



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 13 September 2013

To the Education Counsellors  
Permanent Representations of the  
Member States to the European  
Union

**Subject: ET 2020 Open Method of Coordination  
Nomination of TWG representatives**

Dear colleague,

In the framework of our continuing cooperation to optimise the functioning of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) under the ET 2020 strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, I would like to invite you to nominate your Member State representatives to the new generation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) that will function between November 2013 and October 2015.

On 15 February 2013, the EU's Council of Education Ministers asked the Member States and the European Commission to take the necessary measures for enhancing the functioning of the OMC in education and training in general and the TWGs in particular. Following intensive consultations with the Directors General for Schools, Higher Education, and Vocational Education and Training, and with the High Level Group on Education and Training, the European Commission is now proposing to move forward with the necessary reform of the system of ET 2020 TWGs.

The concerns underlying the Council's request, as well as the remarks of the Member States during the consultations, highlighted the need to concentrate the work on a reduced number of new TWGs, with mandates refocused on a more limited number of concrete outputs, providing a response to specific key priorities under ET 2020 and Europe 2020. In this light, a new generation of six TWGs will start functioning towards the end of this year and will address the following priority themes:

- Vocational Education and Training (with an initial focus on apprenticeships and work-based learning, as key elements of overall VET systems);
- Adult Learning (with a focus on strategies to reduce the number of low-skilled adults);
- School Policy (with a focus on early school leaving and the teaching profession);
- Modernisation of Higher Education;
- Transversal Skills (with a focus on ICT and Entrepreneurial Skills as well as Languages once the new benchmark is agreed);
- Digital and Online Learning (which will be subject to a separate call for nominations since its draft mandate for TWG on Digital and Online Learning will be formulated

following the adoption of the Commission Communication later this month and Council discussion on Opening up Education in November).

At the European Commission, we are committed to making a major effort to the success of this new generation of TWGs by upgrading the human resources devoted to their functioning (they will now be systematically chaired by the responsible Heads of Unit), by strengthening the coordination between the Groups, by providing additional input in terms of studies and analysis, and by intensifying the exploitation of the TWG outputs.

While each of the attached draft mandates specifies the precise profile of the TWG members, nominated representatives should:

- Be officials in employment of the governmental administration;
- Have a longstanding involvement with national policy development in education and training;
- Have relevant national experience and senior responsibility at national level with respect to the specific objective that is pursued in the TWG;
- Have the commitment to participate actively in the Open Method of Coordination process and have the ability to contribute to outputs of TWG (for practical reasons, a good knowledge of English is essential);
- Have the commitment to provide effective and regular feedback to and from their high-level policymakers on the work and outputs of the TWG.

In order to ensure maximum synergies and the optimal use of the expertise of the nominated representatives, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of each TWG will provide space not only for the Group to discuss how it will reach its objectives, but also for each member to shortly present how s/he can contribute to the output of the Group. For this purpose, please also enclose the CVs of the nominated officials.

The high policy relevance of the new TWG makes it increasingly important for all Member States to be effectively represented in the work of every TWG. The Commission shall reimburse one representative per country for each TWG meeting, in accordance to the Commission rules on the reimbursement of experts.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with the names and coordinates of your representatives by Monday, 21 October at the latest. Please reply by e-mail to Ms Ilona Torsin at [Ilona.Torsin@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Ilona.Torsin@ec.europa.eu) by using the attached nominations form (attachment 1).

For your information, I would like to signal that I am addressing – in parallel – a message to the members of the High Level Group on Education and Training and to members of the Directors General groupings (Schools, Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education) in which they are invited to comment on the draft mandates (please see attachment 2).

For further questions, you may contact Mr Youri Devuyst (Tel: +32 229-56902, [Youri.Devuyst@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Youri.Devuyst@ec.europa.eu)).

Yours sincerely,



Xavier PRATS MONNÉ

Enclosures:

1. TWG nominations form
2. Message to HLG and DG groupings inviting comments on the draft TWG mandates
3. Draft TWG mandates