



European Commission

European

EDUCATION

Area



Education and culture are the key to the future – both for the individual as well as for our Union as a whole. It is how we turn circumstance into opportunity, how we turn mirrors into windows and how we give roots to what it means to be 'European', in all its diversity. We must seize the opportunity and make sure education and culture are the drivers for job creation, economic growth, social fairness and ultimately unity.

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

First deliveries on key competences and digital skills, common values and the European dimension of education

Only two months following EU leaders' discussions on **strengthening European Identity through education and culture** on 17 November in Gothenburg, the European Commission presents its first initiatives to boost key competences and digital skills among EU citizens, and promote common values as well as the European dimension of education.

The new measures are intended to reduce socio-economic inequalities, whilst sustaining competitiveness in order to build a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe.

THE COMMISSION IS DELIVERING IN THREE AREAS:

1. Key Competences in Lifelong Learning

Key competences are the skills and attitudes people need to develop as personalities, find fulfilling work and become independent, engaged members of society.

The Commission is presenting a proposal for a Council Recommendation aiming to improve the development of key competences, such as literacy, languages and digital skills. A special focus is placed on entrepreneurial competences which are crucial in enabling people to adapt to change and seize new opportunities. The Recommendation also stresses the urgent need to boost basic competences, where Europe is falling behind as the last PISA survey showed.



Today, **one in two** EU citizens can speak and understand **only their mother tongue**, while **only one in four** EU citizens can hold a conversation in **two other languages**.

Special Eurobarometer 386



In most EU countries, **more than 15% of 15-year-olds are not able to tackle tasks that require**, at least, a minimal ability and disposition to think autonomously in one of the tested domains.

OECD PISA 2015 global education survey

The Recommendation will help equip European citizens for fast-changing labour markets and for active citizenship in more diverse, mobile, digital and global societies.

2. Digital Education Action Plan

This Action Plan will help EU citizens, educational institutions and education systems to make the most of the opportunities opened up by rapid digital change, but also to deal with the challenges associated with this transformation.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSES TO:

- make better use of digital technology for teaching and learning
- develop digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation
- improve education through better data analysis and foresight



Today, **44% of Europeans** (169 million) between **16 and 74 years do not have basic digital skills**, while **40% of European businesses** seeking to recruit ICT specialists **are struggling to find them.**

3. Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching

This proposal for a Recommendation provides guidance to Member States on how inclusive education and young people's experience of their European identity in all its diversity can help promote shared values.

The proposal also strengthens inclusive education to promote quality education for all pupils as well as the European dimension of teaching, so children also learn about Europe's common heritage and diversity and get a good understanding of the functioning of the EU.

Towards a European Education Area

On **25 January 2018**, Education Ministers, education stakeholders and representatives from the world of business will meet at the **first European Education Summit** in Brussels.

This Summit, hosted by Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, will bring together around 450 participants to discuss how to move towards a true European Education Area, boosting basic skills, inclusive education and skills for the future.

The Summit's programme includes over twenty sessions with topics including the importance of values-based education, the importance of fostering competences in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and the role children play in helping to transform societies.

In spring 2018, the Commission will present further initiatives to build a European Education Area, including proposals on the mutual recognition of diplomas, language learning, a quality framework for early childhood education and care, a European Agenda for Culture, and a new EU Youth Strategy. It will also take work forward on the network of European Universities and the European Student Card.