



European
Commission



Developing

KEY COMPETENCES

for all throughout life

Heads of State and Government discussed education and training at the Gothenburg Social Summit on 17 November 2017, guided by the Commission's Communication 'Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture'. This resulted in the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017 calling on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take the agenda discussed in Gothenburg forward. The Recommendation follows up on that political agreement.

“ Today, young people need a broader set of competences to find fulfilling jobs and become independent, engaged citizens who contribute to society. Education and training have a crucial role in enabling young people to develop these competences, giving them the best possible start in life.



Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Launch of the public consultation on the review of key competences for lifelong learning, Brussels, 22 February 2017

The proposed Council Recommendation defines eight key competences that are crucial to better prepare people for today's societies. It also proposes concrete guidance to Member States to implement, assess and validate them effectively.

Competences are a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Key competences are those which you need for personal development, employability, social inclusion and active citizenship (Annex to the Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning).

The proposed Recommendation especially calls for:

- Raising levels of achievement in **basic skills** (literacy, numeracy and basic digital skills)
- ◆ **Promoting entrepreneurial education**, notably by providing one entrepreneurial experience in primary or secondary school
- Boosting **digital competences** including programming and cybersecurity aspects
- ◆ Supporting the development of and the interest in **science, technology, engineering and maths** (STEM) competence and making STEM careers more attractive
- Increasing **language competences** and number of languages learned.

The Commission will:

- Provide support to educational staff, for example by helping them develop **innovative teaching methods** using new technologies
- ◆ Enhance **work-based and project-based learning**, and promoting **learning mobility**
- **Assess key competences** to allow people to measure their competence development, but also to make competences visible through tools such as **Europass** that makes skills and qualifications easily understood, or **Youthpass that helps demonstrate learning outcomes from youth work activities**
- ◆ **Reinforce systematic collaboration** between education, training and employment learning settings to support lifelong learning pathways

IMPROVING 8 KEY COMPETENCES



1- Literacy

Strengthening literacy as a basis for further learning and communication in different societal and cultural contexts



2 - Languages

Enhancing the ability to use a variety of languages to be active and better cope with the challenges of today's multilingual and diverse societies



3 - Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

Focusing on improving acquisition of these competences to nurture scientific understanding



4 - Digital

Strengthening the confident and critical use of digital technology, including coding and programming, safety and citizenship related aspects



5 - Personal, social and learning

Improving the skills necessary to participate in an active social life



6 - Civic

Stressing the importance of democratic participation, European values, sustainable development and media literacy



7 - Entrepreneurship

Enhancing entrepreneurial attitudes to unlock personal potential, creativity and self-initiative



8 - Cultural awareness and expression

Increasing intercultural skills and the ability to express ideas in a variety of ways and contexts

To this end the Commission will:

- Make it easier for Member States to learn from each other about promising learning approaches, support for educational staff and the assessment and validation of competence development
- ◆ Develop reference material and tools in cooperation with Member States
- Monitor the provision of competence-oriented education, training and learning and competence development in the EU
- ◆ Analyse and report actions taken through the Education and Training 2020 framework, including the **Education and Training Monitor**, a snapshot of the state of education and training systems in Member States published by the Commission every year