeholders’ involvement in the proposal and particularly the proposal to strengthen the Stakeholders’ Forums that EUCIS-LLL has been co-organising with DG EAC by better linking them to the European Semester. However, in [EUCIS-LLL view](#), such cooperation is not enough in order to facilitate the implementation of the ET2020 and the platform further calls for a structured dialogue in the field of Education and Training.

European Stakeholders discussed the "Erasmus for All" Programme with DG EAC Deputy Director

On 11 January, a coalition of 30 European education and training networks led by EUCIS-LLL met Xavier Prats-Monné, DG EAC Deputy Director, to discuss the future [“Erasmus for All”](#)

programme. Stakeholders' inputs were based on the [common messages](#) adopted by the coalition on 15 December 2011. The coalition welcomed the proposed budget raise and the will to simplify the programme, but raised some issues such as the need to reinforce the lifelong learning approach and notably to strengthen the complementary aims of learning - active citizenship, social inclusion as well as employability. They also asked for a sustainable support to European civil society organisations and asked clarifications on management and simplification procedures. The coalition is currently preparing concrete proposals on how to re-balance the proposal.

EUCIS-LLL welcomes the adoption of a new report on the Bologna process

On 24 January, the Culture and Education Committee ([CULT](#)) at the European Parliament voted on the [report](#) "The contribution of the European Institutions to the consolidation and progress of the Bologna process" drafted by Luigi Berlinguer (S&D, IT). Michel Feutrie, EUCIS-LLL General Secretary, met Mr Berlinguer on 30 November 2011 and expressed the need to adopt an overarching lifelong learning approach at the core of the European Higher Education Area. EUCIS-LLL welcomes the call for a learner-centred approach and university systems based on learning outcomes, which should facilitate the comparability and recognition of formal, non-formal and informal learning. In EUCIS-LLL view, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have not only to give access to HE to more diversified students but also to provide opportunities to more and more people to maintain and develop their competences throughout their working life. This requires from HEIs and universities in particular more flexibility in provision, programmes based on learning outcomes, recognition of non formal and informal learning and services to support their learning pathways.

EUCIS-LLL statements on volunteering, digital inclusion and social innovation

EUCIS-LLL has recently adopted several statements: on the European Year 2011 on [Volunteering](#), on [Digital Inclusion](#) in the framework of the Digital Agenda and on how [Social Innovation](#) can supply new ways to provide new skills.

/// NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ///

SOLIDAR's Silver Rose Awards 2012

You can now register for the [SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards](#). The event, taking place on 6 March 2012 in the European Parliament, will celebrate individuals and organisations whose extraordinary acts have contributed to social justice and solidarity in Europe and throughout the worldwide. Winners will be announced in the week of 6 February 2012.

The EAEA Grundtvig Award for Adult Learning 2012 – Call for nominations open

Each year, the European Association for the Education of Adults ([EAEA](#)) celebrates innovation and excellence in adult education. The Grundtvig Award 2012 will grant projects that tackle Activating Older Learners, in accordance with the EY2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. The call to nominate projects is open until 5 March 2012.

EY2012 Coalition launches a joint manifesto

On the eve of the launch of the European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012), EUCIS-LLL and all other EY2012 Coalition partners present their joint

[Manifesto](#) and [Roadmap](#) and urges all relevant actors at local, national and European level to seize the momentum of the EY2012 to commit to creating an age-friendly EU. Moreover, [EuroHealthNet](#) has just launched a new website on Healthy Ageing which showcases practical examples of health promotion interventions and identifies initiatives in the EU and key resources about healthy ageing.

Liaison Group contribution for the Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development 2012

On the occasion of the upcoming UN Conference for Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the EESC President Staffan Nilsson, in line with his work programme and political priorities for the current Presidency term, invited the Liaison Group members to draft a [common position](#) and formulate recommendations to feed into the EESC proposals to the Rio Conference, which are to be adopted beginning 2012.

/// INSTITUTIONAL NEWS ///

CULT Committee: Modernisation of Higher Education and Danish Presidency priorities

In the last CULT Committee meeting on 24 January, László Tőkés (EPP, RO) presented his draft [report](#) on "Modernising Europe's higher education systems" which is foreseen to be voted on 29 February. The draft report encourages higher education institutions to adapt to their changing role and calls for measures to ease graduates' transition to the labour market and to promote mobility. The Committee also held exchange of views on the priorities of the Danish presidency of the Council with Ms Christine Antorini, Minister for Children and Education as well as Mr Uffe Elbæk, Minister of Culture. Moreover, Mrs Doris Pack was re-elected as Chair of the [Committee](#).

EU calls for immediate action to drive down youth unemployment

The new '[Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)', adopted by the Commission on 20 December 2011, calls on Member States to prevent early school leaving by helping young people develop skills relevant to the labour market. It intends to put in place work experience and on the job training to give young people the necessary tools to find a quality first job. The Commission is also urging Member States to make better use of the European Social Fund which still has €30billion of funding uncommitted to projects. In addition, the Commission has put forward a set of concrete actions to be financed directly by EU funds.

Council to debate youth unemployment

The EYCS Council will hold a policy debate on youth unemployment based on the EU Presidency [discussion paper](#). Ministers are invited to consider the following question "In the field of education and training, which single policy initiative do you think should be taken in 2012, at national or European level, in order to contribute to tackling the present high levels of youth unemployment and alleviating the social consequences of the crisis for young people?".

European Professional Card to support recognition of professional qualifications

The Commission proposal for a directive on the [recognition of professional qualifications](#) suggests creating a European Professional Card to reduce the complexity of procedures. The Ordinary Legislative Procedure (COD) has already started and the directive is expected to be adopted at the beginning of 2013.

Digital Agenda Progress Report 2011

The [annual report](#) provides an overview of progress on the actions of the Digital Agenda for Europe, updating the list of completed actions since the Digital Agenda Scoreboard in May 2011, and outlining the work ahead.

/// RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ///

Great Project: survey on usage of games for vocational training

[GREAT](#), Game-based Research in Education and Action Training, is an EU Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation Project that provides a methodology and a way to use Game-based Learning (GBL) in teaching-learning processes by transferring innovative methodologies. It launched a [survey](#) to gather information about the existence and use of games for learning/training within all European countries.

Growing up in democracy - Lesson plans for primary level on democratic citizenship and human rights

“[Growing up in Democracy](#)” published by the Council of Europe, is addressed to teachers who want to integrate Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE) in their daily subject teaching. The objective of EDC/HRE is to teach children to become active citizens who are willing and able to participate in the democratic community. Key concepts for EDC/HRE are taught as tools of lifelong learning.

Online tool to assess open educational practices

The Open Educational Quality Initiative has published [guidelines](#) for open educational practice as an interactive metromap, enabling learners, educational practitioners, leaders of organisations, and policy makers to plot their trajectory on the path to open educational practices.

EURODL Special Themed Issue on Creativity and Open Educational Resources (OER)

A special issue of the European Journal of Open, Distance and E-learning entitled "Creativity and Open Educational Resources (OER)" is now [published](#) with eight new articles.

EQF Newsletter is out

A new issue of the [EQF Newsletter](#) has been published. Please visit "EQF Newsletter" on the EQF portal.

/// FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ///

Lifelong Learning Programme – 2012 call for proposals published

The Commission has published the general [call for proposals](#) for 2012 for participation in the Lifelong Learning Programme. The deadlines for applications are in February/March 2012.

Europe for citizens Programme

[Europe for citizens](#) Programme 2012 priorities are published!

Youth in action

[Youth in Action](#) programme guide for 2012 is available now.

/// PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ///

Public Consultations EU calls for comments on PROGRESS programme

The European Commission is welcoming inputs on the performance monitoring of the PROGRESS programme by participating in the [Annual Survey 2011](#). PROGRESS is an EU employment and social solidarity programme which works alongside the European Social Fund. Deadline: 3 February 2012.

European Accessibility Act

The Commission is reflecting on the development of a [European Accessibility Act](#) containing measures to improve the accessibility of goods and services in the European market. This consultation is part of the preparatory data collection that will underpin the impact assessment. Deadline: 29 February 2012.

Green Paper: Restructuring and anticipation of change: what lessons from recent experience?

This [Green Paper](#) aims to identify successful practices and policies in the field of restructuring and adaptation to change in order to promote employment, growth and competitiveness as part of the Europe 2020 strategy and in particular the industrial policy flagship initiative of October 2010, the "Agenda for new skills and jobs" adopted in November 2010. Deadline: 30 March 2012

/// AGENDA ///

March 2012

6: EUCIS-LLL [Public Hearing on Social Innovation in lifelong learning](#), Brussels, Belgium

6: EUCIS-LLL WG1 & WG2 [meetings](#), Brussels, Belgium

May 2012

14: [EUCIS-LLL Annual conference](#) on "Activating Solidarities in Lifelong learning", Leuven

More events on our [website!](#)

Contact

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