



European Commission



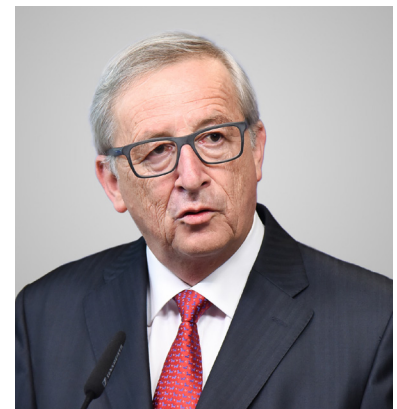
Investing in

EUROPE'S YOUTH

Education

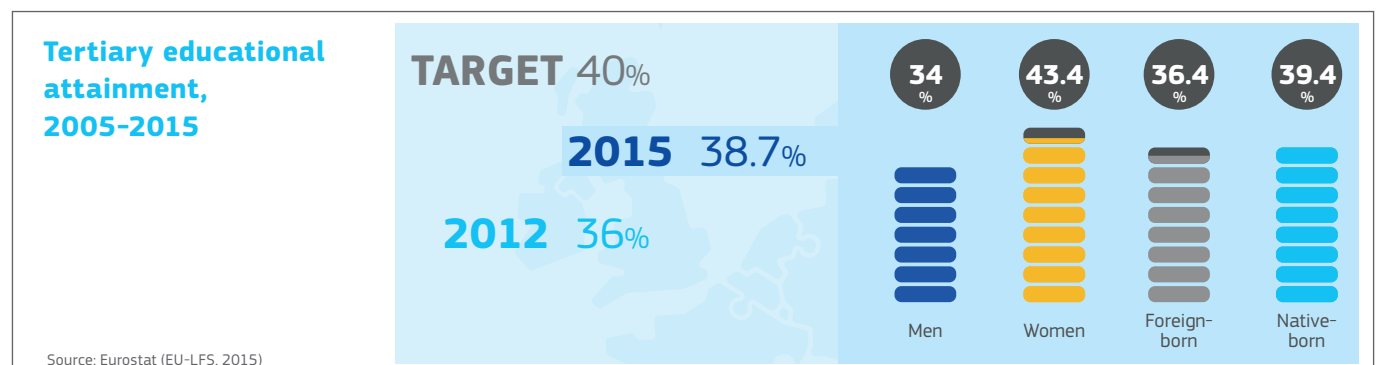
«To help people acquire the right mix of skills for an ever-changing world of work and help Member States modernise their education and training systems, we launched a skills agenda for Europe. It includes a new skills guarantee to help low-skilled adults acquire basic literacy, numeracy and digital skills and advance towards an upper secondary qualification.»

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 14 September 2016



Education is of strategic importance for our societies. Investment in quality education is crucial to ensure that young Europeans are equipped with the skills they need for professional, personal and social development. In 2017, the Commission will present a series of new initiatives to support Member States' reform efforts in education. These will be targeted at addressing key issues in the fields of early childhood and school education as well as higher education.

CHALLENGES AHEAD



Member States have made good progress in improving access to education. However, delivering quality education to all is an ongoing challenge, which requires efforts to:

- Promote inclusive education and ensure access to high quality education for all.
- Support the modernisation of education systems.
- Invest in education systems more efficiently.

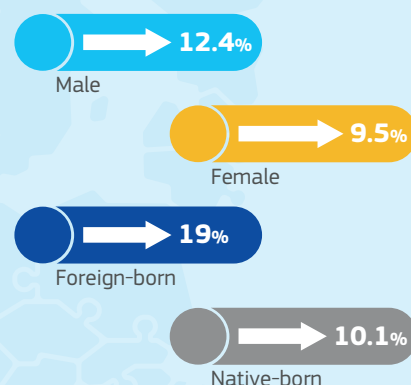


Early school leaving, 2005-2015

TARGET: < 10%

2015: 11%

2012: 12.7%



Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS, 2015)

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IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The first years of life are of critical importance to develop cognitive and non-cognitive skills.

Key Action

- Facilitate **mutual learning** through joint studies and exchange and dissemination of best practice.

ENHANCING SCHOOL EDUCATION

Providing targeted support and enacting reforms will help schools to respond to the profound and complex changes our societies and economies are undergoing (e.g. demographic challenges, increasingly diverse pupil population).

Key Actions

- Review the 2006 Framework of **Key Competences for Lifelong Learning** as announced in the Skills Agenda.
- ◆ Propose a **Council Recommendation on promoting social inclusion and common values through education and non-formal learning**.
- Promote **digital skills** in school education within the Digital Coalition for Skills and Jobs.
- ◆ Improve the quality of teaching by giving more **teachers** access to continuous training.
- Support the development of **entrepreneurial mind-sets and skills** and **entrepreneurship education** through a dedicated action under Erasmus+.

IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION

The expansion of higher education in recent years is one of Europe's success stories: more people than ever before are obtaining high level education. But Europe's universities still need to get better at responding to the demand for high-level skills and innovation in the economy.

Key Actions

- EU cooperation to help students acquire the **knowledge and skills they need**. This includes improving the availability of data on graduate employment and social outcomes (**'graduate tracking'**) as announced in the Skills Agenda.
- ◆ More cooperation projects with businesses to help universities contribute to **innovation in regional economies**.
- Support for the design of **adequate and effective systems** for investment in higher education.