



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

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... Commission

Report 'Focus on Higher Education in Europe 2010: The impact of the Bologna Process'

The report '**Focus on Higher Education in Europe 2010: The impact of the Bologna Process**' was discussed at the Conference of European Higher Education Ministers, which took place in Budapest on 11 March and in Vienna on 12 March. The Ministers met to formally launch the 'European Higher Education Area' on the tenth anniversary of the Bologna Process for higher education reform.

This report, produced for the Commission by the Eurydice Network, and based on data provided by the 46 participating countries, shows that the Bologna Process has largely met its initial objectives, thanks to a joint approach which has delivered more than would have been the case if countries had acted separately. However, countries still face challenges in modernising higher education, a decade after the launch of the 'Bologna Process'.

The report highlights differing responses to the economic crisis and concludes that it is more vital than ever for Europe to act cohesively and to invest in higher education modernisation to help citizens adapt to new economic, demographic and social realities. According to the report, action to encourage socially disadvantaged groups and adult learners to participate in higher education also needs to be accelerated.

The three-cycle degree system and higher quality standards are now the norm across Europe, although recognition of qualifications is still a problem in some cases.

The study also underlines that countries need to do more to encourage student mobility. European programmes have been the major catalyst in this area and it recommends that this should be a priority for the European Higher Education Area.

To know more

Report: 'Focus on Higher Education in Europe 2010: The impact of the Bologna Process'
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/122EN.pdf

On the Bologna Process: http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1290_en.htm



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Commission proposes EU-wide European Heritage Label

COM (2010) 76 - Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc/label/EHL%20decision_EN.pdf

The European Commission has proposed to establish the 'European Heritage Label' as an EU-wide initiative. The aim of the Label is to highlight sites that celebrate and symbolize European integration, ideals and history. The proposed Decision to establish the Label will be submitted to the EU's Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for adoption and could come into effect in 2011 or 2012.

The general objectives of the European Heritage Label are to strengthen European citizens' sense of belonging to the European Union, based on shared elements of history and heritage, as well as an appreciation of diversity, and to strengthen intercultural dialogue.

To this end the Label will seek to enhance the value and profile of sites which have played a key role in the history and the building of the European Union, and seek to increase European citizens' understanding of the building of Europe, and of their common yet diverse cultural heritage, especially related to the democratic values and human rights that underpin European integration.

The Commission's proposal builds on a 2006 intergovernmental project involving 17 Member States. The Commission's proposal responds to the conclusions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the European Union in November 2008, inviting the European Commission to expand the European Heritage Label into an initiative of the European Union will give it greater credibility, visibility and prestige.

Sixty-four sites have received the label under the existing scheme, based on selections by individual Member States. Under the proposed new scheme, each of the 27 Member States would be able to nominate up to two sites per year to receive the new European Heritage Label. A panel composed of independent experts would assess the nominations and choose up to a maximum of one site per year in each country to receive the designation. Participation in the scheme would be voluntary.

The main benefits of the European Heritage Label would be:

- new opportunities to learn about Europe's cultural heritage and the democratic values underpinning European history and integration
- increased awareness of European cultural tourism, bringing economic benefits



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- clear and transparent criteria for participating Member States
- selection and monitoring procedures that would ensure that only the most relevant sites received the label.

The proposed EU European Heritage Label differs from other cultural heritage initiatives such as the UNESCO World Heritage List or the Council of Europe's 'European Cultural Routes' because it would:

- designate sites which have played a key role in the history of the European Union
- choose sites on the basis of their European symbolic value rather than for their beauty or architectural quality
- stress the educational dimension, especially for young people.

Transversal Analysis on the Evolution of Skills Needs

In order to enhance strategic human resource management, and thereby improve European competitiveness in the global economy, the European Commission has pointed to the importance of developing better methods and tools to anticipate trends and changes in the European labour market. On this background, the Commission has carried out in depth studies of the 19 economic sectors in Europe, accounting for two thirds of European employment.

The main aim of the sector studies was to map and analyse the evolution of innovation, skills and jobs within each of the selected sectors, taking into account the sector's global, national and regional contexts, in order to anticipate possible changes in jobs and skills needs until 2020. The sector studies reveal the increasing polarization of the demand for skills and competencies.

All economic sectors report a need for continuous upskilling of the labour force among others driven by internationalisation, specialisation, rising climate concerns, ICT and new technological possibilities. To deepen the challenges for Europe even further, most sectors also forecast a shrinking supply of labour available due to the ageing of the European labour force.

Companies need to:

- enhance innovation and R&D,
- invest strongly in human capital and engage in social dialogue.



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Governments need to:

- improve the framework conditions for investments in innovation, R&D as well as human capital,
- promote diversity policies aimed at keeping the elderly engaged, attract female workers and managers and integrate immigrant workers and expatriates.
- Increase the flexibility of the educational system, apply inter- and multidisciplinary approaches and place a greater emphasis on teaching cultural and social skills. The education and training sector needs to open up itself for more cooperation with its stakeholders in order to promote sector specific skills at an early stage, increase the use of apprenticeship and mentoring programmes, engage in EU standardisation and certification of education and skills and to develop joint education and training programmes especially for SME's.

Full Report and Executive Summary on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=731&furtherNews=yes>