
Key Action 3: Support for policy reform

The activities in support for policy reform are targeted at the achievement of the goals of the European policy agendas, in particular the Europe 2020 Strategy, of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) and of the European Youth Strategy.

Which Actions are supported?

The following Action is implemented through this Programme Guide:

- Youth Dialogue Projects.

This Part B of the Guide provides detailed information on the criteria and funding rules applying to this Action.

In addition, Key Action 3 covers many other Actions in support of policy reform in the education, training and youth fields that are implemented directly by the European Commission or through specific calls for proposals managed by the Executive Agency. More information is available on the websites of the European Commission, the Executive Agency and National Agencies. A concise description of these Actions is provided below:

Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth, involving evidence gathering, analysis and peer learning. In particular:

- thematic and country-specific expertise, studies on policy issues and reforms, including the activities carried out by the Eurydice network and the Youth Wiki correspondents;
- support to the participation of Erasmus+ countries in European/international surveys aimed at monitoring specific trends and developments, including the evolution of language competences development in Europe;
- EU Presidency events, conferences and high-level meetings;
- exchanges of experience and good practice and peer reviews;
- support to the implementation of the Open Methods of Coordination.

Initiatives for policy innovation aimed to develop new policies or prepare their implementation. They include specific calls for proposals managed by the Executive Agency on: a) European policy experimentations, led by high-level public authorities and involving field trials on policy measures in several countries, based on sound evaluation methods ; b) forward-looking cooperation projects for innovative policy development.

Support to European policy tools, in particular:

- Transparency tools (skills and qualifications), to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, foster quality assurance, support skills management and guidance. This Action will also include networks providing support for

the implementation of those tools;

- Skills intelligence for the development and support of European tools such as the EU Skills Panorama –online platform;
- Networks supporting specific policy areas such as literacy and adult learning, as well as youth work and youth information (SALTO and Eurodesk);
- Dedicated higher education tools – development and support to tools such as U-Multirank, support to the Bologna Process or to the external dimension of higher education; the national teams of Higher Education Reform Experts in neighbourhood and enlargement, as well as Russia and Central Asia;
- Dedicated VET tools for the implementation of the VET Mobility Charter, to increase the quality level of organised mobility, and to support the National Authorities on apprenticeships in increasing the quality and supply of apprenticeships throughout Europe.

Cooperation with international organisations, such as the OECD and the Council of Europe. This Action will also foster policy dialogue with Partner Countries as well as the promotion of the international attractiveness of European higher education in the world. It will also support the network of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU and the international alumni associations.

Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion, including:

- Civil Society Cooperation supporting European NGOs and EU-wide networks in the fields of education, training and youth through a specific call for proposals managed by the Executive Agency;
- public events, meetings, debates and consultations with policy makers and stakeholders on relevant policy issues (such as the Education, Training and Youth Forum or the European Youth Week);
- Dialogue in the youth field, including the support to National Working Groups as well as meetings promoting dialogue between young people and decision-makers (see section below);
- awareness-raising, information and dissemination activities on policy outcomes and priorities, on the Erasmus+ Programme, its results and its potential synergies with other EU programmes, in particular the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The Actions implemented through this Key Action are aimed to:

- improve the quality, efficiency and equity of education and training systems and youth policies through the Open Methods of Coordination.
- support the implementation of the general and Country-Specific Recommendations resulting from the European Semesters;
- promote transnational cooperation and mutual learning between competent authorities at the highest political level in order to improve systems, structures and processes;
- develop knowledge and analytical capacity to support evidence-based policy under the Strategic framework for cooperation in education and training (ET2020), the European Youth Strategy and specific policy agendas such as the Bologna and Copenhagen processes;
- make available sound comparative international data and appropriate secondary analyses for European and national policy making, facilitating the collection and analysis of substantive evidence to assess and monitor the implementation of innovative policies and to encourage transferability and scalability;
- support European networks and implement tools fostering the transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning,
- support the active involvement of civil society networks and non-governmental organisations

- in policy implementation;
- support the Dialogue mechanisms with young people and encourage their active participation in democratic life
 - support exchanges of good practices, dialogue, mutual learning and cooperation among policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders from Programme and Partner Countries;
 - raise awareness of the results of European policies and of the Erasmus+ Programme and facilitate their exploitation at local, regional or national level. Raise the profile and attractiveness of European higher education worldwide;
 - foster synergies with other EU programmes, such as the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as with funding schemes at national or regional level.

