



Current and Future European Programmes Funding Education and Training Initiatives

Elisabetta Delle Donne
Pixel Associazione (Italy)
elisabetta@pixel-online.net

Introduction

In the 'Europe 2020' strategy the European Council emphasizes the role of education and training. The strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020") recognizes that high-quality education and training are fundamental to Europe's success and that lifelong learning needs to be a priority.

The long-term strategic objectives of education and training policies in the European Union are: Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

A series of benchmarks are set for 2020: at least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education; the share of 15-years olds with insufficient abilities in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15%; the share of early school leavers should be less than 10%; the share of 30-34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40%; an average of at least 15 % of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in lifelong Learning.

The Lifelong Learning Programme

The Lifelong Learning programme funds a range of actions in the field of education and training including exchanges, study visits, networking activities etc.

There are four sectorial sub-programmes related to different levels of education and training:

- Comenius: for schools
- Erasmus: for higher education
- Leonardo da Vinci: for vocational education and training
- Grundtvig: for adult education

The transversal programmes aim to complement the sectorial sub programmes and to ensure that they achieve the best results possible. They aim to promote European cooperation in fields covering two or more of the sub-programmes. In addition they seek to promote quality and transparency of Member States' education and training systems.

Four key activities focus on:

- Policy cooperation and innovation
- Languages
- Information and communication technologies (ICT)
- Dissemination and exploitation of results

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) has a budget of nearly 7 billion euro for the period 2007 - 2013.

The lifelong learning programme is addressed to: The 27 member states of the European Union; EEA (European Economic Area) countries: Island, Liechtenstein, Norway; Candidate countries (i.e. Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia).

The Comenius Sub Programme

The aims of the Comenius Sub programme are: To develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures and languages and its value; To help young people acquire the basic life-skills and competences necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship

The operational objectives of the Comenius Sub programme are: To improve the quality and to increase the volume of mobility involving pupils and educational staff in different Member States; To improve the quality and to increase the volume of partnerships between schools in different Member States; To encourage the learning of modern foreign languages; To support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice in lifelong learning; To enhance the quality and European dimension of teacher training; To support improvements in pedagogical approaches and school management.

The target group of the Comenius Sub programme are: Schools, Pupils in school education; Teachers and other staff within schools, Associations, not-for-profit organisations, NGOs ;Persons and bodies responsible for the organisation and delivery of education; Research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues; Higher education institutions; Bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services.

Examples of projects funded by the Comenius Sub-Programme – CMP (Comenius Multilateral Projects):

- The Michelangelo project (<http://michelangelo.pixel-online.org>)



The project involved secondary school art teachers in the creation and development of an internet portal on European fine arts in the 6 countries involved.

- School Inclusion (<http://schoolinclusion.pixel-online.org>)

The project addressed the issue of early school leaving, starting from an in depth analysis of the causes of school dropping out and the strategies implemented to overcome.

- I am Not Scared (<http://iamnotscared.pixel-online.org>)

The project has the aim to identify the best European strategies to prevent and combat the school bullying phenomenon.

- The On Air Project (<http://www.onair.medmediaeducation.it/>)

The project exploited the use of new media (television, internet, radio etc.) in education and to promote media education in school.

The Erasmus Sub Programme

The aims of the Erasmus sub programme are: To support the realisation of a European Higher Education Area; To reinforce the contribution of higher education and advanced vocational education to process of innovation

The specific objectives of the Erasmus sub programme are: To improve the quality and to increase the volume of students and teaching staff mobility throughout Europe; To improve the quality and to increase the volume of multilateral cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe; To increase the degree of transparency and compatibility between higher education and advanced vocational education qualifications gained in Europe; To improve the quality and to increase the volume of cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises; To facilitate the development of innovative practices in education and training at tertiary level, and their transfer, including from one participating country to others; To support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning.

The target group of the Erasmus sub programme are: Students and trainees; Higher education institutions; Teachers, trainers and other staff within those institutions; Associations and representatives of those involved in higher education, including relevant student, university, and teacher/trainer associations; Enterprises, social partners and other representatives of working life; Public and private organisations, including not-for-profit organisations and NGOs, responsible for the organisation and delivery of education and training at local, regional and national levels; Research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues; Bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services

Examples of project funded by the Erasmus Sub-Programme (Erasmus Virtual Campus):

- The History on Line Project (<http://www.history-on-line.eu>)

The project developed an Internet Portal for teaching the history of pedagogy at university level based on the effective use of ICT potential.

- Economics e-Translations into and from European Languages (<http://eet.pixel-online.org>)

The project is creating a database of resources for the analysis of translations of the main texts that are used by the researchers in the field of the history of economic thought.

- The Chemistry Is All Around Us Project (<http://chemistry.pixel-online.org/index.php>)

The project has the aim to identify barriers and success factors to the implementation of lifelong learning policies in scientific subjects and in particular in chemistry.

The Leonardo da Vinci Sub Programme

The aims of the Leonardo da Vinci sub programme are: To support participants in training and further training activities in the acquisition and the use of knowledge, skills and qualifications to facilitate personal development; To support improvements in quality and innovation in vocational education and training systems, institutions and practices; To enhance the attractiveness of vocational education and training and mobility for employers and individuals and to facilitate the mobility of working trainees

The specific objectives of the Leonardo da Vinci sub programme are: To improve the quality and to increase the volume of mobility throughout Europe of people involved in initial vocational education and training; To improve the quality and to increase the volume of co-operation between institutions or organizations providing learning opportunities, enterprises, social partners and other relevant bodies throughout Europe; To facilitate the development of innovative practices in the field of vocational education and training; To improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences, including those acquired through non-formal and informal learning; To encourage the learning of modern foreign languages; To support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning.

The target groups of the Leonardo da Vinci sub programme are: People learning in all forms of vocational education and training; People in the labour market; Training Institutions and organizations; Teachers, trainers



and other staff within those institutions or organizations; Associations and representatives of those involved in vocational education and training; Enterprises, social partners and other representatives of working life, including chambers of commerce and other trade organizations; Bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services relating to any aspect of lifelong learning; Persons and bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of vocational education and training at local, regional and national level; Research centers and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues; Higher education institutions; Not-for-profit organizations, voluntary bodies, and NGOs

Examples of projects funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Sub-Programme, Development of Innovation (DOI):

- Hippocrates (<http://www.hippocrates.fadgradenigo.it>)

The project provided trainers who work in the health sector with the necessary skills for knowledge management.

- Heppy (<http://heppy.projectize.eu/>)

The project has the aim to promote an holistic approach in the delivery of home care assistance through the training of doctors and nurses who work in the field.

Examples of projects funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Sub-Programme, Transfer of Innovation (TOI):

- ELS at Work (<http://elsatwork.pixel-online.org/info/index.php>)

The project transferred the ELS portal which was originally created, with a Leonardo da Vinci funding, to train secretarial and administrative staff, to vocational schools with the purpose to offer language students and teachers a successful tool for on line learning of business languages.

Examples of mobility projects funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Mobility Actions named: (a) People in the Labour Market (PLM) and (b) Vocational Education and Training Professionals (VETPro). These are mobility initiative addressed to in service staff willing to get to know the Italian labour market and the Italian experiences in several subject areas.

- Mobility initiative on Tourism Promotion and Management addressed to the Agency for Support of Regional Development Kosice, Slovakia, who had the opportunity to get to know, through direct meetings with Tuscan public authorities, how Tuscany public bodies carry out the marketing and promotion of tourism.

- Mobility Initiative on How to Organise and Manage In Service Training Courses addressed to Tartu Vocational Education Centre, Estonia, who had the opportunity, through direct meetings with Tuscan vocational education institutions, to get to know how vocational education is organized and managed in Tuscany.

Examples of mobility projects funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Mobility Actions named Initial Vocational Training (IVT). These are mobility initiative addressed to vocational students willing to get to know and experience the Italian labour market.

- Mobility Initiative on Business Management addressed to Angus College, United Kingdom. A group of college students had the opportunity to visit a number of Tuscan companies to find out about the skills that are required by the labour market in their sector and to see how these skills are applied on the job.

- Mobility Initiative on Web Design addressed to Landstede Vocational Centre, Netherland and to IES Sant Vicent Ferrer, Spain. A group of students and trainees had the opportunity to visit a number of Tuscan web agencies to find out about the skills that are required and to see how these skills are applied.

- Mobility Initiative on Forestry and Logging addressed to Oulu College, Finland. . A group of college students had the opportunity to visit a number of Tuscan private and public organizations working in the field of forestry and logging as well as to meet with managers and staff.

Further information on all of the mentioned mobility initiatives is available at: http://europlan.pixel-online.org/MOB_intro.php

The Transversal Programme – Language Learning, Key Activity 2 (KA2)

The following actions may be supported under the key activity of languages: Multilateral projects aimed, inter alia, at the promotion of language awareness and access to language learning resources and developing new language learning materials, including online courses, and instruments for language testing; Networks in the field of language learning and linguistic diversity; Accompanying Measures



Example of project funded by KA2:

- The NELLIP project (<http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip>)

The project's objective is to promote quality in the planning and organization of language learning initiatives.

- The Lets Go project (<http://letsgo.pixel-online.org/info>)

The project's objective is to provide language teachers and trainers with the skills to successfully apply new technologies to the teaching and learning of foreign languages.

The Transversal Programme – Development of Innovative ICT-based Content, Services, Pedagogies and Practice for Lifelong Learning, Key Activity 3 (KA3)

The following actions are supported under the key activity of ICT: Multilateral projects aimed at the promotion of ICT enabled learning embedded into long-term educational strategies and the development and distribution of innovative methods, contents, services and environments; Networks aimed at sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and good practice; Other actions aimed at improving lifelong learning policy and practice, which may include mechanisms for evaluation, observation, benchmarking, quality improvement and the analysis of trends with respect to technology and pedagogy

Example of project funded by KA3:

- The Learning Game project (<http://www.learninggame.org/>)

The project's objective is to implement e-learning solutions and methods in a teaching and learning context that make full use of the interactive and multimedia solutions, therefore including videogames.

The Transversal Programme – Dissemination and Exploitation of Results of Actions Supported under the Programme and Previous Related Programmes, and Exchange of Good Practice, Key Activity 4 (KA4)

The prime objective for actions under Key Activity 4 'Dissemination and Exploitation of Results' is to help create a framework for the effective exploitation of the results of the Lifelong Learning Programme and previous related programmes at sectoral, regional, national and European levels.

This action can fund multilateral projects aimed, inter alia, at the development of a suitable framework (analysis, mechanisms, methodologies and practical tools) to facilitate the exploitation of project and programme results; to cross-programme actions promoting the exploitation of results at European level; and to the promotion of 'exploitation' activities by regional/European/sectoral networks with the aim of promoting a virtuous circle between policy development and practical experiences.

Example of project funded by KA4:

- The Embed project (<http://www.embeddyslexia.eu/>)

The project aims at supporting the education of dyslexic individuals exploiting the results of previous European project in the field of dyslexia.

- Web2LLP project (<http://www.web2llp.eu/>)

The project aims to implement the use of social media in the dissemination and exploitation processes of European projects.

The Tempus Programme

TEMPUS is the European Union's programme which supports the modernization of higher education in the EU's surrounding area. Tempus promotes institutional cooperation that involves the European Union and Partner Countries and focuses on the reform and modernization of higher education systems in the Partner Countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region. It also aims to promote voluntary convergence of the higher education systems in the Partner Countries with EU developments in the field of higher education. With regards to the Western Balkans, Tempus contributes to preparing the candidate and potential candidate countries for a participation in the integrated Life Long Learning Programme.

The overall objective of Tempus is to contribute to the creation of an area of cooperation in the field of higher education between the European Union and Tempus Partner Countries in the countries neighbouring the EU and its wider proximity.

The specific objectives of Tempus are as follows: To promote the reform and modernization of higher education in the Partner Countries; To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education to the world of work and society in the Partner Countries; To increase the capacity of higher education institutions in the Partner Countries and the EU, in particular their capacity to cooperate internationally and to continually modernize; To assist them in opening up to the world of work and the society at large; To foster the reciprocal development of human resources; To enhance mutual understanding between the peoples and cultures of the EU and the Partner Countries.

Priority themes under Tempus are defined around the main components of the EU's higher education modernization agenda and are therefore structured in the following three building blocks: Curricular Reform; Governance Reform; Higher Education and Society.



The Erasmus for All Programme

All of the current programmes in the field of education and training will end in 2013. In 2014 a new programme named Erasmus for All (E4A) will take the place of the current programmes merging in one single programme the current Lifelong Learning Programme, the Tempus Programme, the Youth programme and the Erasmus Mundus Programme.

The European Commission has proposed an increase of 70% of the current seven-year budget, which would allocate €19 billion to the new programme in 2014-2020.

The new Erasmus for All programme will focus on three types of action: learning opportunities for individuals; institutional cooperation between educational institutions, youth organizations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs; and support for reforms in Member States to modernize education and training systems and promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employability. Erasmus for All will also promote research and teaching on European integration, and support grassroots sport.

Two-thirds of the funding would be spent on mobility grants to enhance knowledge and skills.

This proposal is now under discussion by the Council and the European Parliament who will take the final decision on the budgetary framework for 2014-2020.