



Education & Training 2010

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Important information concerning the EU 'Education & Training 2010' process:

- **Activities in 2008 in the EU clusters**
- **Meeting of the Education Council 14 February 2008**
- **Forthcoming Communications from the European Commission**

Activities in 2008 in the EU clusters

Below follows a provisional overview of the planned activities for 2008 in the EU clusters on education and training.

The cluster on *Modernisation of Higher Education* has planned two meetings (April and October) as well as three PLAs for 2008.

- A short PLA/seminar on the use of learning outcomes will take place in Brussels in April in conjunction with the planned cluster meeting.
- Iceland will host a PLA on the relation between education, research and innovation in June.
- A PLA on mobility in higher education is planned to take place in October in Spain (t.b.c.).

Besides the PLAs the cluster is expected to finalise and launch the Compendium on good practices in higher education by mid-2008. The Compendium will be a searchable database, compiled by examples of good practices provided from the national ministries responsible for higher education with the purpose of promoting exchange of good practices within higher education. The focus of the compendium will be reforms in curricula, funding and governance of higher education. It is intended that the Compendium will be updated and edited by the national ministries on a regular basis while other policy makers, practitioners and the wider public will have different levels of access to search and download information. As a member of this cluster, ETUCE has since the autumn 2007 been cooperating with member organisations within higher education on seeking influence at national level on the compendium.

Lastly, the Cluster will follow up on the Commission's Communication from 2006 'Delivering on the Modernisation Agenda for Universities'. The focus of the follow-up will - as in the Compendium - be on the curricula, funding and governance of higher education.

The cluster on *Teachers and Trainers*, of which ETUCE is also a member, will have three meetings (March, June and November) in 2008. Furthermore, there will be another three meetings for the sub-group on VET teachers and trainers (January, June and November).

The cluster has four PLAs as well as one seminar scheduled for 2008:

- A PLA on the validation of non-formal and informal learning for teachers and trainers in VET was held in January (Lisbon).
- A PLA on initial teacher training: the balance between classroom practice and theoretical studies in Lithuania in May.
- A PLA on VET in Iceland in June (t.b.c.).
- A PLA on VET teachers as change agents towards autonomy of VET schools in Slovenia in October.
- A joint seminar with the cluster on 'Key Competences' on 3-4 April in Brussels. The ETUCE will participate in this seminar.

In August 2007, the Commission sent out the Communication 'Improving the Quality of Teacher education'. The cluster will follow up on this and serve as an advisory body in the continuous work on this theme in 2008.

The cluster *Making the best use of resources* has not yet planned any meetings nor any PLAs for 2008.

It is however intended that the Cluster will be following up on two Commission initiatives: the Commission staff working document 'Towards more knowledge-based policy and practice in education and training' published in the end of 2007 and the 2006 Communication 'Efficiency and Equity in European education and training systems'.

The cluster *Maths, Science and Technology* has two meetings (May and November), three forthcoming PLA as well as one seminar in 2008.

- Two PLAs on national plans for maths, science and technology. One in Norway in April and one in Portugal in October.
- A PLA on gender issues and teacher training in maths, science and technology in Germany in June.
- A seminar on gender issues in maths, science and technology in Brussels in September.

Furthermore, the forthcoming French Presidency will arrange a conference on science learning in secondary and higher education in France in October.

The cluster *Access and Social Inclusion in Lifelong Learning* will have three meetings in 2008 (January, July and November/December).

Four PLAs are planned for the coming year:

- A PLA on adult literacy in Ireland was held in January.
- A PLA on learning communities in Spain in May/June (t.b.c.).
- A PLA on immigrants' languages in education and pre-school in Sweden (t.b.c.).
- A PLA on returning immigrants in Greece (t.b.c.).

Other key events in 2008 will be the publication of a report on early school leaving in June. Prior to this the, the results of a previous PLA on early school leaving was presented at the meeting of the Education Council on 14 February. From the

Commission's side a Communication on education and migration will be issued during the year.

The cluster on **Key Competences**, of which ETUCE is a member, will have three meetings in 2008 (March, June and November) as well as a joint seminar with the 'Teachers and Trainers' cluster in April. Two PLAs are on the schedule in May and October respectively, the topics and countries are however to be confirmed. Of other activities, a synthesis report on the 2007 PLAs of the cluster will be presented in February.

The cluster on **ICT** will have two meetings (June and November) in 2008 as well as two PLAs. One in May (topic and country t.b.c.) and one in October on digital contents: copyright and licensing issues (country t.b.c.). Other key events during the year will be a conference on eSkills in Thessaloniki, Greece, in October and a conference 'ICT08: addressing young people's minds' in Lyon, France, in November. Of legislative outcomes the Commission will present a report on the use of ICT in supporting innovation and lifelong learning for all.

The cluster on **Recognition of Learning Outcomes** will have two meetings (May and December) in 2008. Three PLAs and one seminar have been scheduled:

- Two PLAs on National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs); in Portugal in June and in the UK in October.
- A PLA on the validation of learning outcomes in Norway in November.
- A portfolio seminar on validation methodologies in July (place unknown).

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) was formally adopted by the European Council on 14 February 2008, following its adoption by the European Parliament in October 2007. A conference launching the EQF will be held in Brussels in June 2008.

The Commission recommends host countries to invite national social partners to the PLAs. ETUCE encourages all member organisations from countries in which PLAs are organised to contact their education ministries to seek participation in the PLAs. Other Member States participating in a PLA are allowed to send two delegates, one governmental and one non-governmental representative. ETUCE equally encourages member organisations to inquire to their education ministries about possibilities for being part of the national delegation as non-governmental representative in PLAs organised in other countries.

Meeting of the Education Council 14 February 2008

The Education Council met on 14 February 2008 to adopt the 2008 joint progress report from the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme as well as a set of key messages on priorities in the field of education and training, addressed to the Spring meeting of the European Council on 13-14 March 2008.

The 2008 joint progress report '[Delivering lifelong learning for knowledge, creativity and innovation](#)' evaluates the progress made within the education and training work programme and, on this basis, proposes measures to be taken for further improvements.

Three areas that will need particular efforts from the member states are identified in the report from this year:

- I. Raising skills levels: early school leaving, low participation in lifelong learning by low-skilled and older workers and poor skill achievement among migrants remain problems in many member states.
- II. Implementation of lifelong learning strategies: while most countries either have developed or are developing lifelong learning strategies, a remaining challenge is the implementation of these strategies.
- III. Strengthening the knowledge triangle (education, research, innovation).

The ETUCE Executive Board adopted in November 2007 a statement in response to the draft Joint Progress Report, in which ETUCE calls for increased efforts to promote equal opportunities for all, high quality teacher education, involvement of teachers in educational reforms and better coordination and involvement of all partners in the implementation of the Education & Training 2010 work programme.¹ The report was the 3rd joint progress report so far of the progress reports adopted on biennial basis by the Commission and the Education Council. The report measures the contribution of education to the Lisbon process and is the background against which the key messages to the European Council have been formulated.

The [key messages](#) to the Spring European Council highlight a number of areas within the field of education and training which according to the Education Council in particular should be addressed in the forthcoming year. This year's key messages from the Education Council identifies the following main priorities:

- I. Concrete action should be taken to ensure that teaching is regarded as an attractive career choice by the best graduates. Furthermore, measures should be taken to ensure that teachers receive high quality initial training as well as continuous professional development.
- II. More should be done to achieve the benchmarks within education and training (especially to reduce early school leaving and poor reading literacy and enhance participation in lifelong learning) and for improving of the achievement levels of learners with a migrant background.
- III. The knowledge triangle should be promoted. Of concrete measures proposed are: curricula directed towards enhancing the creative and innovative competences of learners, increased autonomy for universities, development of partnerships between universities and the business community as well as other stakeholders and an increased share of complementary private funding at universities.
- IV. As 2008 is the year of intercultural dialogue, it is recommended that measures are taken to promote multilingualism and language proficiency.
- V. The quality, scope and equity of transnational mobility should be developed. It is among other things recommended to make it a common practice in higher education to spend a certain period of time studying abroad just as mobility within vocational education and training should be fostered.

¹ Available on the ETUCE website: www.csee-etuce.org

The ETUCE secretariat has recently prepared a detailed note on the recommendations regarding education in the Commission's overall 2008 review of the Lisbon Strategy's 'growth-and-jobs' dimension, due to be adopted at the Spring European Council on 13-14 March. The English version of the ETUCE note was circulated to member organisations last week.²

Forthcoming Communications and initiatives from the European Commission

In 2008, the European Commission is planning to issue the following in the field of education:

- a Communication on Education and Migration
- a Communication on School Education as a follow-up to the Consultation on *Schools for the 21st Century* in 2007. Expected in June/July 2008.
- a Communication on Childcare (by the Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs). Expected in mid-2008.
- A proposal for a Council and Parliament Recommendation on a European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). Expected to be presented in March 2008 and to be adopted by 2010.
- Proposal for a Council and Parliament Recommendation on Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training. Expected to be presented in March 2008 and to be adopted by 2010.

² The French version is in the process of being finalised will be sent out in the coming days.