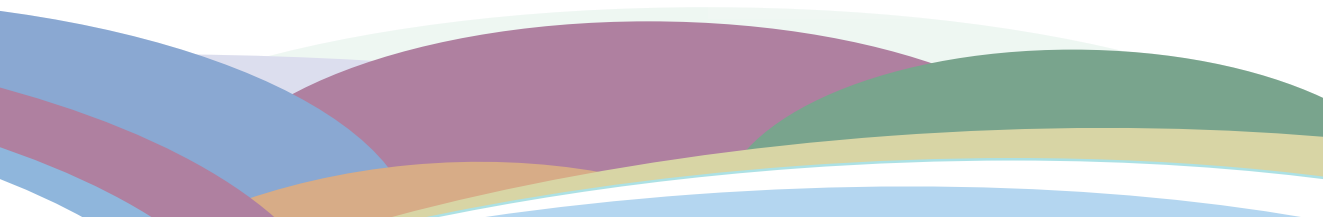


EUCIS-LLL

*European Civil Society Platform  
on Lifelong Learning*

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

**2010**





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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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# // A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

We have a busy year behind us and this activity report shows clearly how much EUCIS-LLL has achieved. We started with a very successful General Assembly and Conference in Barcelona, which launched many interesting discussions among members. The topic “the social dimension of education and training” is a key issue for all our networks and especially important in times of economic and social crises. We will remember this also because most of us got stuck by volcano ash and had to find new ways to return home. It reminded us of the importance of being creative and innovative.



Our work programme also took place at a very particular political moment. At the beginning of the year, the EU adopted its new strategy «Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth» (EU2020). More than ever, education and training are at the heart of the strategy. But at the same time, Member States did not reach the targets set for 2010. Efforts and commitments are needed if we want to achieve them in 2020.

Within EUCIS-LLL, we concretely contribute to implementing lifelong learning in Europe by providing a space for exchange and developing solutions for our members. We launched three working groups, which made it possible for more members to join the EUCIS-LLL discussions and shape its direction, and organized public hearings (which are actually already a good tradition).

The Stakeholders’ Forum has also turned (almost!) into a tradition and last year, we focused on the future of the lifelong learning programme, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus. For the first time, it was organized together with the European Youth Forum. This led to sustainable co-operations among various education, training and youth stakeholders throughout the year.

In addition to the fact that all these events brought EUCIS-LLL members, partners and colleagues together and facilitated their discussions, I think we can be proud of one thing: we always managed to produce interesting results! Whether you look at the proposals coming from the Stakeholders’ Forum or the recommendations of the working groups: we always produced concrete recommendations or proposals that clearly present a civil society perspective in lifelong learning.

Lifelong learning in Europe is facing difficult times. The financial crisis still has an enormous impact in many EU member states, and so-called ‘austerity measures’ are impacting on students, teachers, parents, learners. There is less willingness or at least ambition among some Member States to support and pursue the targets set in «Education and Training 2020». We therefore need to work together to support each other in order to push for progress in lifelong learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Audrey, Noé and Pierre for all the hard work – their dedication and commitment is really exemplary. Thank you also to the EUCIS-LLL members and partners who brought their expertise and enthusiasm to EUCIS-LLL. And thank you also to the European Commission who financed us for the first time this year (ad multos annos!).

Regina Ebner,  
President



# 1// WHO WE ARE

## ■ HISTORY

The creation of the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is a response from civil society organisations to the defining and implementation of a European education and training policy in the framework of the «Europe 2020» strategy. EUCIS-LLL encourages its members to work together and to contribute to a policy dialogue in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC). Dialogue is essential if we want a European Union that is closer to its citizens.

## ■ VISION

EUCIS-LLL is a tool to promote a holistic vision of lifelong learning, from cradle to grave, that is not limited to formal education but integrates non-formal and informal learning. By bringing together actors from all sectors and levels of education and training, EUCIS-LLL contributes to an increased flexibility between systems. By encouraging an exchange of knowledge, it aims to build a citizen's voice on education and training issues but also to propose concrete solutions to make lifelong learning a reality for all.

## ■ MISSION

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) promotes Europe-wide cooperation among civil society organisations. It is made up of 20 European networks active in education and training in order to build a European citizen's voice on lifelong learning issues and to propose concrete solutions based on the expertise, the competencies and the experience of its networks' experts and practitioners.

## ■ VALUES

The platform fosters a vision of lifelong learning that promotes equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. It believes that the objectives of education and training should not only be described in terms of employability or economic growth but also as a framework for personal development. It is essential to raise awareness on the fact that lifelong learning should include a large range of learning settings and create more complementarity and continuity between formal, non-formal and informal learning.

## A. Objectives

### ■ Pursuing an active dialogue with European institutions

EUCIS-LLL was created with the purpose of involving the different Lifelong Learning actors in the dynamics of discussing and implementing the policies and actions of the European institutions. It aims to offer the possibility for a European citizen's voice to be heard on educational issues and, by drawing upon the expertise of its member networks, creating concrete solutions for policy-makers. This expertise is crucial to better policy-making in the EU. EUCIS-LLL also supports its members in their advocacy activities on lifelong learning but also on relevant issues such as the EU budget or civil dialogue.

### ■ Enabling exchanges of best practice, experiences and expertise

EUCIS-LLL is a forum for cooperation between various European civil society stakeholders. By bringing together actors from all sectors and levels of education and training, EUCIS-LLL contributes to an increased flexibility between systems. Exchanging experiences, ideas and best practice offers our members the possibility to benefit from a board range of expertise and to build innovate projects.

### ■ Disseminating information on key issues in the lifelong learning sector

EUCIS-LLL provides regular information on major policy developments in Europe and beyond. It disseminates information on events, projects, policies or research on education and training issues. It offers its members briefing papers on key policies of the European Commission in the field of lifelong learning and on topics of common interest such as the financial regulation review.

### ■ Organising events and developing activities in transversal lifelong learning topics

EUCIS-LLL tackles transversal topics on lifelong learning that concern all its members (social dimension of education and training, EU tools & competences, permeability and connectivity between sub-sectors, volunteering, innovation in learning, etc.). The key messages that emerge from our actions are communicated to EU institutions via our position papers or via meetings with their representatives. The added value of EUCIS-LLL is to offer a transversal perspective on these issues.

### ■ Promoting a more democratic, civic and social Europe

EUCIS-LLL advocates a stronger consultation and participation of organised civil society. It defends the idea that parents, educators or learners should be involved in policy-making at all levels. EUCIS-LLL is active in civil society groups in order to promote these ideas as well as to raise awareness on the role of lifelong learning, notably to develop European active citizenship. It is a member of the Civil Society Contact Group and of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group. One of the major challenges of the EU is the advent of a genuine European civil dialogue.



### ■ A growing platform, a growing actor

EUCIS-LLL is increasingly achieving more recognition from the EU institutions as a major actor. In 2010, EUCIS-LLL was recognised as a monopoly by the European Commission. This decision highlights the platform's particular role in encouraging a better dialogue between civil society organisations in education and training as well as between them and the European institutions.

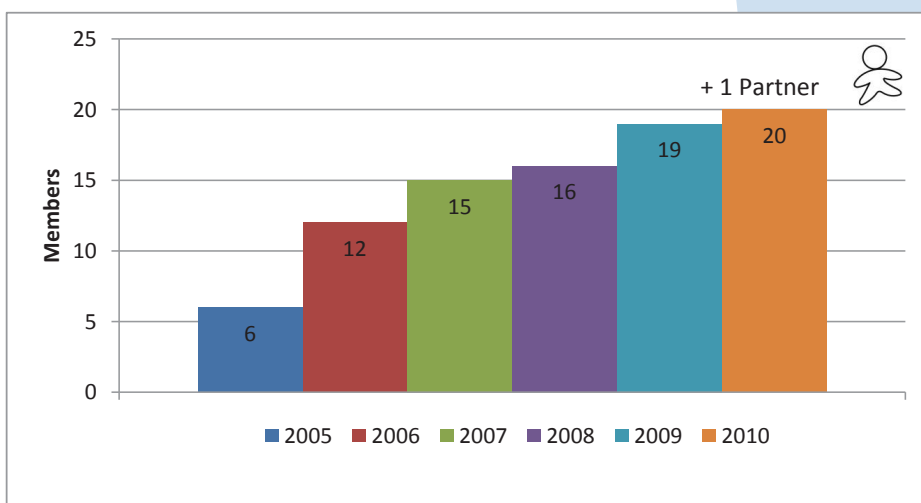
Since 2008, EUCIS-LLL has organised, together with the European Commission, the Stakeholders' Forum on EU Cooperation in Education and Training. These annual Forums enable the European Commission to consult in depth a range of stakeholders.

### ■ Membership and partnerships

In 2010, EUCIS-LLL welcomed a new Associate Member – FREREF, the Foundation of European Regions for Research in Education and Training – and a new Partner – EURASHE, the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education. The total membership now stands at 20 with the addition of 1 partner.

EUCIS-LLL grew from 6 members in 2005 to 12 in 2006, 15 in 2007, 16 in 2008, 19 in 2009 and 20 (1) in 2010. This rapid enlargement led the EUCIS-LLL steering committee and members to further improve their communication tools as well as working methods. This activity report is the result of this will to reinforce a platform that gathers so many different interests.

EUCIS-LLL also works on a regular basis with other stakeholders in education and training notably on the preparation of the Stakeholders' Forum and on the future of European programmes for education, training and youth.



## C. Organisation

### ■ General Assembly

It is the highest body of the association. It defines the annual priorities and objectives of the Platform and its work programme. Headed by the President, the annual meeting is attended by all of the members. In 2010, the General Assembly took place on 15<sup>th</sup> April in Barcelona.



### ■ Steering committee

Acting as the administrative body of the Platform, composed of eight representatives from the member networks. The committee is in charge of the daily tasks of the association, the implementation of the work programme and of the representation of the association in all administrative, judicial and extrajudicial acts. The Committee meets at least four times per year. In 2010, this group met five times: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ■ Secretariat

The Secretariat ensures the day-to-day management of the Platform. It moved to Brussels in April 2010 to be at the “heart of European life”.



#### **Audrey FRITH, Director**

Audrey Frith is responsible for the day-to-day management of the platform. She prepares strategic plans, policy papers and monitors the work programme implementation in direct link with the Steering Committee.



#### **Noé VIEDMA, Project Officer**

Noé Viedma joined EUCIS-LLL in September 2010, where he supports the overall functioning of the Secretariat with a special focus on administration, public affairs and policy monitoring.



#### **Pierre HUYBRECHTS, Communications Assistant**

Pierre Huybrechts joined the EUCIS-LLL Secretariat in November 2010, where he supports the Secretariat’s communication activities.



## ■ Steering Committee members

The Steering Committee is to be composed of representatives of the various sectors of education and training in order to ensure a transversal perspective.

Eight members were elected during EUCIS- LLL General Assembly in 2010. Each represents a member network.



**Regina EBNER**  
President

Secretary General of the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)



**Chris HARRISON**  
Vice-president

President of the European School Heads Association, ESHA.



**Michel FEUTRIE**  
Secretary General

Past President of the European University Continuing Education Network, EUCEN



**René CLARIJS**  
Vice-president

European Association of Institutions of Leisure time for Children and Youth, EAICY



**David LOPEZ**  
Vice President

Secretary General of the European Federation for Education and Culture and representing SOLIDAR



**Georges VAN STEENE**  
Vice-president

European Training and Development Federation, ETDF



**Joke Van Der LEEUW-ROORD**  
Vice-president

Executive Director of the European Association of History Educators, EUROCLIO



**Peter HODGSON**  
Treasurer

President of the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, EfVET

# 2// WHAT WE DO

## A. Events

### ■ EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference on the social dimension of education and training, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Barcelona

EUCIS-LLL conference on “The Social Dimension of Education and Training” gathered more than 90 civil society representatives from around Europe in order to exchange and put forward recommendations to policy-makers. They represented parents, teachers, educators, researchers, from vocational training centres, universities, schools, adult education or local associations as well as representatives of institutions at local, national and European levels. They came together to share their perspectives and ideas on how to improve the social dimension of education and training in the framework of the new “EU2020” Strategy.

During the conference, participants worked more specifically on four topics: active ageing and intergenerational solidarity, social innovation in lifelong learning, fighting social exclusion and poverty and mobility for all. Key speakers such as Ramón Flecha, Sociology Professor at the University of Barcelona and Adam Pokorny, Head of the School Education Unit at DG EAC, shared ideas with the participants during the plenary sessions.

**In all the workshops, participants expressed the need for a holistic approach to learning, for balancing skills needs between “new skills for new jobs” and “new skills for new societies”; for developing partnerships between all stakeholders; for considering education as a right and thus to provide specific and adapted services to those facing exclusion and to ensure a sustainable support to organisations that work with these specific publics because fighting poverty is a long-term process.**

The full report from the conference is available on our website.



## ■ European Stakeholders' Forum on EU cooperation in Education, Training and Youth, 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Brussels

This Forum was organised by DG EAC and EUCIS-LLL in partnership with the European Youth Forum with the aim of consulting European stakeholders on the future of the Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus programmes. It followed online public consultations that DG EAC launched in September 2010.



More than 120 participants were invited to exchange ideas on the priorities and objectives of the future programmes as well as to address possible ways to improve them. A transversal discussion allowed participants to identify possible synergy between them as well as exchanging ideas on best practice. This event was also an opportunity to discuss the contribution of these programmes to the accomplishment of the strategic challenges identified in “Europe 2020” and more particularly its flagship initiative “Youth on the Move”. Furthermore, the discussions were linked to the financial perspectives for 2014+ as the realisation of these goals will highly depend on allocated budgets for youth, education and training programmes.



**There was a plea for administrative simplification and for the possibility to include non-European participants. Other statements were about improving information and access, ensuring a transversal dissemination of projects' results, ensuring more sustainability for projects and networks, providing quality assessment and transparent evaluation, innovative and flexible management. The great majority of the stakeholders did not see the point of merging the current programmes - “evolution, not revolution”. Furthermore, many participants outlined the need to have specific programmes for specific publics.**

The Stakeholders' key messages are available on our website.

## ■ Recognising the role of volunteers and volunteering for social cohesion and active citizenship, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Brussels

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010, EUCIS-LLL organised a public hearing on “Recognising the Role of Volunteers and Volunteering for Social Cohesion and Active Citizenship” with the European Civic Forum and Volonteuropé in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

Around fifty participants debated 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. Two experiences, one from formal education, the other from non-formal education, were presented on concrete ways to take into account volunteering activities.

**Speakers from EUCIS-LLL expressed the need to link the European years 2010 and 2011, the importance of accompanying volunteers within our organisations, of developing tools for them to acknowledge**

**what they have learnt (portfolios, credits) and on the need to develop a favourable context (access to social security, housing, training, etc.). They warned that volunteering should not only be seen through a utilitarian perspective (raising employability of young people) but in a larger perspective as enhancing social cohesion and solidarity as well as developing active citizenship.**

The event also consisted of 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). Marie-Christine Vergiat, Member of the European Parliament (GUE), stressed out the idea of adopting the European Association Statute as a symbol to move forward on European active citizenship.

The minutes are available on our website.

### «Lifelong Learning Week» at the European Parliament in 2011!

A “Lifelong Learning Week” will take place at the European Parliament in March 2011. Lifelong Learning Weeks aim to raise awareness on Lifelong Learning (LLL) and on the existence of European civil society organisations in education and training (networks of parents, teachers, social workers, etc). The objective of the week is to put forward the need to implement an integrated LLL approach if we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy as set in the EU2020 strategy. It also aims to raise awareness on the social dimension of education and training. The event will include an exhibition, the organization of a round table with MEPs on the social dimension of education and training (16<sup>th</sup> March) and a Public Hearing on mobility at the European Economic and Social Committee (17<sup>th</sup> March).



### ■ EUCIS-LLL thematic Working groups

EUCIS-LLL General Assembly adopts priority areas of cooperation every year and working groups are set. In 2010 three working groups were set on the “Social Dimension of Education and Training”, on “Tools and Competences” and on the “Sustainability of Lifelong Learning”. These working groups are composed of experts or practitioners coming from our member networks. The fact that they all come from various sectors and levels of education and training ensures a transversal perspective on key areas of cooperation.

#### **WG1 on the social dimension of education and training**

EUCIS-LLL members feel that EU policies on lifelong learning are too often market-oriented and do not sufficiently take into account social cohesion and citizenship. In this sense, in 2010 the platform launched a thematic working group on fighting social exclusion and poverty throughout education and training. The aim is to foster exchanges amongst members and to make innovative proposals to decision-makers. This work will not start from scratch, EUCIS-LLL members have already been working on social inclusion, for instance, during the 2008 public hearings on access to lifelong learning for disabled people and for persons from migrant background and during EUCIS-LLL 2010 annual conference on the social dimension of education and training.

During their first meeting in April 2010, members decided to work more specifically on the European Year 2010 on fighting poverty and social exclusion. EUCIS-LLL is directly engaged in the promotion of values embodied by the EY2010. All of our members recognise lifelong learning as one of the key instruments that societies have to promote the prosperity and the wellbeing of their citizens. Experts from WG1 decided to launch an internal consultation to collect experiences and practices related to combating social exclusion and poverty within the networks. The results of this consultation served as a basis of discussions during the second meeting of the group, which took place in October.

In the second meeting, participants discussed the synthesis report of the consultation, the main recommendations that emerged and the good practices that were identified. The Secretariat was charged to produce a leaflet on how to ensure greater social inclusion within Education and Training systems. The leaflet and the list of best practices will be published on our website in 2011.

## WG2 on EU tools and competences

In 2009, EUCIS-LLL launched a working group on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Participants discussed EQF's impact on the implementation and development of national qualification frameworks (NQFs). Among their preoccupations were the lack of consultation of stakeholders in most Member States and the effects NQF reforms could have on the non-formal sector. During the first meeting in April 2010, participants decided to continue to monitor EQF/NQF implementation. They decided to link it to other policy developments such as ESCO, the forthcoming European Skills, Competencies and Occupations taxonomy and to policy frameworks linked to "Europe 2020" and notably the flagship "An Agenda for Skills and Jobs". The aim was to launch a large discussion on these various developments and to monitor their impact at national/sectoral levels.

During the second meeting that took place on 28<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels, participants went through the implementation of NQFs in Member States. They shared their experiences of NQFs developments as well as on related trends (shift to learning outcomes, recognition of prior learning, validation, etc.) They shared the opinion that stakeholders were still insufficiently involved in the processes, that systems were still not integrated, that it was necessary to adopt a larger international perspective and that validation was not put into force in many countries. They expressed their concern about austerity measures taking place in the Member States. They also discussed and questioned the need for ESCO considering that tools like ISCO or EURES already exist.

The aim of this group is to inform our members and to involve them in the implementation of European frameworks at national level (ET2020). The group also decides on common messages to be sent within the EQF Advisory Group as well as during the various events planned by the platform. For instance, the group initiated an exchange of information about budget cuts in Education and Training in the various countries. This will be communicated during the EP Round table to take place during the "Lifelong Learning Week" in March 2011.

## Informal working group on the future programmes

Together with the European Youth Forum, EUCIS-LLL set up an informal working group on the future programmes for education, training and youth and on the financial regulation review. This group is composed of members of EUCIS-LLL and of the European Youth Forum, ESU, OBESSU, ESN, EARLALL, etc.



### WG3 on the sustainability of lifelong learning

In 2010, EUCIS-LLL set up a specific working group in charge of launching a global reflection on the sustainability of lifelong learning and making innovative proposals. During the first meeting in April 2010, participants were reminded that EUCIS-LLL had already made contributions on how to improve the implementation of LLL strategies in Europe, which is a key priority of Europe 2020 and ET2020. It proposed that, following the example of the right to education enshrined in the national constitutions and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, the right to lifelong learning be made a constitutional right. It also proposed that actions be implemented to promote and reinforce the concept of lifelong learning, for example with the organisation of “LLL Weeks” or the launch of an “LLL Day” by the European Commission. A working group worked on these concepts and EUCIS-LLL adopted a “Charter on LLL Weeks” in 2007.

In 2010, participants expressed the need for better sharing data on all areas of lifelong learning in Europe and for better linking the various stakeholders. They decided to work on the feasibility of setting up a “European Lifelong Learning Institute” with such a mission. A EILLL would have the objective of promoting the implementation of a coordinated and responsible policy on lifelong learning at European level. It should be organised and administered with full cooperation of all stakeholders (public authorities, social partners and civil society organisations in Education and Training).

During the following meetings, in October and December 2010, participants discussed in depth about the role, composition, functioning of the future EILLL, based on a study on the feasibility made by Antonio Mocci, an independent consultant with a long experience in the VET and LLL sectors. All participants agreed on the need of setting up such institution. The approach chosen to writing it is very practical and concrete, as it contains operative proposals for the institute’s implementation. It notably proposes three scenarios for structuring the EILLL. The study will be released at the beginning of 2011.

The group has been working on a common position paper on the future programmes including an annex on the financial regulation to be adopted at the beginning of 2011. This group met before the Stakeholders’ Forum organised with DG EAC in order to prepare the event (21<sup>st</sup> September) and the second afterwards in order to evaluate the outcomes as well as to decide on further steps (2<sup>nd</sup> December).

## A. Common positions and campaigns

### ■ Active citizenship is more than communication!

In a letter addressed to Mr Barroso and Mrs Reding, Commissioner for “Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship”, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010, EUCIS-LLL expressed concerns on the way the European Commission tackles issues related to civil dialogue and active citizenship. This was linked to the change of the Citizenship Unit from DG EAC (Education & Culture) to DG Communication.

EUCIS-LLL’s main concern was the fact that citizenship should not be disconnected to Education and Training and should not be limited to civic rights. It encompasses, for example, the right of citizens to gather in associations. EUCIS-LLL is concerned that if the European Commission is tasked with the promotion of individual’s rights and of the citizens’ voice (civic rights, citizen’s panels,

citizens’ initiative, etc.) it did not sufficiently consider the “representative associations” as mentioned in Article 11 of the Treaty.

EUCIS-LLL also raises the fact that it is not by “communicating Europe” that citizens will feel part of the political project. It is rather by providing proper information, by offering proper modules in schools and continuing training to teachers, by involving civil society representatives actively in the process of decision-making and by proposing policies that correspond to citizens’ needs that this can happen. Representative democracy can only be strengthened with processes of participatory democracy and by listening and respecting citizens’ voice.

The letter is available on our website.

### ■ “New Skills for new jobs”: more focus on inclusion, continuity and progression!

In 2009, an independent high-level expert group was set up to advise the European Commission on how to advance the “New Skills for New Jobs” agenda. On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the experts presented their policy-oriented recommendations at the conference «New Skills for New Jobs (NSNJ): Action Now». Michel Feutrie, EUCIS-LLL General Secretary, was invited to participate in one of the panels and expressed some concerns about the report.

EUCIS-LLL supported the overall approach of the report and welcomed its focus on the need to move towards implementation.

It nevertheless expressed some concerns that even though it shares the need for excellence, the high expectations set in the text could deepen the gap between high skilled and low skilled people. EUCIS-LLL recommended that the DG EAC and DG EMPL put more focus on inclusion in setting up their agenda for NSNJ. In June 2010, following the NSNJ conference, EUCIS-LLL sent a letter with a set of recommendations to Jordi Curell, Director in DG Education and Culture & Xavier Prats Monné, Director of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

The letter is available on our website.



## ■ Lifelong learning: 10 key points to achieve active citizenship

Apart from its role of imparting learning content, education and training has a crucial social and civic role to play. It contributes to strengthening democracy and social cohesion. EUCIS-LLL considers active citizenship as a complex and transversal issue that should be closely linked to educative, social and youth fields. It feels that the European Commission is not sufficiently enforcing such a transversal approach. In this sense, in December 2010, EUCIS-LLL published 10 key recommendations on how to foster active citizenship in lifelong learning, taking into account the different contexts of learning, formal but also non-formal and informal in the whole life-cycle.

The key points are that basic skills are a prerequisite to the active participation

of citizens; that pupils should be learning about the EU in schools; that organisations and institutions should enable teachers and educators to participate in lifelong learning (i.e. teacher leave); that more partnerships should be set up; that the role of non-formal education should be recognised in this field as well as the role that European associations play in the development of active citizenship; that EU programmes are too small to have a real impact; that the EU should implement a genuinely structured dialogue with civil society organisations; that it was a shared responsibility notably with the media and political parties and finally that it required investing in lifelong learning.

This position paper is available on our website.

## ■ Campaign for the adoption of the European statutes of Association, Mutualities and Foundations

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, MEPs<sup>1</sup> launched a Written Declaration calling on the European Commission to table three proposals for European statutes for foundations, associations and mutuals respectively.

Civil society organisations, including EUCIS-LLL, decided to join efforts, together with mutuals and foundations, to support this Declaration throughout the setting up of an informal “European Alliance for the Statute of the European Association” (EASEA) which raised an awareness and lobby campaign towards deputies by asking them to sign such Written Declaration.

EASEA was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 during EUCIS-LLL joint public hearing on the recognition of the role of volunteering for social cohesion and active citizenship.

The freedom of association at European level is a key element of a democratic society and of an active European citizenship. Giving citizens from different Member States the possibility to gather within a transnational organisation duly recognised by public authorities would encourage and facilitate transnational exchanges.

EUCIS-LLL was in charge of contacting MEPs, of involving its members and of developing and updating the website [www.easea.eu](http://www.easea.eu).

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<sup>1</sup> Marc Tarabella (S&D, B), Regina Bastos (EPP, P), Renate Weber (ALDE, RO), Pascal Canfin (Greens, F) and Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE, F).

## B. Cooperation with EU institutions

### ■ Meetings with representatives of the European institutions

During 2010 EUCIS-LLL representatives organised several meetings with key representatives of EU Institutions to discuss European policy priorities in education and training and to see how EUCIS-LLL could contribute on lifelong learning and active citizenship areas. The meetings were a great opportunity to present the platform, its activities, priorities and vision and to tackle central issues at the European policy level

as EU2020 implementation, civil dialogue and citizenship. **Pierre Mairesse**, Director of “Directorate A” in charge of LLL policies and strategies at the European Commission, and **Claus Sorensen**, Director General of DG Communication, were, among others, some of the persons with whom EUCIS-LLL hold bilateral meetings.

### ■ Participation to the European institutions’ working groups

#### **DG EAC European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group**

The EQF Advisory Group brings together representatives from national authorities and other stakeholders, including EUCIS-LLL, to help with the implementation of the EQF. In 2010 EUCIS-LLL has been represented at the EQF Advisory Group by Pasqualino Mare (EVTa), Michel Feutrie (EUCEN) and Geoffrey Scaplehorn (EfVET).

#### **DG EAC Working Group on Schools**

This group gathers civil society organisations, including EUCIS-LLL, social partners and the Commission to discuss issues related to school education. Audrey Frith, Director and representative of EUCIS-LLL within the group, participated in the School and Business Forum in March 2010. She expressed the will to open this forum to other actors (companies as well as parents, associations, etc.) that are equally important as well as to consider other key competences.

#### **DG COMM, Civil Dialogue Expert Group**

In 2010 the Citizenship Unit moved to DG COMM. Important topics discussed during 2010 were the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme, the future programme for 2014-2020, the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and the possible European Year of Citizens in 2013. Audrey Frith (EUCIS-LLL) and Jonathan Even-Zohar (EUROCLIO) represented the platform in this group.

#### **DG EMPL, EY2010, Stakeholders’ Expert Group**

The Commission set up this group to provide a platform for a regular exchange of views and information between the Commission and EU stakeholders on the implementation, follow-up and assessment of the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Our WG1 on the “Social Dimension of E&T” followed closely its activities. Audrey Frith (EUCIS-LLL) represented the platform in the group.



## ■ Participation in relevant conferences and seminars

EUCIS-LLL is more and more recognised by the EU institutions and Stakeholders as a major actor. Invitations to participate in several high-level conferences and seminars as key speakers confirm and reflect the growing role of the platform on the European stage. Among others, EUCIS-LLL participated in the following conferences:

Gina Ebner, EUCIS-LLL President, was invited to present EUCIS-LLL activities and vision in various events, as in the European Civic Days conference (Malaga, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May) or the European Network of Education Councils (EUNEC) Conference on Stakeholders' Participation in Education and Training (Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> December). Michel Feutrie, EUCIS-LLL General Secretary, was invited to participate in one of the panel



discussion in the “New Skills for New Jobs” conference organised by the European Commission on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

David Lopez, EUCIS-LLL Vice-President, participated in a panel discussion during the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) Conference organised by the Commission in Barcelona on 19<sup>th</sup> May, where he presented EUCIS-LLL position paper on the future of the LLP.

Audrey Frith, EUCIS-LLL Director, hosted one of the workshops on the “Active European Citizenship Group” Conference on the future of the Europe for Citizens' programme organised by DG COMM on 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June. She also represented the platform at the European Education Fair in Paris in November.



## ■ Participation in public consultations

During 2010, EUCIS-LLL participated and disseminated within its network information concerning European Commission public consultations, such as the EACEA Customer Satisfaction Survey or the European Skills, Competencies and Occupations (ESCO)

taxonomy survey. The consultation on the future of the Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus was specially highlighted as it was linked to the third edition of the Stakeholders' Forum, co-organised by EUCIS-LLL.

## ■ Monitoring EU policies on lifelong learning

One of EUCIS-LLL main services in relation to its members is to provide them with updated information on EU policy developments on education & training in order to engage them in policy debates at European and national levels. Information on EU policies, activities, events/conferences, researches, projects, public consultations and funding opportunities is provided through EUCIS-LLL internal mailing list, newsletter and website.

Furthermore, in 2010 EUCIS-LLL produced several information notes on policy developments related to lifelong learning at the European level. You can find some of

the most relevant information notes we have provided in 2010:

- “Europe 2020” Strategy & “Education and Training 2020” Programme
- “Lifelong Learning Programme Post 2013 in the framework of the Budget review”
- “Monitoring European Commission’s legislative actions on LLL (2010-2012)”
- “Hungarian and Polish EU Presidency Priorities on Education & Training”
- “Monitoring the CULT Committee actions at the European Parliament”
- “Work in Progress” at the European Economic and Social Committee

## C. Cooperation with other partners

### ■ Civil Society Contact Group

The Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) gathers eight big European platforms (culture, environment, education, development, human rights, public health, social and women). It brings together hundreds of European NGOs and thousands of affiliated national NGOs, linking the national with the European level, and struggles for the development of a transparent and structured civil dialogue that is accessible, properly facilitated, inclusive, fair and respectful of the autonomy of NGOs.

In 2010 the CSCG focused on the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), calling for more ambitious, accessible and user friendly ECIs, and on the EU budget review debate, advocating for a EU budget that serves the European public interest and provides a long-term answer to the economic, social and environmental challenges the EU and the world are facing.

Gina Ebner, President of EUCIS-LLL, represents the platform at the meetings of the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG).



### ■ Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee

EUCIS-LLL is a member of the Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The mission of the Liaison Group is to guarantee that the Committee has a concerted approach to European civil society networks and organisations and to ensure that common initiatives are well monitored. This group is composed of 17 European Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and representatives of EESC Groups.

During 2010 CSO work focused on the organisation of the second Civil Society Day at the EESC (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010), on the Written Declaration for the statutes of the European Association, Mutuality and Foundation and on how to strengthen the cooperation within the EESC in order to guarantee a more systematic consultation and regular dialogue between CSO and the EESC



EUCIS-LLL is represented in this Group by Chris Harrison (ESHA), Gina Ebner (EAEA) and Audrey Frith (EUCIS-LLL).



### 1. European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)

EAEA is a European NGO with 130 member organisations from 41 countries working in the fields of adult learning. EAEA promotes adult learning and the widening of access and participation in formal, non-formal and informal adult education for all, particularly for groups currently under-represented. More on [www.eaea.org](http://www.eaea.org)

### 2. European Association of Institutions of Non-Formal Education for Children and Young People (EAICY)

EAICY is the European association that gathers organisations working with children and young people in their leisure time in Europe. EAICY gathers over 25 000 organisations of non-formal education in Europe. More on [www.eaicy.org](http://www.eaicy.org)

### 3. European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE)

ECSWE consists of 22 national Waldorf Associations representing 630 schools in Europe. The purpose of the ECSWE is to strengthen and develop Steiner education in the member countries of the network. It mainly stands for the protection of children, the enhancement of education and for teacher training. More on [www.ecswe.org](http://www.ecswe.org)

### 4. European Federation for Education and Culture (EFEC)

EFEC is a federation gathering non-religious educative associations from 8 European countries. It represents the European branch of the International Teaching, Education and Popular Culture League that gathers 20 organisations worldwide.

### 5. European Forum for Freedom in education (EFFE)

EFFE is an NGO in the field of education, it gathers people from more than 20 countries, from public and private schools and with various teaching method views. It was designed as a forum in which all current issues concerning education at primary and secondary level can be discussed. More on [www.effe-eu.org](http://www.effe-eu.org)

### 6. European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EFVET)

Founded in 1991, Efvet is a unique European-wide professional association which has been created by and for providers of technical and vocational education and training. It consists of 1 500 member associations and institutions. More on [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)

### 7. European Parents' Association (EPA)

EPA gathers the parents' associations in Europe that represents more than 150 million parents. EPA works in partnership both to represent and give to parents a powerful voice in the development of education policies and decisions at European level. More on [www.epa-parents.eu](http://www.epa-parents.eu)

### **8. European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO)**

EUROCLIO is a European organisation for history teachers and their associations. It supports the learning and teaching of history by sharing and exchanging knowledge and experience. The overall aim is to promote and support the development of history education so that it strengthens peace, stability, democracy and critical thinking. More on [www.euroclio.eu](http://www.euroclio.eu)

### **9. European Students' Forum (AEGEE)**

AEGEE is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe. It is represented by 15.000 students, active in 241 academic cities, in 43 countries all around Europe. AEGEE is a secular, non-profit making and independent organization. More on [www.aegEE.org](http://www.aegEE.org)

### **10. European School Heads Association (ESHA)**

ESHA is a professional organisation for European School Heads. Members of ESHA are national organisations for school heads and deputy school heads within primary and secondary education. Nearly all European countries are represented within ESHA by one or more organisations. More on [www.esha.org](http://www.esha.org)

### **11. European Training and Development Federation (ETDF)**

Linking national associations and training and human resources institutes, the ETDF incorporates 12 national associations which gather 146 000 members. More on [www.etdf-fefd.eu](http://www.etdf-fefd.eu)

### **12. European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)**

EUCEN is the largest European multidisciplinary Association in University Lifelong Learning. It is an international non-governmental non-profit making organisation which gathers 212 members from 42 countries. More on [www.eucen.eu](http://www.eucen.eu)

### **13. European Federation of Workers' Education Associations (Eurowea)**

EURO-WEA is a federation gathering 46 European organisations aimed to promote workers' education and to encourage free and voluntary training according to principles of solidarity, cooperation, justice, equality, democracy and freedom.

### **14. European Vocational Training Association (EVTA)**

EVTA is a vocational training network which comprises 23 members from 16 European countries, representing thousands of national training centres and, in certain cases, national employment services. More on [www.evta.net](http://www.evta.net)

### **15. European Federation for Catholic Adult Education (FEECA)**

FEECA aims to contribute in furthering both European integration and international cooperation, based on faith in freedom and a democratic order. It gathers 11 national members in the EU. More on [www.feeca.org](http://www.feeca.org)



## **16. International Federation of Training Centres for the promotion of new education (FICEMEA)**

FICEMEA aims to federate the action of its member organisations in order to promote active training methods as widely as possible and to contribute to the evolution of educative and social practices all over the world. More on [www.ficemea.org](http://www.ficemea.org)

## **17. International Association of Educating cities (IAEC)**

IAEC gathers 331 local governments in 34 countries with the common goal of working together on projects and activities for improving the quality of life of their inhabitants and according to the approved Educating Cities Charter. More on [w10.bcn.es/](http://w10.bcn.es/)

## **18. International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)**

ISCA is an organisation bringing together sport, culture and youth organisations. With more than 130 affiliated organisations and more than 22 million individual members worldwide that share the idea that everyone should be able to participate in international activities. More on [www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)

## **19. Solidar**

Solidar is a European network of NGOs working in development and humanitarian aid, social policy and provision and lifelong learning. With 42 members in 19 countries, it works both in Europe and internationally in alliance with trade unions, the labour movement and civil society. More on [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)

### **B. Associate member**

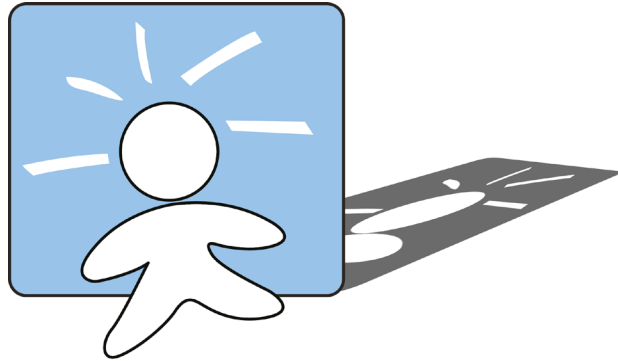
## **20. Foundation of European Regions for Research in Education and Training (FREREF)**

FREREF promotes concrete interregional cooperation in the field of lifelong learning. It has 15 member Regions and 3 member Institutions, and cooperates regularly with some twenty other Regions, as well as the European Commission, CEDEFOP, the French LLP National agency or European networks in the field of the Lifelong Learning. More on [www.freref.org](http://www.freref.org)

### **C. Partner**

## **1. European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)**

EURASHE is the (international) association of European Higher Education Institutions – Polytechnics, Colleges, University Colleges, etc. – devoted to Professional Higher Education and related research within the Bachelor-Masters structure. More on [www.eurashe.eu](http://www.eurashe.eu)



# EUCIS-LLL

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