

Dear Honourable Members of the European Commission!

It has been a great pleasure to read the “Commission Working Document (COM2009/647) on consultation on the Future “EU2020” strategy. As the chairman of the Hungarian Talent Support Council and a member of the Wise Persons’ Council of the President of Hungary (responsible for the plans of a wide-spreading educational reform as a long-term response to the current crisis) I was very happy to see that education in general and top-quality education, creativity and innovation in special had a major emphasis in the outlined EU2020 strategy.

I would like to suggest the inclusion of **the support of young talents of Europe** to the strategy. Specifically, I propose the following change in the text:

Strengthening **education** is one of the most effective ways of fighting inequality and poverty. The high number of low achievers in basic skills (reading, mathematics and science) needs to be addressed urgently to enhance the employability of young people and to bring them into the world of work after school. Preventing early school leaving reduces future exclusion from the labour market and the threat of future social exclusion. A greater emphasis on vulnerable groups, gender equality and social cohesion is needed to ensure that no one is excluded from knowledge.

According to modern psychology talent can be hidden in each one of us. A special **emphasis on talent support** is needed to discover the hidden values of schoolchildren and to encourage their most appropriate development. School programs, extracurricular enrichment and integrated nationwide networks are all needed to bring talents to top universities, the industry and all segments of European societies.

Europe has some of the best universities in the world. But our ambition should be to have many more and turn them into a true engine for knowledge and growth.

As a **justification of my proposal** I will show that

- a.) the modern concept of talent support is already included implicitly in the strategy;
- b.) the inclusion of talent support would nicely bridge the subsections on education and on universities
- c.) talent support would contribute to the increase of creativity and innovation, two key elements of the proposed strategy;
- d.) the modern concept of talent support would bridge sections 1. (“Creating value by basing growth on knowledge”) and 2. (“Empowering people in inclusive societies”) and contribute to section 3. (“Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy”).

**The modern concept of talent support is already included implicitly in the strategy**

Talent support has now a different meaning than it had 20 or 30 years ago. Decades ago talent was mostly defined by mental abilities and was often restricted to IQ. The modern concept of talent includes creativity, emotional maturity and an immensely large number of special types of talent besides mental abilities. This widens the range of possible skills and personalities, which we should all include to talent support actions. When the EU2020 strategy focuses on expanding the potential of education, acquisition of new skills, fostering creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as strengthening social cohesion, the strategy implicitly includes the modern concept of talent support detailed above.

### **Talent support bridges subsections on education and universities**

Education is also helping the fight against inequality and poverty by discovering the multitude of talented children coming from socially vulnerable groups. The emphasis on the complexity of childrens' abilities including talented, above-average segments as well as hindering, below-average parts preventing the development of talented segments not only helps the current, well formulated goals of the education section, but also gives a strong background to the equally important goal of building top universities in Europe. Top universities need incoming students at a high level, top universities need talents.

### **Talent support contributes to the increase of creativity and innovation**

Creativity is a key ingredient of talent. Talent also fosters innovation. Thus, two key goals of the current EU2020 strategy proposal are intimately linked to talent support.

### **Talent support bridges Sections 1. and 2. and contributes to Section 3**

The modern concept of talent support is not an elitist action selecting a very few "geniuses" in early childhood and giving them special education in a well-separated school or other educational unit. The modern concept of talent support realizes that a.) thousands of talent types develop at various ages, thus every person in the society at every age may possess a hidden talent; b.) that talented segments of the personality are accompanied with disadvantaged parts of the personality, thus talent support should always be accompanied by tow achiever education and *vice versa* and c.) that the talented children need enrichment embedded in the society and not a hermetic separation from the rest of the society. Thus the modern concept of talent support opens an unparalleled opportunity to increase social mobility and social cohesion. In this way talent support bridges Sections 1 and 2 of the EU2020 strategy. Moreover, talent support contributes to Section 3, since a competitive economy can not be imagined without talents.

Based on the reasons above I propose the inclusion of **the support of young talents of Europe** to the EU 2020 strategy.

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Sincerely yours,



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