



Third Stakeholders' Forum – 28-29 October, Brussels

The future programmes for European lifelong learning and youth policies

The event is organised by the DG EAC and the EUCIS-LLL Platform in partnership with the European Youth Forum with the aim of consulting European stakeholders on the future of the programmes Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus and other International cooperation actions in higher education and training. It takes place in the framework of various policy developments.

Background information

1) Financial regulation and budget review

The Financial Regulation is the EU's pivotal point of reference for the principles and procedures governing the establishment and implementation of the EU budget and the control of the European Communities' finances. The financial framework 2007-2013 was formally adopted on 17 May 2006. It defines the long-term political priorities for the EU and sets annual maximum amounts for each priority, which then have to be respected in the annual budget. Under the Lisbon Treaty the multiannual financial framework (MFF) becomes compulsory. Future MFF will be adopted by means of a regulation by the Council deciding by unanimity after having obtained the European Parliament's consent with a minimum duration of five years. The Lisbon Treaty renders the EU budget even more result-oriented as the Commission is now obliged to publish an additional report on the efforts made concerning the recommendations suggested in the annual discharge procedure by the European Parliament.

In 2008, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the budget review. The main goal was to propose a new structure and new directions for EU spending and to provide an assessment of what will be most effective in bringing most added value. The budget management process will also be part of the re-think. However, the review does not imply negotiations on concrete amounts of the budget. These will be subject to negotiations on the 2014+ financial perspectives expected to start towards the middle of 2011, following the publication of the Commission's proposal. Following this general discussion, the European Commission launched several consultations on the future of its various programmes in 2010. The Stakeholders' Forum is one of these consultations and focuses on three programmes managed by the DG EAC: Youth in Action, Lifelong Learning Programme and Erasmus Mundus (see point 5). The European Commission has also published public consultations on each of these programmes.

More information: [EU financial regulation](#) / [budget review](#) / [public consultations](#).

2) EU2020 Strategy

As mentioned above, the future EU budget will be even more result-oriented and focused on some priority areas. In March 2010, the Commission proposed "Europe 2020: a European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". This Strategy is designed to enhance the EU's growth potential and deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategy will be monitored by theme and by Member State as part of a new economic policy co-ordination process decided by



the European Council. To track progress the Commission proposed five headline targets for the EU. These will be translated into national targets by each Member State, reflecting their different starting points and the diversity of situations across the EU.

For the first time, one of these targets directly concerns education: “The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree”. Pursuing similar growth enhancing reforms at EU level, the Commission is launching seven flagship initiatives in priority policy areas. One of these flagships is “Youth on the Move”.

More information : [click here](#).

3) Youth on the Move

Youth on the Move, as a flagship initiative of Europe 2020, can help modernise our social market economy to deliver growth and jobs in a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. It will be instrumental in achieving the Europe 2020 headline targets of reducing the share of early school leavers from 15% to 10% and increasing the share of young people with tertiary education or equivalent from 31% to at least 40% by 2020.

Youth on the Move aims to strengthen support to Europe's young people at all levels, to increase their job perspectives, their skills, their learning mobility and access to higher education. It proposes 28 key actions aimed at making education and training more relevant to young people's needs and encouraging more of them to take advantage of EU grants to study or train in another country. This will increase young people's employability and access to the labour market. A dedicated [website](#) has been launched by the Commission.

4) Open method of coordination for lifelong learning and youth

Adopted in march 2009, “[Education and Training 2020](#)” (ET 2020) is the new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training that builds on its predecessor, the “Education and Training 2010” work programme. It provides common strategic objectives for Member States, including a set of principles for achieving these objectives, as well as common working methods with priority areas for each periodic work cycle. The long-term strategic objectives of EU education and training policies are:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality;
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training;
- Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship;
- Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

Adopted in April 2009, “[Youth - Investing and Empowering](#)” is the new strategy for youth policy for the coming decade. It acknowledges that young people are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, especially in the current economic and financial crisis, and in our ageing society, young people are a precious resource. The new strategy is cross-sectoral, with both short- and long-term actions in key policy areas. The strategy “Youth – Investing and Empowering” has the following goals:

- To create more opportunities for youth in education and employment;
- To improve access and full participation of all young people in society;



- To foster solidarity between youth and society.

The new strategy also emphasises the importance of youth work and defines reinforced measures for a better implementation of youth policies at the EU level.

More on the "[ET2020](#)" and on the "[YIA](#)".

5) The current programmes: Youth in Action, Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus Mundus

The [Lifelong Learning Programme](#) (LLP) supports learning opportunities from childhood to old age in every single life situation through different programmes as Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, Jean Monnet, and transversal key activities.

[Erasmus Mundus](#) 2009-2013 is a worldwide cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education through 3 different actions.

[Youth in Action](#) is the EU Programme for young people aged 15-28 (in some cases 13-30). It aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.