



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE



05.06.2009

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... from the Commission

Conclusions of EU Conference on Anti-Doping

An EU Conference on Anti-Doping was held in Athens on 13-15 May with the participation of representatives of Member State Sport Ministries, the Council of Europe, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), national anti-doping organisations (NADOs), accredited laboratories, athlete trade unions and sport academics.

Participants in the Conference:

- Expressed their appreciation of the Commission's determination to implement anti-doping actions foreseen in the [White Paper on Sport](#);
- Appreciated the continuous and effective support of the European Parliament for the fight against doping;
- Noted with satisfaction recent progress made in the fight against doping, in particular thanks to the activities of World Anti Doping Agency ([WADA](#));
- Considered that doping is not only a problem for sport but it is a matter of public interest as it is becoming a societal problem in terms of health and education;
- Recognised the need of strong cooperation between all public authorities and sport organisations involved in the fight against doping;
- Expressed satisfaction with the good cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission on anti-doping issues;
- Called upon the European Parliament and the Commission to support anti-doping work at EU level from possible future EU budget lines for sport, if and when the Lisbon Treaty enters into force;
- Welcomed the opportunity to exchange views at the Conference in Athens and called upon the Commission to facilitate the exchange of information about doping-related issues also in the future;

Criminalisation of trade in doping substances

- Noted the general trend toward criminalisation of trade in doping substances across the EU and encouraged those Member States which have not yet passed such laws to do so;
- Invited Member States to reflect upon the possibility to criminalise the possession of doping substances for the purpose of trading;
- Noted the considerable variance between Member States in this regard and invited Member States, the Commission and the Council of Europe to continue their exchange of information and best practice in this regard;

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- Encouraged the Commission to start reflecting on how this process could be fed into future Sport Council sessions after the possible entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon;

Cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry

- Welcomed the French experience regarding cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry as a meaningful contribution to the fight against doping;
- Considered that a continuation of this type of cooperation outside of the borders of just one country would be useful;
- Identified the need to liaise with the pharmaceutical industry so as to make them aware of the importance of screening products with a doping potential based on WADA's list of pharmaceutical categories;
- Invited the various services of the European Commission (namely those in charge of sport, pharmaceutical industry, health and consumer protection) and the European Medicines Agency to establish cooperation with the stakeholders involved in this topic.

Ranking Europe's Universities

The European Commission has selected the winning bid to carry out a feasibility study on the design and testing of a new multi-dimensional global university ranking. The winning bid comes from the CHERPA-Network consortium and is led by the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies of the Twente University (NL) and the Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung (DE). This initiative builds on earlier EU-funded work on mapping the different strengths and missions of universities and responds to an invitation by the French Presidency of the EU to explore and test the feasibility of a new ranking system for higher education and research institutions in Europe, in comparison with other world regions. The first results of the envisaged pilot project will be available in the first half of 2011.

Why rank universities?

Comparable information on higher education institutions and their teaching and research programmes should make it easier for students and researchers to make **informed choices on where and what to study and where to work**. Better information would also **help policy-makers** at institutional, national and European levels develop future strategies in higher education.



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Existing rankings do not fulfil these purposes because they tend to focus on certain aspects of research and on entire institutions, rather than on individual programmes and disciplines.

A new type of university ranking

While drawing on the experience of existing university rankings and of earlier EU-funded projects, the new ranking system should be:

- **multi-dimensional:** covering the various missions of institutions, such as education, research, innovation, internationalisation and community outreach;
- **independent:** it should not be run by public authorities or universities;
- **transparent:** it should provide **users with a clear understanding** of all the factors used to measure performance and offer them the possibility to consult the ranking according to their needs;
- **global:** covering institutions inside and outside Europe (in particular those in the US, Asia and Australia).

The project, to be **funded by the Commission up to a sum of € 1.1 million**, will consist of two consecutive parts:

- In a **first phase, from May 2009 to the end of 2009**, the tenderer will design a multi-dimensional ranking system for higher education institutions in consultation with stakeholders.
- In a **second phase, from January 2010 to the end of May 2011**, the tenderer will test the feasibility of the multi-dimensional ranking system on a representative sample of no less than 150 higher education and research institutions. The sample will focus on the disciplines of engineering and business studies. The sample should have a **sufficient geographical coverage** (inside and outside of the EU) and a **sufficient coverage of institutions with different missions**.

Depending on the outcome of the project, recommendations may be made on how this ranking system could, eventually, be implemented at a European and global level.



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Possible designation of Year 2012 - EUROPEAN YEAR FOR ACTIVE AGEING AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The European Commission has launched a call for consultation for a possible designation of the Year 2012 as a European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

The purpose of the consultation is to collect ideas and suggestions from key stakeholders and experts on how to achieve the greatest possible impact with such a European Year and to help the Commission decide whether and how to organise a European Year.

PURPOSE

- To collect ideas and suggestions on how to achieve the greatest possible impact with a European Year.

FACTS

- Life expectancy since 1960 has risen by 8 years;
- By 2050 it will increase by a further 5 years;
- Birth rates decreased over the years;
- The accelerated ageing of the European society could lead to the older generations being too heavy a burden on younger generations.

The **SCOPE** of a European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity is to:

- Celebrate the fact that people are living longer and healthier;
- Encourage older people to work even after pensionable age and be involved in voluntary services;
- Increase awareness of the contribution of older people to society;
- Spread innovative measures which could help to mobilise the full potential of the ageing population.

WHY a European Year?

- To encourage broader political commitments;
- To raise awareness on such a major political issue;
- To foster synergies between the EU, Member States, social partners and civil society.

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2011 - European Year of Volunteering

The European Commission has decided to propose that 2011 be designated as the "European Year of Volunteering". The Council and the European Parliament are expected to endorse this proposal by the beginning of next year.

COM (2009) 254 –

Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the European Year of Volunteering (2011)

In the European Union, millions of citizens are volunteering. People of all ages make a positive contribution to their community by investing some of their free time in civil society organisations, in youth clubs, in hospitals, in schools, in sport clubs, etc. For the Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation which strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering also provides important learning opportunities, because involvement in voluntary activities can provide people with new skills and competences and can even improve their employability. This is particularly important in this time of economic crisis. Volunteering plays an important role in sectors as varied and diverse as education, youth, culture, sport, environment, health, social care, consumer protection, humanitarian aid, development policy, research, equal opportunities and external relations.

Volunteering has a great, but so far under-exploited, potential for the social and economic development of Europe. Dedicating 2011 to the topic of volunteering will help Member States, regional and local communities and civil society achieve the following objectives:

1. Work towards an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU;
2. Empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering;
3. Reward and recognise volunteering activities; and
4. Raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

The Commission expects that the European Year of Volunteering will lead to an increase in volunteering and to greater awareness of its added value, and that it will highlight the link between voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context.

The European Year of Volunteering should:

- help volunteers and volunteering organisations from everywhere in Europe to meet and to learn what is done best in other countries;
- The public authorities will be able to learn more about volunteers and making volunteering easier;



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- Citizens who do not know much about volunteering should find out more about it, and maybe become volunteers one day themselves;
- And finally, the European Year should give recognition to volunteers.

The Commission proposes to allocate a budget of EUR 6 million for the European Year and an additional amount of EUR 2 million for the preparatory actions starting in 2010.

The proposed activities should focus on communication and awareness-raising measures, such as conferences, seminars, exchange of experience and publications. The emphasis will be placed on funding projects with a volunteering dimension in the EU's action programmes, such as the 'Youth in Action Programme', for example. The aim is to involve all levels – European, national, regional and local. The ownership of the European Year shall remain with the volunteers and the volunteer organisations, and many activities and celebrations will be organised from the bottom-up.

2010 – European Year for Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion

The organisation of next Year's activities is well underway on a national level with the setting up of a National Implementing Body (NIB) which, among other preparations, is holding consultation meetings with interested parties. A consultation meeting with the ESPH Sectoral Committee members and other invited NGOs, was held on the 27th of May, in which various NGO representatives were present and gave their views as to what should be the priority areas for action in the coming year. The main priority underlined by the majority of those present was the suggestion to the NIB to conduct a research study on poverty and social exclusion in Malta. The NIB will present its plan to the Commission so that by July it will have the go-ahead and a budget for next year's activities.

The Year's four specific objectives for combating poverty and social exclusion, as listed in this communication will be:

Recognition - Recognising the right of people in a situation of poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society.

Ownership - Increasing public ownership of social inclusion policies and actions, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation.

Cohesion - Promoting a more cohesive society, by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is condemned to live in the margins.

Commitment - Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU to the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and promoting this commitment at all levels of governance.



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The European Year activities will focus on the following **themes**:

- child poverty and the intergenerational transmission of poverty;
- an inclusive labour market;
- lack of access to education and training;
- gender dimension of poverty;
- access to basic services;
- overcoming discrimination and promoting the integration of immigrants and the social and labour market inclusion of ethnic minorities;
- addressing the needs of disabled people and other vulnerable groups.



YOUR WORLD, YOUR BUSINESS

Inspiring young entrepreneurs to build a better tomorrow

YOUR WORLD, YOUR BUSINESS is a collaborative partnership between the European Commission and Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise. It promotes European policy objectives in the areas of [corporate social responsibility](#) and [entrepreneurship education](#).

Consider the potential of entrepreneurs. They can make money, they can create jobs – and they can provide solutions to some of the social and environmental challenges we face. Entrepreneurs are the world's change-makers.

YOUR WORLD, YOUR BUSINESS aims to inspire young people to become the kind of entrepreneurs our society increasingly needs: creative, dynamic, and determined to make the world a better place. The main audience are young people aged 16-19, and of course their teachers too.

The [teacher's guide](#) and the accompanying [videos](#) are available in 24 different languages. They can be downloaded from this site and you can also [order physical copies](#) to be sent to you free of charge.

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... **EUROSTAT**

The Statistical Office of the European Communities

Significant country differences in adult learning

More than a third of the EU population between 25-64 years participate in formal or non-formal education and training. There are significant country differences in participation rates according to results from the first Adult Education survey.

Young people participate more and there are minor differences between males and females. Among those participating, a large majority participate in non-formal education and training and over 80% of the non-formal activities are job-related. About 6% participate in formal education and training.

Formal education and training has a large share of total instruction hours whereas non-formal education and training is characterised by courses of shorter duration. The main reasons for participation are to do a better job and improve career prospects. Most non-formal education and training activities are job-related.

Employers and non-formal educational institutions are the most significant providers of non-formal education and training. Together they provide half of total non-formal activities. About 60% of employed participants are sponsored fully or partly by the employers.

Nearly two thirds of the population do not participate in formal or non-formal education and training. More than 70% of people with low education as well as those in low-skilled blue collar professions do not participate in formal or non-formal education and training.

The two most important obstacles to participation in education and training are work schedules and family responsibilities. There are however major gender differences in obstacles to participation.

The Adult Education Survey

Lifelong learning is considered as an important part of the EU Lisbon strategy according to which the European Union should become by 2010, the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economic area in the world, as well as a more cohesive and inclusive society. Acquiring and continuously updating and upgrading skills and competences is considered to be a pre-requisite for the personal development of all citizens and for participation in all aspects of society.

[SURVEY](#)

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A Message from the Incoming Swedish Presidency of the Council

The Swedish EU Council Presidency website is now open.

Sweden is getting set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU which means that from 1 July until the end of the year, Sweden will lead the work of the EU Council. The website se2009.eu is the Presidency's home on the internet.

Here it will be possible to follow, in detail, our common efforts to take the European agenda forward. The website will become the main communication tool for the Presidency and our aim is to make it a transparent, open and up-to-date website useful for EU citizens, media and, generally speaking, people interested in EU affairs.

Visit us now at: www.se2009.eu