

Inter-parliamentary committee meeting

Education and Youth

3 December 2015, Brussels

Purpose

The European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education is holding an inter-parliamentary committee meeting with EU national parliaments in order to discuss education and youth policies, which are closely connected at both the EU and national level. The main topics of debate include, amongst others: the Shadow Report on Youth Policy; youth policies in Europe - the role of Erasmus+ and the European Citizenship Trimester Programme for civic engagement; social inclusion of young people and intercultural dialogue through education; and lifelong learning - from school to active life.

The meeting is being organised with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments of the European Parliament.

Inside

This leaflet provides extracts from supporting analyses prepared by the European Parliament's policy departments for its committees on Budget, Culture and Education, Employment and Social Affairs, and Women's Rights and Gender Equality, relevant to the topic of this meeting. Scan the QR code or click on the title of the publication to access it directly.



Publications

[Adult education and Open Educational Resources](#) - September 2015

One in five adults in the EU have low literacy and numeracy skills, one in four have completed lower secondary education at most and one in three have very low or no ICT skills. Open Educational Resources can offer many benefits, including in the longer term, the possibility of delivering education in a more effective fashion while keeping a close eye on cost. This study reviews the current use of OER in adult education, assesses its potential and makes recommendations for policy interventions, taking account of the European Commission's policy frameworks.



[Innovative schools: teaching and learning in the digital era](#) - August 2015

Education has a major role to play in increasing European competitiveness and reducing unemployment. This publication brings together the documentation of a workshop organised for the Committee on Culture and Education to look at what policy makers can do to take full advantage of emerging technologies in the field of education, while avoiding their downsides. The aim was to shed light on Europe's performance within the field of education in the digital revolution and assess how strongly it is embedded both in school curricula and in teachers' education.



[Youth education and entrepreneurship](#) - August 2015



Europe 2020 focuses strongly on young people, with headline targets of reducing early school-leaving, increasing tertiary attainment, reducing the risk of poverty and increasing the share of the population in employment. Education is paramount in shaping young people's attitudes, skills and culture, and it is vital that entrepreneurship education is addressed from an early age. This publication brings together the documentation of a workshop organised for the Committee on Culture and Education, assessing the Member States efforts in promoting entrepreneurship in schools.



[Internationalisation of higher education](#) - July 2015



This study provides an overview of the main global and European trends and related strategies at European, national and institutional level, as well as the underlying gist of what internationalisation is and should be aiming for. The overall objective is to scrutinise internationalisation strategies in higher education, with a particular focus on Europe. The study results in conclusions and recommendations on the future of internationalisation of higher education in Europe, based on the national reports and a Delphi process among experts in international higher education.



[University quality indicators: a critical assessment](#) - April 2015



The Europe 2020 Strategy and other EU initiatives call for more excellence in Europe's higher education institutions in order to improve their performance, international attractiveness and competitiveness. In this context the relevance of quality in higher education gained momentum. This study examines two different quality approaches - quality assurance and rankings - separately, and takes stock of latest achievements. This is followed by a critical analysis of these approaches in a comparative perspective. Recommendations and policy options also are provided.



[European historical memory: policies, challenges and perspectives](#) - April 2015



This study looks at the challenges, current policies and possible future prospects of historical memory in a European context. Based on acknowledging the complex nature of collective memories in general and shared European historical remembrance in particular, including their susceptibility to political instrumentalisation, the necessity of developing a critical culture of remembering is highlighted. The role of education in creating an informed historical consciousness, providing the basis for dealing confidently with Europe's past, its present and future, is emphasised.



[The availability and use of assistance for entrepreneurship to young people](#) - April 2015



Recent Eurobarometer survey results show that despite low levels of self-employment, there is high interest in entrepreneurship among young Europeans. This study gives an up-to-date picture of developments as regards the availability and use of support programmes and schemes to promote or facilitate youth entrepreneurship across the EU. It presents a description of existing policy approaches to youth entrepreneurship support and an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses through a selection of policy examples from eleven Member States.



[Encouraging STEM studies for the labour market](#) - March 2015



A sufficient labour supply equipped with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) skills is essential to implement the European Agenda for Growth and Jobs. There is however evidence of skills shortages in these fields in spite of high unemployment rates in many Member States. This study provides an overview of the labour market situation in STEM occupations. It analyses European and national approaches to encourage STEM uptake in relation to these labour market needs and tries to identify practices which help to increase the supply of STEM skilled labour.



[European policies for lifelong guidance to fight early school leaving and unemployment](#) - February 2015



There is increasing international consensus and evidence from research that lifelong guidance and the systematic development of career management skills lead to better educational and employment outcomes. Nevertheless, a recent survey shows a persisting delivery gap in guidance provision in the Member States. This briefing analyses a selection of policy documents from the Council and the European Parliament which suggest that guidance is a relevant policy element within the related fields and encourage the strengthening of the European lifelong guidance policy network.



[Empowering women and girls through education](#) - February 2015



This study explores challenges and opportunities for the empowerment of women through education. Based on an analysis of existing research, the study shows how various factors like poverty, gender stereotypes and institutional cultures impact upon educational outcomes. Consequently, a more equitable distribution of educational resources, gender sensitive institutional cultures and practices, and challenging social norms and expectations of men and women are needed. Greater access to the labour market, better earnings, and personal empowerment will be the return.



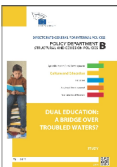
[Teaching teachers: primary teacher training in Europe - state of affairs and outlook](#) - July 2014



This study on teacher quality in primary schools in Europe assesses the state of initial teacher training, early career support and continuous professional development in Europe from the perspective of individual teachers and teacher educators. It reports on the extent to which these subsystems within the continuum of teacher education help teachers confront challenges in their classrooms, at school and system level. The study concludes with policy recommendations on further improving teaching quality through teacher education.



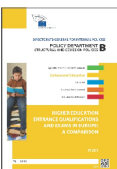
[Dual education: a bridge over troubled waters?](#) - June 2014



This study examines the strengths and weaknesses of dual education/apprenticeships and explores policy developments in the EU-28 in relation to the introduction and/or improvement of apprenticeship schemes. Based on data from a variety of sources, the study identifies the characteristics of four main forms of VET (vocational education and training) delivery in relation to the role of work-based learning and suggests ways that countries could promote apprenticeships within the context of their educational, social and economic frameworks.



[Higher education entrance qualifications and exams in Europe: a comparison](#) - May 2014



The study analyses admission systems to higher education across ten countries, covering some countries of the European Union (France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom), a candidate country (Turkey) as well as commonly used international comparators (Australia, Japan and the US). These countries are compared on three axes: the equity of admissions, their quality and their ability to encourage students' mobility. On this basis, recommendations are provided with regard to admission to higher education in Europe.



[Success stories in competitiveness, education, R&D, innovation and SMEs, social policy agenda](#) - April 2014



The European Council is increasingly central to the governance of the European Union. Even if national parliaments have originally focused their involvement in EU affairs on the ordinary legislative process, most of the chambers have started to develop specific activities, before or after European summits. From ex-ante influence to ex-post accountability, seven different models of control have been identified. Beyond their differences rooted in national democratic systems, they call for twelve recommendations listed in this report.



[Erasmus for young entrepreneurs](#) - July 2013



The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme was launched in 2007 by the European Commission as a pilot project, and later foreseen to be continued under the Programme for the Competitiveness of enterprises and SME's (COSME) 2014-2020. It aims at helping new entrepreneurs to acquire relevant skills for managing and growing an SME by working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country. This note provides background information for the public hearing organised for the Committee on Budgets in July 2013 to assess the way the programme works in practice.



[The advantages of a gender-sensitive approach to tackle youth unemployment](#) - April 2013



This publication brings together the documentation of a workshop organised for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in April 2013. The notes included deal with, amongst others, the conditions of unemployed youth in the EU, effects of educational attainments on employability, the effects of child care and care for other dependents on the career choices, gender differences in the willingness to compete, the youth employment package, and the advantages of an integrated and gender-sensitive approach to youth unemployment.



[Some objectives, financial needs and financial means with regard to youth and education](#) - March 2013



This paper forms part of a series of notes that have been prepared to accompany the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020, focusing on certain financial needs and commitments in relation to youth and education. It includes information on a number of relevant European Council conclusions, paragraphs of Parliament's resolutions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and information and proposals by the Commission. It also deals with the financial means made available under the MFF 2007-2013 and the proposals for the MFF 2014-2020.



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Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General).

Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output feeds directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serves as a briefing for delegations of members.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, which enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.
www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main areas: the EU's functioning; a citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and external relations. The online version, available in 23 languages, is updated regularly.

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

