

Contribution of the European Centre for Women and Technology to the Public Consultation of the Future of EU 2020 strategy

The European Centre for Women and Technology follows with great concern and supports with full commitment the Commission's working document COM (2009)647 in the public consultation on the Future of EU 2020 Strategy.

Led by the desire to maximize the support for the Future of the EU 2020 strategy we propose **to pinpoint in the document major forces in society that are so eager to lend their support and make an extra effort to ongoing major endeavors of the European Commission: the youth, girls and women.**

We feel it would be important to emphasize that the Commission **counts on youth and women in general and on their efforts in the ICT and related sectors in specific.** Increased participation of girls and women in the knowledge based economy is not just a gender issue but an economic necessity that can generate considerable growth in all Member States.

We would welcome if the Commission could express more explicitly on page 6 :

Skills and e-skills and adapting of the e-Competence Framework are the key elements for Europe's economic and productivity growth and for job creation. Life long learning is the key element to ensure good transition between jobs and occupations, and in avoiding long-term unemployment leading to loss of human capital. The digital economy also offers new opportunities for distance learning as part of a lifelong approach to learning and for forms of communication **and collaboration** that are changing the world of work, **bridging the digital divide,** shrinking distances and making long distance work a real possibility in an increasing number of jobs **for young and old, men and women.**

We propose that the Commission includes these groups on page 9. under 'Making it happen: Harnessing existing instruments in a new approach:

To make a successful exit from the crisis and deliver our EU 2020 objectives, the Commission considers that we need a strategy for convergence and integration which recognizes more explicitly the advanced interdependence of the EU:

- Interdependence between Member States in the form of (positive or negative) spill-over effects of national actions, particularly in the Euro-zone;
- Interdependence between different levels of government (EU, Member States, regions, social partners - multi-layer governance);
- Interdependence between different policies, between policies and instruments and the importance of policy integration to deliver the overall objectives;

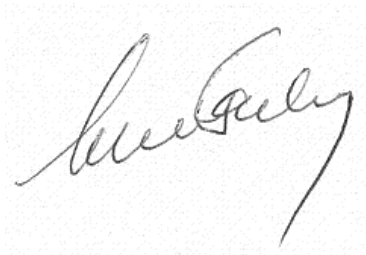
- Interdependencies between European citizens existing irrespective of age (youth or elderly), gender (girls and boys, women and men) and location (urban or rural, native or migrant)

– Interdependence at global level – none of our Member States is large enough to keep pace with the emerging economies or to undertake this transformation alone.

The challenges Europe faces require strengthened partnership between the EU and Member States in the design and delivery of public policies, increased policy co-ordination, better synergies through effective subsidiarity and stronger commitment to the use of ICT and the acquisition of e-skills by all in all spheres of life. The integration of different policy instruments is necessary based on multi-stakeholder collaboration, linking institutional reforms, better regulation, new initiatives and public investment and initiating open business models.

We would once again like to commend the Commission's efforts in producing this very important document and all key multi-stakeholder representatives - members of the European Center for Women and Technology are committed to the realization of the new EU2020 Strategy that will be adopted.

Yours sincerely,



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