



/// NEWS FROM THE PLATFORM ///

30 stakeholders' adopt common messages on the "Erasmus for All" Programme proposal

On 15 December, a coalition of 30 European networks gathering thousands of organizations in secondary and higher education, vocational education and training, youth, adult education and popular education adopted [common messages](#) on the future "[Erasmus for All](#)" programme. The coalition praises the proposed budget of 19 billion EUR while acknowledging that is a minimum allocation necessary to have a real impact in the current economic crisis and to match the ambitious targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. It also welcomes the commitment to simplify the programme. However it considers that some adjustments could be brought to the proposed Regulation in order to ensure a greater impact and European added value. This concerns the need to reinforce the lifelong learning dimension and the recognition of competences and skills gained through non-formal education, to strengthen the complementary aims of learning - active citizenship, social inclusion as well as employability. Furthermore, it is crucial to better acknowledge the importance of civil dialogue and civil society and the support to them.

EUCIS-LLL nominees, ESN and OBESSU, awarded at the 2011 EESC Civil Society Prize!

EUCIS-LLL is happy to announce that the two nominees it proposed to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Civil Society Prize won the 1st and 3rd place. ESN project "[Social Erasmus](#)" and OBESSU project "[Lights on the Rights Bus Tour](#)" have been awarded respectively with the 1st and 3rd prize of the 4th edition of the EESC Civil Society Prize. This Prize aims at rewarding several innovative projects developed by civil society players in Europe that give a valuable contribution to the well being of society and promote European identity and integration. This year, the theme imposed was "Dialogue and participation fostering EU values: integration, diversity, solidarity and tolerance". Congratulations!

Watch out the video of the winners [here](#).

Read the [leaflet](#) of the projects awarded.

Read the [joint press release](#) of ESN and OBESSU.

EUCIS-LLL Seminar: "Recognition and Validation of learning in Europe: from rhetoric to practice"

On 12 December EUCIS-LLL organised a seminar on recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning in view of the upcoming European Commission's proposal for

a Council Recommendation on the promotion and validation of non-formal and informal learning, beginning of 2012. More than 70 participants took part in this interesting debate, which included a presentation of the mentioned initiative by the European Commission, a presentation of the European Inventory on validation of non-formal and informal learning and three case studies from EUCIS-LLL members. [Presentations](#) are already available on EUCIS-LLL website.

EUCIS-LLL at the closing conference of the European year of volunteering 2011

Johannes Theiner, EPA President, represented EUCIS-LLL in a panel discussion on the value and importance of volunteering in the [closing conference](#) of the EY2011 in Warsaw, 1-2 December. He particularly presented the outcomes of EUCIS-LLL annual conference on “role, place and value given to volunteering in education and training”, which took place on 9 May 2011 in Krakow. During this last conference of the EY2011, the EYV2011 Alliance, of which EUCIS-LLL is a member, handled the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe ([P.A.V.E.](#)), a document that provides recommendations for an effective European policy framework to support and promote volunteers, volunteering, volunteer-involving organisations and their partners.

EUCIS-LLL conducts research on launching National Stakeholders’ Forums and Platforms

During the European Stakeholders’ Forum coorganised by DG EAC and EUCIS-LLL in September 2011 in partnership with the European Youth Forum participants made concrete proposals to improve the participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the Education and Training 2020 strategic work programme (ET2020). Two main ideas emerged for the national level: the need to have national stakeholders’ platforms and to set up annual Stakeholders’ Forums to ensure the broad consultation of the various education and training actors in EU Member States. EUCIS-LLL, based on its long experience in gathering various actors of education and training, is in a very good position to move this agenda forward by proposing concrete solutions. Its European member networks cover the whole spectrum of lifelong learning; their national members could serve as a basis to build the national stakeholders’ forums and platforms. EUCIS-LLL has just launched a survey among its constituency. Learn more [here!](#)

/// NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ///

World Aware Education Award for Historiana - Your Portal to the Past

EUROCLIO programme “[Historiana](#) – Your portal to the past” has been selected by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe as one of the three World Aware Education Award winners. Historiana is an international programme initiated by [EUROCLIO](#), the European Association of History Educators and the Netherlands Institute for Heritage, on history and heritage education in Europe. The main outcome of this project is a thematic website that enables young generations to learn about their past. Historiana offers access to a plurality of historical sources and well-developed teaching and learning ideas to educators, students and other users. This programme is established by transnational cooperation between many organizations and individuals.

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

Each year, the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) celebrates innovation and excellence in adult education. The Grundtvig Award highlights project results that produce new ideas, new partnerships, new methodologies and a new understanding how we can work in adult learning. In 2012, EAEA is looking for projects that tackle Activating Older Learners. The EAEA Grundtvig Award 2012 is now accepting nominations. For more information about EAEA and the Award, please visit www.eaea.org

Internships and Apprenticeships in Europe: A Call for Change

On 14 December the European Youth Forum (EYF), in cooperation with MEPs, various civil society and youth organisations, issued a call to action to tackle youth unemployment, by launching the European Quality [Charter](#) on Internships and Apprenticeships, during a conference organised with the support of the OECD. Moreover, the EYF has recently launched the [results](#) of 'Interns Revealed', a pan-European survey, which gathered close to 4 000 responses, designed to look into the lives of interns across Europe, and discover why the latest generation of young people seems to have become the 'intern generation'.

VET4e-I Final Conference

On 12th and 13th December, the [final conference](#) of the VET4e-I project (Vocational Education and Training Solution for e-Facilitators for Social Inclusion) was celebrated in Brussels. The achievements of the project and potential future involvements were discussed with the analysis of European policy experts in terms of validation, e-Inclusion and e-facilitator's profile and training.

EAEA policy paper on Adult Education and Migration

The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) has recently published a [paper](#) on migration. It includes a set of 13 recommendations as well as an analysis of the current situation, a look at key concepts, and a call for a coherent and coordinated strategy that tackles both migrants' skills and competences and intercultural activities across Europe.

Vacancy at SOLIDAR's Secretariat

SOLIDAR invites you to respond to the [vacancy](#) announcement for Social Services Project Officer by 6 January 2012 at 12:00 am. Starting date for the position: 01 February 2012.

/// INSTITUTIONAL NEWS ///

Danish Presidency priorities on EU cooperation in education and training

Denmark is going to hold its seventh Presidency of the Council of the European Union from the beginning of 2012. The six-month Presidency has to concentrate on several pressing priorities such as jobs and economic growth, budget talks in view of the MFF negotiations for 2014-2020 and the current global financial crisis. Its agenda for EU cooperation on education and training will aim at reaching a partial political agreement among the Member States on the outline of the new 'Erasmus for All' programme and adopting the first progress report and priorities covering the period 2012-2014 under the

strategic framework for European [cooperation in Education and Training](#) (ET2020), a recommendation on the recognition of informal and non-formal learning and the so-called benchmark for employability.

Council Resolution on a renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning

On 29 November 2011, the European Council adopted a [resolution](#) on a renewed European agenda for adult learning, which aims to bring fresh impetus to this important area of education. The [agenda](#) both sets out a long-term vision in this field up to 2020 and establishes a number of short-term priorities to be achieved by 2014. The EU vision for adult learning systems in 2020 is characterised by increased demand for access to high quality learning opportunities at any time in life and an enhanced role for local authorities, employers, social partners, civil society and cultural organisations.

Council adopts a new benchmark on learning mobility

On 28 November 2011, the Council adopted [conclusions](#) on a benchmark for learning mobility, to complement the five existing reference levels of European average performance (or "benchmarks"), agreed under the strategic framework for [European cooperation](#) in education and training ("ET 2020"). The new benchmark differentiates between three areas: mobility in higher education, mobility in vocational education and training and youth mobility in general.

Main results of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting, 28-29 November 2011

The council also adopted conclusions on '[languages competences](#)', '[modernisation of higher education](#)', 'the role of [voluntary activities in sport](#) in promoting active citizenship' and on the '[Eastern dimension](#) of youth participation and mobility'.

EU Employment Council: Ministers call for radical structural reforms

The Employment and Social Policy Council of the EU met on 1st December 2011 in Brussels to discuss the challenges and objectives to be reached regarding employment, in view of the recently launched Annual Growth Survey ([AGS](#)) 2012. This Communication from the European Commission, released on 23rd November 2011, sets out EU's priorities for the coming 12 months in terms of economic and budgetary policies and reforms to boost growth and employment under the Europe 2020 strategy. The Communication proposes to focus efforts in 2012 on key priorities, such as tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis, by mobilising labour for growth, supporting especially employment of young people. The ministers of Employment then concluded that in the absence of substantial policy change, the EU will not be able to reach its employment targets. The [Council](#) also adopted [conclusions](#) on 'Ageing as an opportunity for the labour market and for the development of social services and community activities'.

European Parliament supports new measures to tackle early school leaving

One in six young people now leave formal education without the necessary competences and qualifications to enter the labour market successfully. Early School Leaving ([ESL](#)) is one of the hugest challenges facing Europe, and the European Union set the ambitious target

of reducing early school leaving by 10% by 2020. In this framework, the European Parliament voted on 1st December 2011 on a report to tackle the issue of Early School Leaving. More concretely, the new measures will for example provide counselling services in schools to enable students with personal problems to talk them through and to find solutions. The report also focuses on second-chance to mainstream education, and on the strengthening of the links between NGOs, private organisations, schools and parents.

European Commission unveiled the next 'Europe for Citizens' programme

On 14 December the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new 'Europe for Citizens' [programme](#) that aims to increase citizens' awareness and understanding of the EU. The programme, which runs from 2014 to 2020 and has a budget of €229 million, will support activities to increase awareness and citizens' understanding of the EU, its values and history, such as the remembrance of Europe's past and partnerships between cities (town-twinning). It will also help people become more engaged in civic and democratic activities through debates and discussions on EU-related issues.

[Budget increase](#) creates new opportunities for education in Eastern Europe

Nearly €30 million, twice as much as in previous years, have been allocated to projects financed by the Tempus programme in 2012 allowing Eastern Partnership countries to modernise their higher education systems. For the 2011/2012 academic year the Erasmus Mundus programme offers 860 scholarships to students from the Eastern Partnership region, which is 320 more than initially planned. The additional funding will lead to more opportunities for joint projects in the field of higher education, intensified university cooperation and individual grants for studying abroad.

/// RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ///

Launch of Eurypedia – the European Encyclopaedia on education systems

[Eurypedia](#) – the European Encyclopaedia on education systems – was launched on the 5th of December is a new, one-stop product that promotes understanding of education systems and policies in Europe. The European Commission and national ministries responsible for education have jointly developed it. Based on a wiki technology and containing more than 5000 articles, its purpose is to provide the most accurate picture of the education systems and reforms in 38 European school and university systems, within the 33 countries participating in the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme (all 27 EU Member States as well as Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey).

Shaping lifelong learning: making the most of European tools and principles

European tools and principles constitute an integrated framework, the impact of which depends on their consistency and how they interact. CEDEFOP latest [briefing note](#) addresses such integrated framework, providing a clear understanding of how they relate to each other.

CEDEFOP Note on "Using learning outcomes"

This [note](#) is the fourth in the European Qualification Framework Series which is written for

policy makers and experts who are involved at national and European level in the implementation of the EQF for lifelong learning. It was written in response to the high level of interest in sharing experiences at European level regarding how the 'learning outcomes' approach is used in the implementation of the EQF.

Quality Assurance in LLL project compendium

The thematic [network](#) QALLL (Quality Assurance in Lifelong Learning with particular focus on vocational education and training and adult education) has published the project [compendium](#) of the first thirty projects that have been identified as good practice in the field of QA in VET and Adult Education. The compendium presents the results of these projects and draw lessons and instances of good practice from these experiences.

Working and ageing - Guidance and counselling for mature learners

With the average age of the working population increasing, Europeans now have to work longer. How can these extended careers become more successful and satisfying? And how can lifelong guidance and counselling specifically support older workers? CEDEFOP has recently published a [collection](#) of fifteen essays addressing issues such factors contributing to active ageing and how to involve all stakeholders in lifelong learning guidance, among others.

2011 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: Universal Values for Global Well-being

On 5th December 2011, the United Nations launched its [report](#) on the State of the World's Volunteerism. The report calls for volunteerism and well-being to be included as an integral part of the new development agenda and calls for more reliable data to push volunteerism forward.

/// FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ///

Lifelong Learning Programme – 2012 call for proposals published

The Commission has recently 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: 2012 priorities are published!

The [priorities](#) for 2012 shall focus on two broad and fundamental axes: On one hand, the promotion of European citizenship and democracy, comprising the development of understanding of the EU, its values and what it brings to citizens daily lives; and on the other hand, feeding the direct and current interest of citizens into the European political agenda.

/// AGENDA ///

November 2011

23-25: EAPRIL [Conference](#) on "Balancing workplace learning and practitioner research across professional fields", Nijmegen, The Netherlands

24-25: MEDEA Awards 2011, Brussels, Belgium

28: Eastern Partnership Civil Society [Forum](#), Poznan, Poland

30-2: Online Educa - 17th [International conference](#) on Technology supported learning & training, Berlin, Germany

December 2011

11-14: [Research seminar](#) on “Mobility of young people – Opportunities and obstacles for cross-border volunteering for young people, particularly with fewer opportunities”, Strasbourg, France

12: EUCIS-LLL Seminar on Validation, Brussels, Belgium

12: [VET4e-I Project’s Final conference](#), Brussels, Belgium

12-13: [Remember for the Future: The Role of Youth and Adult Education in Working with the Past and Reconciliation Processes](#), Bonn, Germany

14: EUCPN Best Practices [Conference](#) on "Sport, Science and Art in Combating Juvenile Crime", Warsaw, Poland

January 2012

26: EUCIS-LLL internal WG3 on “sustainability of LLL” [meeting](#), Brussels, Belgium

February 2012

10-12: Trans-nationalization of Educational [Policy Making](#): Implications for Adult & Lifelong Learning, Nottingham, UK

14-17: A [conference](#) on senior volunteering: IMP.ACT - IMProving the ACTion of senior Volunteering!, Frankfurt, Germany

March 2012

5-7: [International Conference on Validation](#) - “To implement a high quality validation process - a challenge!”, Oslo, Norway

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

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

6: SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2012, Brussels, Belgium

20-22: [AEA Conference](#) “New Dynamics of Ageing and Learning”, Maynooth, Ireland

22-23: [EUA Annual Conference 2012](#) “The sustainability of Universities”, Warwick, UK

April 2012

1-7: [19th EUROCLIO Annual Conference](#) “Looking at history with a variety of lenses”, Antalya, Turkey

May 2012

9-11: [43rd EUCEN Conference](#): “Universities’ Engagement in and with Society. The ULLL contribution”, Graz, Austria

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

June 2012

6-9: EDEN Conference “Open Learning Generations: closing the gap from generation “y” to the mature lifelong learners”, Porto, Portugal

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