



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Youth and sport; Erasmus+
Youth; Erasmus+

Eighth meeting of the Expert Group on Peer-learning on creative and innovative potential of young people

Brussels, 17-18 January 2014

Minutes

1. Introduction

COM informed the Expert Group about the current state of play of the Greek Presidency and its priority in the youth field "Youth entrepreneurship with a focus on social entrepreneurship in the field of culture". COM noted that the recommendations from the Group's Final Report are highly relevant to the upcoming discussions in the Youth Working Party on the Greek Presidency's Council document.

The implementation of the Youth Guarantee Plans was mentioned, and it was noted that it would be advisable to follow the implementation of those at national level.

2. Report finalization

Chair of the Group, Dr. John Bamber, informed the Expert Group that the Report "Developing the creative and innovative potential of young people through non-formal learning in ways that are relevant to employability" would be finalized and COM would send it to the Youth Working Party for its January session.

The group also discussed the design of the future publication of the Report. It was agreed that the publication should have an attractive design. COM services would propose a user-friendly format.

3. Brainstorming about the Cross-sectorial seminar

COM announced that a Cross-sectorial seminar will take place later this year, organized by the Youth Unit, DG EAC. This seminar follows a request from the Council of Youth Ministers for a seminar involving the key policy areas of Youth, Education and Training and Employment, and relevant stakeholders, to examine the optimum manner in which a

collaborative policy response to the current challenges facing young people could be progressed. A Group brainstorm considered four topics:

- Participants
- Cross-sectorial concept
- Type of workshops
- New forms of cooperation

Following this it was suggested that the seminar could address the following:

1. To show how to create effective (and new) partnerships at local, national and EU level
2. To enhance employment for young people
3. To present the recommendations of the expert group's report and use these for further discussions in the workshops, which are to produce and suggest tools, guidelines, standards and indicators of success.

The group will also consider establishing a commitment to action in the form of declaration as a useful option.

The seminar would involve around 100 participants from different COM services, Government representatives, expert groups, youth organizations, social stakeholders, business sector and public bodies (institutions and public employment services).

Concerning the topics to be covered at the event, members highlighted a need for partnerships and other ways to build concrete and functional cooperation between different sectors with the aim to create new synergies and to ensure a better perspective for young people. They also noted the importance of creativity and innovative potential of young people, and of skills and competences acquired through non-formal learning methods and their contributions to employability.

The Expert Group noted the importance of introducing the Report's recommendations in the seminar, to motivate a specific commitment to action among the different sectors involved and stimulate the debate in the desired direction. Regarding the format of the event, a creative approach would make the event more attractive for the invitees.

4. Further steps:

COM presented a **dissemination plan for the final Report** and the group discussed the following possibilities:

- Publication of the report on relevant Europa sites
- Dissemination Prezi presentation (online)
- Email to stakeholders (Youth Working Party, European Youth Forum, National Agencies, Eurodesks, Council of Europe, MS Ministries, SALTOS) to spread the report via mailing lists
- Information to other concerned Commission Directorates in EAC, EMPL, ENTR, MARKT, etc
- Presentation to the Expert Group on quality youth work (17 February 2014), and other expert groups in other areas

March meeting (London, 17-18 March)

As suggested by one of the Expert Group members (Gordon Blakely from the British Council) the next meeting will bring together (each member can invite 1 external person, to be funded by the British Council) people with expertise and influence in a number of sectors (including SMEs, business, creative industries, arts and culture, sports and leisure, formal education, public and voluntary sectors) with a direct interest in young people and employment issues. The meeting will further analyse the Final Report's recommendations to inform the proposed Cross-sectoral seminar that the Commission will organise in Brussels later in the year.

The specific objectives of the London meeting are to:

- Consider the Report's recommendations and their implications for different sectors
- Outline where difficulty and challenges will lie in different sectors
- Explore new forms of cooperation to make it work
- Bring further responses to the creativity and employability debate
- Focus on implementation issues at European, National, Regional and local levels

Concerning the methodology of this next meeting, the process will be interactive. Participants will work in small groups to develop innovative and concrete solutions to the following issues:

- Strengthening non-formal learning.
- Translating non-formal learning outcomes to the world of work.
- Enhancing the 'catalytic' ability of those working directly with young people.
- Developing a strong focus on entrepreneurship.
- Improving partnership working and cross-sector innovation.

Contact person: Lucie LEKESOVA (Lucie.LEKESOVA@ec.europa.eu)