



European
Commission

Investing in

EUROPE'S YOUTH

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND EXCELLENT

TEACHING FOR A GREAT START IN LIFE

► HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE A REALITY FOR ALL.

European Pillar of Social Rights:

“Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.”

Schools play a pivotal role in life-long learning, but action is needed to make school education better and more inclusive:

- **Schools sometimes struggle to equip young people with the wide range of necessary competences.** The latest results of the OECD PISA survey show that one in five pupils has serious difficulties in developing sufficient reading, mathematics and science skills. Many young people lack appropriate digital competences. And too many young people still leave school prematurely.
- **School education does not always play in full its role in promoting social fairness.** On average, more than a third of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in the EU show low levels of educational achievement.
- **Schools need to respond better to the pace of technological and digital change.** Many of today's school children will later work in job types that do not yet exist. Young people need to develop the ability to cope with change.

Member States are responsible for the design of their education systems and solutions will vary depending on national, regional and local specificities. In keeping with subsidiarity, the **EU can play a useful role in supporting Member States in their reform efforts.**

There are three areas where the Commission can support Member States in addressing these challenges:

► **DEVELOPING BETTER AND MORE INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS**

Examples of key actions:

- Increase cooperation between **schools by making school partnerships and pupil mobility under Erasmus+** more accessible and promote participation in **eTwinning**.

Develop SELFIE, a self-assessment tool for schools on digital capacity. To be filled out by teachers, school leaders and students it will give schools a comprehensive view of their digital capacity and help them measure progress.

ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/digcomporg/selfie-tool



- Support improvements in **science, technologies, engineering and maths** (STEM) education by promoting, through Erasmus+, cooperation between higher education and research institutions, businesses and schools.

▶ SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING AND LEARNING

Examples of key actions:

- **Simplify access and promote opportunities for future teachers to gain practical teaching experience abroad** with the support of Erasmus+.
- Further develop synergies **with the OECD to produce joint comparative data on school staff**.

▶ GOVERNANCE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEMS: BECOMING MORE EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT

Examples of key actions:

- Set up a **demand driven technical support arrangement in cooperation with the OECD** to help Member States who seek assistance, to design and implement major school education reforms.
- Develop targeted policy guidance on **quality assurance** through peer counselling and peer learning.

ETWINNING is the largest community for schools in Europe. More than 460 000 teachers and 4 in 10 schools in Europe have already participated. Offering a safe online environment for cross-border education projects, eTwinning provides schools with easily accessible tools to enhance their digital learning offer and to support intercultural and cross-border contacts between teachers and pupils. Mainstreaming its use in all schools in Europe can help to boost digital competences and open up classrooms.