



Education & Training 2010

ETUCE Circular 4/2007

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

- **Status on the work in the clusters since October 2006**
- **Education and Training Coordination Group (ETCG) meeting – 24-25 January 2007**
- **Meeting in the Council of Ministers of Education – 16 February 2007**
- **New initiatives concerning Education and Training**

Status on the work in the EU clusters for Peer Learning Activities (PLA) since October 2006

The latest activity in the cluster *Teachers and Trainers* was a PLA seminar on School Leadership Policy organised in December 2006. On this occasion 5 experts presented different point of views on School Leadership by addressing issues such as the dilemma between autonomy and the focus on results delivering, education of school leaders, and the OECD survey on School Leadership. For 2007, the cluster is planning three PLAs: "Partnerships between VET schools and companies" in Austria, "Preparing teachers to respond to classroom diversity" in Norway and "The relationships between schools and teacher education" in Denmark.

During the autumn of 2006 two PLAs were arranged in the cluster *Modernisation of Higher Education*: One on "Planning and Implementing Curricular Innovation" in Norway regarding the implementation of "The Quality Reform", introduced in the framework of the Bologna Process, and a second PLA on "Partnerships between universities and business" in the United Kingdom. In 2007, the cluster is planning two PLAs: "Steering on system-performance in Higher Education" organised in the Netherlands (March), and "The implementation of the EQF" organised in Bulgaria (October). Besides the planning of PLAs, a small working group within the cluster will start the preparatory work on a Compendium of good practices in Higher Education reform. The results are intended to be presented by the end of 2007.

In the cluster on *Key Competences*, two PLAs are held in 2007: "Cross-curricular objectives" in Flanders, Belgium, regarding the implementation of the European Framework of Key Competences in the national curricula (February), and "Support for Schools" in Hungary (April/May). In addition, the cluster will deal with the forthcoming Communication "Modernising the School", which is foreseen to address teacher

education, teaching methods and the organisational framework of the school including school leadership etc.

In the autumn of 2006 the cluster on **ICT** arranged one PLA on “Building Learning Networks” in Luxembourg emphasising the use of ICT in sharing information and knowledge in the schools. Another PLA on “The use of Structural Funds for building infrastructure and brokerage of ICT based pedagogies” is planned to take place in Hungary in April 2007. Besides the PLAs the cluster has discussed and analysed the European School Network report on “A review of ICT impact studies in Europe”.

Together with the cluster on ‘Making the best use of resources’ the main focus in the autumn of 2006 for the cluster **Access and Social Inclusion in Lifelong Learning** has been the Commission’s Communication on Efficiency and Equity. In this relation a PLA on “Preventative and compensatory measures against early school leaving” was organised in Belgium with a specific focus on integrating children of immigrant background in the schools. In 2007 a PLA on “The Youth-reach Programme, the School completion and the Home School Liaison” took place in Ireland in January in order to continue the work-in-progress on exploring measures to prevent early school leaving.

The only PLA organised by the cluster **Maths, Science and Technology** during the autumn of 2006, entitled “Holistic MST reforms” took place in the Netherlands and covered issues such gender imbalances in MST studies, partnerships between schools, relations between universities and industry, teacher education and governance structures. The next PLA “Mathematics Education” will take place in May 2007 in Sweden and will focus on disseminating Sweden’s good practice of creating national action plans on mathematics education on all levels of education.

Besides the main discussions on the follow-up of the Commission’s Communication on Efficiency and Equity, the cluster **Making the best use of resources** organised in 2006 a PLA on “University Governance: Autonomy and Accountability” in Denmark (April) and a workshop on “Investing in and financing VET” in Hungary (March). In line with the cluster’s focus on the forthcoming Communication on “Evidence Based Policy and Practice”, the first PLA in 2007 will deal with evidence-based policy and practice in Education and Training. The second planned PLA for 2007 will focus on “Resources in Pre-School Education” (date and host-country not yet confirmed for either of the PLAs).

The major focus for the cluster **Recognition of learning outcomes** is the exchange of experiences on the definition, design and implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks. In this relation a seminar on “The impact of a learning-outcomes approach on education and training systems” took place during autumn 2006. With the planned PLAs for 2007, “Validation of non-formal learning” in France (May), “National Qualifications Frameworks” in September (possibly in Hungary) and “The impact of a learning-outcomes approach on teachers and trainers” in October, this work will continue.

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.

Education and Training 2010 Coordination Group (ETCG) meeting the 24-25 January

The main issue on the agenda for the ETCG meeting on 24-25 January 2007 was the preparation of 2007 National Progress Reports on the Education and Training 2010 (E&T 2010) process. National governments are requested to submit reports to the Commission by 30 April 2007 outlining the progress made towards achieving the objectives and benchmarks set out for the E&T 2010 process. To support the Member States in this work, the Commission has created a “Guidance Note for the 2007 national reports”, which was presented at the ETCG meeting. The focus of this year’s reporting is progress made towards putting in place coherent and comprehensive national lifelong learning strategies. The guidance note, available in 18 languages, is attached to this ETUCE Circular. At the meeting, the Commission also confirmed that it is highly desirable that Member States consult Social Partners and other stakeholders on their report.

On 21 December 2006, ETUCE sent a letter to member organisations informing them of the timetable for the 2007 National Progress Reports and enclosing the guidance note (English version). In this letter ETUCE recommends member organisations to enter into dialogue with the National Education Ministries to put their views on the content of the reports forward.

A general evaluation of the work in the clusters and the PLAs was also on the agenda of the meeting in the ETCG. In this context, the Commission stated the need for a long-term perspective in the work and the need to ensure a better dissemination of results, as the PLAs are intended to have a direct impact on the policy development at national level. The Commission moreover underlined the importance of involving the practitioners, providers and social partners in the PLAs, since this is the only level at which the national social partners and stakeholders can be involved directly in the work within the Education and Training 2010 process. The ETCG members in turn asked for more cooperation between the clusters and increased visibility – from the European Commission – of the work in the clusters.

Meeting in the Council of Ministers of Education on the 16th of February 2007

At their forthcoming meeting on 16 February 2007, the Education Council intends to adopt a set of key messages to the Spring European Council on 8-9 March 2007 on results achieved and future priorities in the area of education. The 2006 Progress Report on the implementation of the renewed overall Lisbon Strategy (presented December 2006) provides the background for these key messages, as this report will form the basis of the discussions on the Lisbon Strategy at the Spring Council. It is expected that the key messages will stress, among other things, the need for setting in place comprehensive lifelong learning strategies based on efficiency and equity; moving forward on the

modernisation agenda of higher education; increasing investment in education; and ensuring high-quality and attractive VET systems. Among the progress achieved during 2006, the Education Ministers are expected to in particular highlight: the adoption of the Lifelong Learning Programme for 2007-2013; the Recommendation on Key Competences; the European Quality Charter for Mobility; Council Conclusions on Efficiency and Equity, and the Helsinki Communiqué on progress within the VET area. For more information, please consult:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st05/st05429.en07.pdf>

According to the Presidency's wish, a first debate on the EU educational priorities beyond 2010 will take place at the Education Council. In order to direct this debate, three questions have been identified for the ministers to discuss:

- 1) How do the ministers perceive the role of the "Education and Training 2010" work programme with regard to the Lisbon process?
- 2) How can the impact of the 2010 work programme be further strengthened at the level of the Community and the Member States, in order to contribute towards improving the quality of education and training systems?
- 3) What are the major new challenges and topics which the process should address beyond 2010?

For more information: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st05/st05430.en07.pdf>

New initiatives concerning Education and Training

During the spring of 2007, the Commission will launch a Europe-wide consultation on School Education as a basis for a Commission Communication due to be presented in late 2007. In this relation, ETUCE is participating in a Stakeholders Platform on School Education set up by the Commission to serve as an advisory body in this process. More information on this initiative can be found in the ETUCE Newsletter for February 2007. The following initiatives are moreover expected from the Commission during the spring and summer of 2007:

- A Commission Communication on Evidence-based Research
- A draft Recommendation on Teacher Education
- A Commission Communication on a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks
- A Commission Green Paper on Innovation and Education.

Moreover, a new network of Experts on Social Sciences of Education and Training (NESSE) has recently been set up by the Commission. The network will complement the work of the European Expert Network on Economics of Education (EENEE) by advising and supporting the Commission in the analysis of the social aspects of educational policies and reforms. ETUCE has been invited to be a member of this network, which will hold its first meeting on 6 February 2007.

*5 February 2007
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