



Supporting the Public Services Sector
for Establishing and Promoting EWCs

The future of Europe: towards a European Education Area by 2025

Amid the debate on the future of Europe, the European Commission presented its vision of how we can create a European Education Area by 2025.

These ideas were formulated as a contribution to the meeting of European Union leaders, which took place on 17 November 2017 in Gothenburg, where they discussed the future of education and culture. The Commission believes that it is in the common interest of all Member States to make the most of the potential of education and culture as a driver for job creation, economic growth and social justice and an experience of European identity in all its diversity.



When they met in Rome in March 2017, European leaders committed to creating "a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find work across the continent". The Commission is convinced that education and culture can be important elements in addressing the challenges of an ageing working population, continuing digitisation, future skills needs, the need to promote critical thinking and media literacy in these times of alternative facts and online misinformation, and the need to foster a stronger sense of belonging in the face of phenomena such as populism and xenophobia.

The European Education Area must involve the following aspects:

- making mobility a reality for all, building on the positive experiences of the Erasmus+ programme and the European Solidarity Corps, widening participation in it and creating an EU student card that allows easy storage of transcript information;
- mutual recognition of diplomas, with the launch of a new Sorbonne Process, based on the Bologna process, paving the way for mutual recognition of higher education and diplomas;
- enhanced cooperation in curriculum development to express recommendations for education systems to provide all the knowledge, skills and competencies considered essential in today's world;





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- improving language learning by setting a new benchmark for all young Europeans leaving upper secondary education to be proficient in two languages in addition to their mother tongue(s) by 2025;
- promoting lifelong learning; pursuing convergence and increasing the proportion of people participating in lifelong learning, with a target of 25% by 2025;
- mainstreaming innovation and digital developments in education by promoting innovative and digital learning and preparing a new Digital Education Action Plan;
- support teachers by multiplying the number of teachers participating in the Erasmus+ programme and the eTwinning network and by providing guidance on professional development for teachers and school leaders;
- create a network of European university centres to enable world-class European universities to work together seamlessly across borders, as well as support the establishment of a School of European and Transnational Governance;



- investing in education, using the European Semester to support structural reforms to improve education policy, using EU funds and European investment instruments to finance education and setting a benchmark for Member States to invest 5% of their GDP in education;
- preserving cultural heritage and fostering a sense of European identity and culture by developing a European Agenda for Culture and preparing a Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of education;
- strengthen the European dimension of Euronews, created in 1993 by several European public service broadcasters with the ambition of having a European channel offering access to high-quality independent information with a pan-European perspective.

