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WORKING DOCUMENT

on Policy instruments regarding Youth

Committee on Budgets

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Introduction

The working document presents, in budgetary terms, the programmes and activities supporting Youth-education-mobility, analyses the financial support that the EU budget provides for these instruments and the implementation rate in 2009, 2010, compared to the figures proposed in 2011 DB and assesses, when relevant, their evolution. It aims at providing the Members of the Committee on Budgets with a supplementary support for the budget procedure 2011.

The working document identifies, in its first part, the programmes and activities directly or indirectly supporting Youth, presents, in the second part, the relevant key budgetary elements, by policy area, showing the evolution of annual appropriations attributed to Youth programmes in 2009 and 2010 budgets, their implementation rates and provides the draft budget 2011 figures. In a third part, the working document presents, also, the financial situation of the agencies implementing the Youth related programmes and activities.

I. DEFINITION OF BUDGETARY INSTRUMENTS REGARDING YOUTH-EDUCATION-MOBILITY

1.1. Budgetary instruments providing direct support to Youth

In the framework of the EU budget, Youth is directly supported by specific multi-annual programmes as Lifelong Learning (LLL), Erasmus Mundus, Youth in Action (YiA), People specific programme for mobility of researchers (FP7 sub-programme), completed by a number of specific pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP/PA). Besides Youth in action programme and some of the PP/PA regarding Youth, financed under the heading 3b, these programmes and activities are funded under the heading 1a of the MFF. The international dimension of the actions supporting Youth is funded under heading 4 of the budget (cooperation with non-member countries on education and vocational training and the European Training Foundation (ETF)).

1.1.1. The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLL) comprises four sectoral programmes on school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult education (Grundtvig), as well as the Jean Monnet action and the transversal programme supporting specific key activities, such as language learning, offering opportunities for learners, teachers and trainers to study or teach in another MS.

It contributes to the development of the EU as an advanced knowledge-based society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. In particular, it aims to foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Union so that they become a world quality reference. The programme supports multilateral partnerships and projects, transnational mobility and Union-wide exchanges.

1.1.2. Erasmus Mundus (II) programme is the EU cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. It aims at enhancing the quality of the European higher education and promoting intercultural understanding through cooperation with non-Members States. It is also contributes to increasing attractiveness of European higher

education worldwide.

1.1.3. The Youth in Action programme aims at promoting active citizenship among the young and their European citizenship in particular. It includes the European Voluntary Service, which aims at boosting young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, as well as a grant to the European Youth Forum.

The added value of the Youth in Action programme relates to its two main objectives: enhancement of the human resources in Europe through a particular support to non formal learning experiences and development of active citizenship (including European citizenship) of young people. On both aspects, the added value resides in the European Union's ability to showcase the benefit of initiatives supporting the mobility of young people, as well as the benefit, for Youth NGOs, to 'Europeanise' their work. In most countries no such programmes of mobility exist.

Moreover, the possibilities to exchange best practices (notably through the dissemination of results achieved by the projects) or to complement at national/regional level the 'seed money' of Youth in Action generate a strong multiplying effect which justifies an action at European level. In addition, this mobility and other supported projects help making the European Union closer to young people and include those young people with fewer opportunities who would have less possibilities to participate in other European schemes.

1.1.4. People programme for mobility of researchers: The capacity to attract and retain abundant and highly trained qualified researchers in Europe is a necessary condition to advance science and to underpin innovation, as well as an important factor to attract and sustain investments in research by public and private entities.

Against the background of growing competition at world level, the 'People' Specific Programme (FP7) aims at making Europe more attractive for the best researchers, by:

- fostering the development of an open European labour market for researchers free from all forms of discrimination and the diversification of skills and career paths of researchers;
- stimulating people to enter into the researchers' profession and encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe via amongst other such reintegration grants;
- structuring throughout Europe the organisation, performance and quality of research training, the active career development of researchers, knowledge-sharing through researchers between industry and academia and research organisations, and strong participation of women and early-stage researchers in research and development.

The Marie Curie actions contribute to upgrade skills of researchers at all career stages for a better employability in both public and private sectors through research programmes which aim at boosting innovation in Europe.

1.2. Budgetary instruments providing indirect support to 'Youth'

In addition to the main programmes supporting youth-education-mobility, some other EU programmes are also providing support for young people. A supplementary funding is provided through the employment and social affairs policy area (Progress programme, EURES, Mobility actions, European Social Fund (ESF)), regional development policy area (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)), common agriculture policy and notably, the rural development policy supporting the young farmers, European Fisheries Fund (EFF),

which are respectively funded under heading 1a, 1b and 2 of the EU budget. Nevertheless, in the framework of these policy areas, there are no particular budget lines or earmarked appropriations specifically dedicated to Youth.

1.2.1. PROGRESS programme is one of the instruments providing support to the Member States in developing and implementing employment and social policies in five areas: Employment, Social inclusion and protection, Working conditions, Non-discrimination and Gender equality. It targets Member States, local and regional authorities, public employment services and national statistics offices. Specialised bodies, universities and research institutes, as well as the social partners and non-governmental organisations can participate.

Progress programme is instrumental in providing analysis and policy advice on EU policy agenda, monitoring/assessment and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies, promoting policy transfer, identification and dissemination of good practices in related policy areas, mutual learning and support among MSs, rallying support and promoting the involvement of key EU and national stakeholders; it does not support directly youth and mobility activities.

1.2.2. European Employment Service (EURES) consists of a network of more than 800 EURES advisers and web-sites gathering all of job vacancies from Public Employment Services of the EURES Member States (EU, EEA and CH) with information about leaving and working conditions in the MSs.

EURES aims at promoting the geographical and professional mobility of workers in Europe in order to overcome the remaining obstacles to the free movement and contribute to the emergence of a real labour market at European level.

1.2.3. European Social Fund (ESF) is the main instrument for investment in education and training under the Cohesion Policy. Within the strategic priorities for the thematic and regional operational programmes there is always a scope focussing the actions on different target groups, of which the young people. Depending on the specific situation in each MS and region, the ESF supports different projects targeting young people either through facilitating their transition from education to work, or helping them back into the education to raise their skill levels.

1.2.4. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports mainly infrastructure in education and training. The support is however not specifically targeting young people and does not promote mobility. The ERDF support to education and training (excluding infrastructure) is marginal.

1.2.5. The Common Agricultural Policy supports several measures for young farmers under its rural development pillar ("*setting up of young farmers*" measure). Young farmers can also benefit from other measures such as "*Vocational training and information actions*" and "*Modernisation of agricultural holdings*" where specific actions in favour of youth are frequent.

1.2.6. The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) provisions relevant in the field of Youth can be found under the measure "*Socio-economic compensation for the management of the Community fishing fleet*"¹. It is up to the Member States to decide on the amount they wish to

¹ Article 27 of Council Regulation (EC), No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund

devote to these measures. It has not been possible to provide figures on the budget allocated to these specific actions.

II. Budgetary structure Youth - mobility-education programmes and activities

Title 15 of the budget covers the major part of the Youth programmes and activities. Several mobility actions are funded from the Title 04 of the budget, as part of employment and social affairs policy area. Nevertheless, there are no programmes dedicated directly to Youth in this policy area.

2.1. Education and culture policy area (15)

Table: 'Youth-education-mobility' programmes funded under the title 15:

BL	Title	MFF	Budget 2009				Budget 2010				DB 2011	
			CA	Impl %	PA	Impl %	CA	Impl ¹ %	PA	Impl ² %	CA	PA
15 02 02 05	Erasmus Mundus programme	1a	75 523 024	100	75 894 879	99,9	94 163 000	-	78 800 000	0,76	94 540 000	88 000 000
15 01 04 14	Erasmus Mundus Admin expenditure	1a	1 326 664	99,6	1 326 664	48,0	770 000	18,8	770 000	10,3	996 000	996 000
15 02 03	Cooperation with non-members countries on education and vocational training	4	7 598 370	98,9	3 569 764	97,9	8 000 000	0,4	5 200 000	31,1	9 000 000	5 000 000
15 01 04 17	Idem – Admin expenditure	4	114 983	100	114 983	48,0	65 000	-	65 000	5,4	80 000	80 000
15 02 22	Lifelong learning programme	1a	1 087 476 158	100	1 018 078 157	100	982 313 500	74,9	953 200 000	22,0	1 009 655 000	956 000 000
15 01 04 22	LLL Admin expenditure	1a	9 371 661	100	9 371 661	61,3	8 843 000	23,8	8 843 000	12,1	9 000 000	9 000 000
15 05 55	Youth in Action programme	3b	144 087 708	100	137 645 004	100	124 106 000	61,2	121 000 000	20,1	126 108 000	117 000 000
15 01 04 55	Youth in Action Admin expenditure	3b	986 063	100	986 063	69,2	780 000	32,8	780 000	12,6	780 000	780 000
15 07 77	People programme for mobility of researchers (FP7)	1a	543 908 038	100	412 891 192	100	534 190 000	0,5	284 000 000	11,2	754 407 000	500 000 000

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

Despite a very high level of implementation of the budget lines of title 15, reaching for a major part an execution level of 100%, the DB 2011 increase in commitments is rather limited, except for the People specific programme, which has been considerably increased both in commitments and payments.

Globally, the level of payments remains stable. A more important increase has been proposed for Erasmus Mundus programme (+12%), while the payments for Youth in action programme has been decreased by 3,3% in the DB 2011.

2.1.1. Erasmus Mundus: The global amount of appropriations, proposed in the DB

¹ Commission implementation Report of 19 April 2010

² Commission implementation Report of 19 April 2010

2011, amounts to EUR 94,5 million in CA and EUR 88,0 million in PA for the operational expenditure and to EUR 0,996 millions for the administrative expenditure. If compared to 2010, the programme's operational expenditure has been slightly increased by EUR 0,3 million in CA (+0,4 %) and by EUR 9 million in PA (+11,7%).

In 2011, the programme will continue to finance new categories of individual grants (to doctoral candidates and to European students who attend Erasmus Mundus master courses). 2010 is the first year in which all elements of the new Erasmus Mundus (II) programme become fully operational.

The ex-post evaluation of the first Erasmus Mundus programme (2004-2008) showed that the programme has led to an increase in the number of third-country students attending participating departments and institutions. Many of the course representatives consulted during the evaluation noted that Erasmus Mundus has allowed their departments to attract third country students from a wider range of countries and thus to break with traditional patterns of recruitment. Moreover, 89% of course co-ordinators surveyed said that Erasmus Mundus students were either "significantly above" (53%) or "above" (36%) the average standard of masters students at their university¹.

2.1.2. Lifelong learning programme: DB 2011 proposes a global amount of EUR 1.009,6 million in CA and 956 million in PA for the LLL programme. If compared to 2010 budget figures, this increase corresponds to +EUR 27 million in CA (+2,8%) and +2,8 million in PA (+0,3%).

For 2011, this appropriation is programmed to support the following three specific objectives:

- Development of the European area of lifelong learning and foster mobility in view of strengthening Europe's competitiveness, building its knowledge-intensive economy and deepening the sense of European identity and citizenship (**EUR 896,125 million**)
- Modernisation and reform of EU education and training systems in line with the Europe 2020 strategy (**EUR 101,730 million**)
- Modernisation and reform of EU education and training systems in line with the Europe 2020 strategy; Make Multilingualism enabling European citizens to use several languages, to access culture and to participate as active citizens in view of them benefitting from better communication, inclusiveness and wider employment as well as business opportunities (**EUR 11,800 million**)

2.1.3. Youth in Action programme (YiA): The overall amount, suggested in the DB 2011 for YiA, is EUR 126,1 million in commitments and EUR 117,0 million in payments for the operational expenditure with only EUR 0,78 million foreseen for the administrative expenditure.

If compared to 2010 budget, this represents an increase in commitments by only 1,6% and a decrease in payment by 3,3%, while, as indicated in the table above, the implementation rate at 19 April 2010 was already 61,2% and 100% at the end of 2009.

Commission's evaluation of the Youth Programme (2000-2006) has confirmed the effectiveness of the programme, as regards the employability and professional orientation of young people (whose skills develop through the non formal education experiences which stem from their participation in the Programme), as well as the development of their citizenship and

¹ Commission's Working document on the DB 2011 (Part I)

sense of solidarity and sense of being European.

2.1.4. People Programme: DB 2011 proposes EUR 754,407 million in CA and EUR 500 million in PA for this programme. This corresponds to an increase of 41,2% in CA (+220 million) and to 76% increase in PA (+ EUR 216 million), as compared to budget 2010.

In accordance with the Commission working documents¹, the DB 2011 substantial increase of the People Specific Programme responds to the increased level of demand for the different programme's objectives and the key policy areas set out in the programme. The biggest share of the 2011 budget will continue supporting the initial training of researchers through Marie Curie Initial training networks (ITN) Actions. It shall also allow to increase the appropriations of intra European and international mobility of researchers and support their career development through individual fellowships and co-funding of regional, national and international Programmes (COFUND), World fellowships (OIF, IIF and IRSES), Intersectoral mobility (ITN and Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) actions).

The actions to promote the 5th freedom through the implementation of the "European Partnership for Researcher" (EPR) for better careers and mobility which includes the EURAXESS "Researchers in Motion" activities, stakeholders' consultations and data collection and the study on the EU pension Fund are foreseen to be continued in 2011. In addition, new activities shall be launched including the expansion of EURAXESS links, a feasibility study for a Researchers Card and further analyses and preparation of policies concerning researcher's mobility and career and patterns in view of a European partnership for Researchers (EPR) Communication.

The Research Executive Agency (REA) is responsible for the management of all the programme areas of the People Programme with the exception of policy related actions for the development of an open labour market for researchers. Since the establishment of the new Commission it falls under the competences of the DG EAC. This also implied a change of nomenclature - 15 07 77 (title 15: education and culture), instead of the previews 08 11 01 (title 08: Research).

2.2. Employment and social affairs policy area (title 04)

2.2.1. Social dialogue and the Community social dimension (04 03 03)

BL	Title	MFF	Budget 2009			Budget 2010			DB 2011	
			CA	PA	Impl (CA) %	CA	PA	Impl ² (CA) %	CA	PA
04 03 03 01	Industrial relation and social dialogue	1a	15 328 292	13 679 843	99	16 000 000	14 000 000	7	16 390 000	14 000 000
04 03 03 02	Information and training measures for workers' organisations	1a	16 922 212	16 209 903	100	16 400 000	15 000 000	19	16 700 000	15 000 000
04 03 03 03	Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings	1a	6 873 440	5 271 298	94	7 300 000	5 500 000	-	7 300 000	5 500 000
Total			39 123 944	55 161 044		39 700 000	34 500 000		40 390 000	34 500 000

¹ Commission's Working document on the DB 2011 (Part I)

² Commission implementation Report of 19 April 2010

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

Social dialogue and the EU social dimension activities aim at strengthening the role of social dialogue and promote the adoption of agreements between the social partners. It provides support for actions undertaken by social partners to promote social dialogue and for issues related to the impact of globalisation on EU actors. It also co-finances the work programme of Trade Union research and Training Institute (ETUI-REHS), supports training activities of worker' organisations, research and exchange of best practice on industrial relations in Europe, Social Partners' actions to improve and promote the Lisbon strategy, the information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings.

DB 2011: The appropriations remain stable. Globally, the DB 2011 has not foreseen any increase in appropriation for these budget lines, except a minor increase in commitments only for the following budget lines 04 03 03 01, 04 03 03 02 (by EUR 0,39 and 0,3 million respectively).

2.2.2. EURES - European Employment Service (04 03 04)

EURES : Budget appropriations and implementation rate

BL	Title	MFF	Budget 2009			Budget 2010			DB 2011	
			CA	PA	Impl (CA) %	CA	PA	Impl ¹ (CA) %	CA	PA
04 03 04	EURES	1a	19 838 034	15 121 218	100	19 100 000	16 000 000	73	19 500 000	16 000 000
04 01 04 04	EURES Admin expenditure	1a	477 975	477 975	99	470 000	470 000	36	470 000	470 000

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

According to the Commission working document, because of the current crisis the use of the EURES has heavily increased. Thus the Commission intends to further develop the Service and, notably, reinforce the job matching services of EURES.

The appropriation foreseen in the DB 2011 remain stable; an increase of EUR 0,4 million only has been proposed for 2011 in commitments. The operational expenditure amounts to EUR 19,5 million in commitments and EUR 16 million in payments.

EURES 2011 programming (in commitments):

- EUR 2,3 million: Development of the EURES Website and Help-Desk and the Job Mobility Portals
- EUR 15 million: Support of Public Employment services in contributing to the development of European labour markets open and accessible to all through EURES
- EUR 2,2 million: Information and communication activities, training, networking of EURES and the organisation of the Job Days

2.2.3. PROGRESS - EU Programme for employment and social solidarity (04 04 01)

¹ Commission implementation Report of 19 April 2010

Progress: Budget appropriations and implementation rate

BL	Title	MFF	Budget 2009			Budget 2010			DB 2011	
			CA	PA	Impl (CA) %	CA	PA	Impl ¹ (CA) %	CA	PA
04 04 01 01	Employment	1a	22 839 918	13 644 597	9	23 400 000	19 000 000	2	19 787 500	17 000 000
04 04 01 02	Social protection and inclusion	1a	30 693 237	22 585 865	98	32 450 000	25 000 000	-	27 755 000	26 500 000
04 04 01 03	Working conditions	1a	11 652 418	7 380 312	100	10 320 000	7 500 000	10	8 425 000	8 500 000
04 04 01 04	Anti-discrimination and Diversity	1a	22 720 684	18 843 184	97	24 050 000	19 000 000	20	20 137 500	18 000 000
04 04 01 05	Gender equality	1a	12 966 402	10 698 941	94	13 470 000	10 000 000	5	11 790 000	10 000 000
04 04 01 06	Support for implementation	1a	1 393 077	853 514	54	1 750 000	1 500 000	-	1 355 000	1 200 000
04 01 04 10	Progress Admin expenditure	1a	3 706 021	3 706 021	99	4 130 000	4 130 000	27	4 380 000	4 380 000
TOTAL			105 971 757	77 712 434		109 570 000	86 130 000		93 630 000	85 580 000

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

2.3. Other policy area (indirect support to Youth)

According to the data provided by the Commission during the budgetary monitoring group on the implementation of policy instruments regarding Youth of 4 May 2010, the following policy area provides supplementary funding in favour of young people:

- Title 04: European Social Fund (ESF) allocates directly EUR 8,3 billion, which represents roughly 11 % of its overall budget (2007-2013), to reforms of Member States' education and training systems which are mainly targeted young people. According to the last available data around on third of ESF beneficiaries are young people (2,5 million of young people in 2008).
- Title 05: The Common Agricultural Policy provides supports for young farmers through the following measures:
 - "Setting up of young farmers"*- EUR 2.894 million euro for around 186,800 beneficiaries foreseen by the Commission. By January 2010, MSs had declared a total amount of EUR 537,7 million for this measure, which represents 2.7% of the total EAFRD amount paid from the beginning of the current programming period.
 - "Vocational training and information actions"* and *"Modernisation of agricultural holdings"* for which the total programmed amounts for the period 2007-2013 are EUR 1.085,9 million and EUR 10.619,1 million respectively.
- Title 13: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support to education and training (excluding infrastructure) is around EUR 1,6 billion over the 2007-2013 programming period.

III. AGENCIES - Decentralised management of the programmes

¹ Commission implementation Report of 19 April 2010

3.1. Decentralised Agencies

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the European Training Foundation (ETF) are active in supporting the development of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) policies, skills and related employment issues, which are all very relevant to young people. However, it should be noted that they do not implement programmes or actions directly.

Decentralised Agencies: Cedefop and ETF Budget appropriations and staff

(in EUR million)

Article	Agency	Seat	Cat	B 2009		B 2010		DB 2011	
				B voted	Staff	B voted	Staff	B voted	Staff
15 02 25	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training	Thessaloniki	1a	16,8	101	16,9	101	15,7	101
15 02 27	European Training Foundation	Turin	4	19,9	96	18,3	96	19,8	96

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

3.1.1. European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)

Cedefop is the EU's agency for European VET policy. The aim of the Centre is to assist the Commission in encouraging, at EU level, the promotion and development of vocational training and of in-service training. To that end, in the framework of the guidelines laid down by the EU, it shall contribute, through scientific and technical activities, to the implementation of a common vocational training policy.

As such, the Cedefop supports the implementation of:

- the European qualifications framework (EQF), which is a tool for comparing qualifications throughout Europe to support lifelong learning and educational and job mobility,
- The European credit system for VET (ECVET), which enables learning outcomes to be transferred from one qualifications system to another, or between general and vocational education, to promote lifelong learning through VET,
- Europass, which is a portfolio of five instruments to make people's skills and qualifications more easily understood in Europe,
- The new skills for new jobs agenda by carrying out skill needs and supply forecasts.

3.1.2. European Training Foundation (ETF)

The ETF operates in the framework of the EU's external assistance policies; specifically, the EU's Enlargement, Neighborhood and Development and Co-operation policies. Its objective is to contribute to improving human capital development through the improvement of vocational training systems. Through its policy analysis, advisory and capacity building actions, the ETF supports knowledge dissemination and policy management to promote realistic priority and objective setting.

3.2. Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture (EACEA)

The implementation of programmes covered by the title 15 is largely externalised (indirect

centralised management) by recourse to the EACEA and the network of National Agencies (NAs), which tasks are not limited to the administrative management but also to the implementation of the programmes.

EACEA manages the major part of the programmes of the education and culture policy area¹, namely Lifelong Learning, Youth in action, Erasmus Mundus I and II, TEMPUS III and IV programmes as well as the Agreements with USA and Canada.

In 2010 the EACEA is in the 5th year of its operational lifetime. The required budget for 2011 is relatively stable compared to 2010, the net increase of the total 2011 budget being limited to EUR 0,2 million (0,5%).

EACEA operating budget appropriation and staff:

(in EUR million)

Article	Agency	Seat	Cat.	B 2009		B 2010		DB 2011	
				B voted	Staff	B voted	Staff	DB	Staff
15 01 04 30	Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture	Brussels	1a	22,40	99	21,20	102	21,44	102
15 01 04 31			3b	16,10	295	15,84	310	15,64	314
15 01 04 32			4	0,60		0,59		0,60	
16 01 04 30			3b	3,33		3,37		3,37	
19 01 04 30			4	4,02		4,32		4,62	
22 01 04 30			4	1,24		1,34		1,22	
Total EAC EA				47,69	394	46,67	412	46,90	416

Source: Commission Working documents - DB 2011 figures

The figures presented for EACEA human resources in the table above correspond to the Establishment plan posts and, in italic, to the number of contract agents per year.

IV. EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The EU 2020 Strategy aims at creating a model for growth and jobs for a sustainable society based on innovation and people. With in the new strategy, as proposed by the Commission², the aspect of youth, mobility and education plays a crucial role; the so-called 'Youth on the Move' flagship initiative become one of the strategy's cornerstones. Moreover, the issues concerning the young people are also referred to in other flagship initiatives as 'Innovation Union', 'A digital agenda for Europe' and 'An agenda for new skills and jobs', which could strengthen in the future the link between youth-education-mobility.

- "Innovation Union" to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.
- "Youth on the move" to enhance the performance of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people in the labour market.

¹ Except the People specific programme which is managed by the REA Executive Agency

² COM (2010)2020 of 3.03.2010

- "A digital agenda for Europe" to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and firms.
- "An agenda for new skills and jobs" to modernise labour markets and empower people by developing their of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand, including through labour mobility.

(See annex 2).

Conclusions of the Rapporteur

The European Parliament has already identified youth as one of its key priorities for the 2011 budget¹. In this context, youth should be perceived as an EU cross-cutting theme, developing synergies between different policy areas relating to youth, education and mobility, facilitating and encouraging social inclusion, empowerment, skills development and mobility of young people, regardless their educational background.

This working document clearly demonstrates the impressive implementation rates of practically all youth-related community programmes, often corresponding to full absorption of the funds available. The demand for participation in these programmes is very high and, therefore, further investment in this field would be most welcome.

Your Rapporteur would like to emphasise the unquestionable European added value of these youth instruments that greatly contribute to the creation of a strong European civil society and the fostering of a European identity. It should also be stressed that the objective to fulfil such an ambitious mission runs counter to a very modest financial allocation that the EU budget foresees for youth programmes. For example, the latest information available for the Youth in Action programme shows that in 2008 alone, 7.380 projects were granted from the YiA benefiting 132.510 participants².

In this context, your Rapporteur fully appreciates the Commission decision to dedicate one of the Europe 2020 Strategy flagship initiatives to youth, education and training, as this will create an unprecedented impetus for the development of a comprehensive EU youth strategy. The economic crisis has also made imperative the need to support young people, especially in their transition from the education system to the labour market.

¹ European Parliament's resolution of 25 March 2010 on the priorities for the 2011 budget - Section III - Commission

² Cf. Commission's reply to outstanding questions following the EP's Monitoring group on Youth (4 May 2010)

For these reasons, an appropriate budget allocation should be ensured for such youth related programmes and instruments. In view of the October reading for the 2011 Budget, your Rapporteur will present concrete proposals on which budget lines would need to be reinforced in order to achieve this objective.

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions related to Youth:

(in EUR million)

PP/PA	BL	MFF	Phase	DB 2011		B 2010		B 2009		Comments
				CA	PA	CA	PA	CA	PA	
Pilot Projects										
PP Measures of employment Maintenance	04 03 10	1a	PP 2	-	0,7	1	0,6			2010 PP, 3 studies have been launched in 1st quarter of 2010; information and exchange of good practices activities will follow in 2011
PP Enhancing mobility and integration of workers	04 03 11	1a	PP 2	-	0,7	1	0,5			2010 PP, to be included in the EURES specific grant agreements
PP to encourage conversion of precarious work into work with rights	04 04 08	1a	PP 2	-	0,7	1	1			2010 PP, the contracts shall be signed by the end of 2010
PP accompanying workers during industrial change	04 04 10	1a	Cpp	-	p.m.	p.m.	0,5	0,-	0,19	-
PP to cover costs of students for personnel coming from the ENP countries and for related academic activities	15 02 31	1a	PP 2	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5			2010 PP Scholarships for ENP countries to College of Europe (Bruges & Natolin)
PP – ENP- Enhance education through scholarships and exchanges	15 02 32	1a	PP 2	p.m.	p.m.	1	1			2010 PP Scholarships, ENP counties, Master's degree in European Studies 2010-11
Preparatory actions										
PA Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	02 02 03 05	1a	PA 3	2	4,6	5	3,6	4,99	0,18	2009 PA Commission intends to draft a legal basis proposal by the end of 2010
PA-Erasmus style programme for apprentices	15 03 23	1a	Cpp	-	0,3	-	0,3	0,99	1,05	2008 PA
PA Amicus – Association of MSs	15 05 10	3b	Cpp	-	0,4	-	1,06	0, -	1,16	2008 PA, ex-PP

Implementing a Community Universal Service										
PA European Year of Volunteering (EYV) 2011	16 05 03 01 ex 15 06 11	3b	PA 2	-	3	3	2,2			2010 PA preparing the ground for a successful EYV; The legal basis-adopted in 2009
PA Erasmus public administration programme	26 03 03	5	PA 2	p.m.	1	2	1			2010 PA Ex-PP 26 03 02

Extracts form the EU 2020 Strategy - Flagship initiatives relating to Youth

Flagship initiative: "Youth on the move"

The aim is to enhance the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education institutions and raise the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU, combining both excellence and equity, by promoting student mobility and trainees' mobility, and improve the employment situation of young people.

At EU level, the Commission will work:

- To integrate and enhance the EU's mobility, university and researchers' programmes (such as Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus and Marie Curie) and link them up with national programmes and resources;
- To step up the modernisation agenda of higher education (curricula, governance and financing) including by benchmarking university performance and educational outcomes in a global context;
- To explore ways of promoting entrepreneurship through mobility programmes for young professionals;
- To promote the recognition of non-formal and informal learning;
- To launch a Youth employment framework outlining policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment rates: this should promote, with Member States and social partners, young people's entry into the labour market through apprenticeships, stages or other work experience, including a scheme ("Your first EURES job") aimed at increasing job opportunities for young people by favouring mobility across the EU.

At national level, Member States will need:

- To ensure efficient investment in education and training systems at all levels (pre-school to tertiary);
- To improve educational outcomes, addressing each segment (pre-school, primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary) within an integrated approach, encompassing key competences and aiming at reducing early school leaving;
- To enhance the openness and relevance of education systems by building national qualification frameworks and better gearing learning outcomes towards labour market needs.
- To improve young people's entry into the labour market through integrated action covering i.a guidance, counselling and apprenticeships.

Flagship Initiative: "An Agenda for new skills and jobs"

The aim is to create conditions for modernising labour markets with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of our social models. This means empowering people through the acquisition of new skills to enable our current and future workforce to adapt to new conditions and potential career shifts, reduce unemployment and raise labour productivity.

At EU level, the Commission will work:

- To define and implement the second phase of the flexicurity agenda, together with European social partners, to identify ways to better manage economic transitions and to fight unemployment and raise activity rates;
- To adapt the legislative framework, in line with 'smart' regulation principles, to evolving work patterns (e.g. working time, posting of workers) and new risks for health and safety at work;

- To facilitate and promote intra-EU labour mobility and better match labour supply with demand with appropriate financial support from the structural funds, notably the European Social Fund (ESF), and to promote a forward-looking and comprehensive labour migration policy which would respond in a flexible way to the priorities and needs of labour markets;
- To strengthen the capacity of social partners and make full use of the problem-solving potential of social dialogue at all levels (EU, national/regional, sectoral, company), and to promote strengthened cooperation between labour market institutions including the public employment services of the Member States;
- To give a strong impetus to the strategic framework for cooperation in education and training involving all stakeholders. This should notably result in the implementation of life-long learning principles (in cooperation with Member States, social partners, experts) including through flexible learning pathways between different education and training sectors and levels and by reinforcing the attractiveness of vocational education and training. Social partners at European level should be consulted in view of developing an initiative of their own in this area;
- To ensure that the competences required to engage in further learning and the labour market are acquired and recognised throughout general, vocational, higher and adult education and to develop a common language and operational tool for education/training and work: a European Skills, Competences and Occupations framework (ESCO).

At national level, Member States will need:

- To implement their national pathways for flexicurity, as agreed by the European Council, to reduce labour market segmentation and facilitate transitions as well as facilitating the reconciliation of work and family life;
- To review and regularly monitor the efficiency of tax and benefit systems so to make work pay with a particular focus on the low skilled, whilst removing measures that discourage self-employment;
- To promote new forms of work-life balance and active ageing policies and to increase gender equality;
- Promote and monitor the effective implementation of social dialogue outcomes;
- To give a strong impetus to the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework, through the establishment of national qualification frameworks;
- To ensure that the competences required to engage in further learning and the labour market are acquired and recognised throughout general, vocational, higher and adult education, including non formal and informal learning;
- To develop partnerships between the worlds of education/training and work, in particular by involving social partners in the planning of education and training provision

Flagship Initiative: "A Digital Agenda for Europe"

The aim is to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market based on fast and ultra fast internet and interoperable applications, with broadband access for all by 2013, access for all to much higher internet speeds (30 Mbps or above) by 2020, and 50% or more of European households subscribing to internet connections above 100 Mbps.

At EU level, the Commission will work:

- To provide a stable legal framework that stimulate investments in an open and competitive high speed internet infrastructure and in related services;
- To develop an efficient spectrum policy;
- To facilitate the use of the EU's structural funds in pursuit of this agenda;

- To create a true single market for online content and services (i.e. borderless and safe EU web services and digital content markets, with high levels of trust and confidence, a balanced regulatory framework with clear rights regimes, the fostering of multi-territorial licences, adequate protection and remuneration for rights holders and active support for the digitisation of Europe's rich cultural heritage, and to shape the global governance of the internet;
- To reform the research and innovation funds and increase support in the field of ICTs so as to reinforce Europe's technology strength in key strategic fields and create the conditions for high growth SMEs to lead emerging markets and to stimulate ICT innovation across all business sectors;
- To promote internet access and take-up by all European citizens, especially through actions in support of digital literacy and accessibility.

At national level, Member States will need:

- To draw up operational high speed internet strategies, and target public funding, including structural funds, on areas not fully served by private investments;
- To establish a legal framework for co-ordinating public works to reduce costs of network rollout;
- To promote deployment and usage of modern accessible online services (e.g. e-government, online health, smart home, digital skills, security).

Flagship Initiative: "Innovation Union"

The aim of this is to re-focus R&D and innovation policy on the challenges facing our society, such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health and demographic change. Every link should be strengthened in the innovation chain, from 'blue sky' research to commercialisation.

At EU level, the Commission will work:

- To complete the European Research Area, to develop a strategic research agenda focused on challenges such as energy security, transport, climate change and resource efficiency, health and ageing, environmentally-friendly production methods and land management, and to enhance joint programming with Member States and regions;
- To improve framework conditions for business to innovate (i.e. create the single EU Patent and a specialised Patent Court, modernise the framework of copyright and trademarks, improve access of SMEs to Intellectual Property Protection, speed up setting of interoperable standards; improve access to capital and make full use of demand side policies, e.g. through public procurement and smart regulation);
- To launch 'European Innovation Partnerships' between the EU and national levels to speed up the development and deployment of the technologies needed to meet the challenges identified. The first will include: 'building the bio-economy by 2020', 'the key enabling technologies to shape Europe's industrial future' and 'technologies to allow older people to live independently and be active in society';
- To strengthen and further develop the role of EU instruments to support innovation (e.g. structural funds, rural development funds, R&D framework programme, CIP, SET plan), including through closer work with the EIB and streamline administrative procedures to facilitate access to funding, particularly for SMEs and to bring in innovative incentive mechanisms linked to the carbon market, namely for fast-movers;
- To promote knowledge partnerships and strengthen links between education, business, research and innovation, including through the EIT, and to promote entrepreneurship by supporting Young Innovative Companies.

At national level, Member States will need:

- To reform national (and regional) R&D and innovation systems to foster excellence and smart specialisation, reinforce cooperation between universities, research and business, implement joint programming and enhance cross-border co-operation in areas with EU value added and adjust national funding procedures accordingly, to ensure the diffusion of technology across the EU territory;
- To ensure a sufficient supply of science, maths and engineering graduates and to focus school curricula on creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship;
- To prioritise knowledge expenditure, including by using tax incentives and other financial instruments to promote greater private R&D investments