Topical Digest

Education – for everyone?

November 2019

Do European education systems provide everyone with a fair chance at educational success? Statistics indicate that gender, socio-economic background and country of origin influence people’s educational paths and their outcomes. The inclusion of migrants and refugees within our education systems is a relatively new phenomenon. This creates an opportunity for a fresh focus on the effectiveness of our education systems. At the same time, the experience of facilitating the inclusion of newcomers may be useful in devising strategies for the successful inclusion of all learners. The following publications from the EP Think Tank provide background information and analysis.

**The inclusion of migrants in formal education**
*Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2019*
Statistics show that students with a migrant background are not as integrated in formal education as other students. This infographic looks at the complex picture behind the statistics, and at how authorities in the Member States address the inclusion of migrant students through their policies.

**Lifelong learning in the EU**
*Animated infographic by Denise Chircop, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2018*
Learning is not limited to a single, specific phase in life, that of the years at school, but also happens in different contexts, over the course of a lifetime. With its strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, ET2020, the European Union supports the concept of lifelong learning through coordinating cooperation between Member States on training, and formal, non-formal, and informal education. The infographic presents a sample of the data to draw attention to some of the recurrent issues in lifelong learning.

**Non-formal learning: Access and validation**
*Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2018*
Learning happens in different contexts, over the course of a lifetime, following various possible educational paths. In adult life, learning ranges from programmes that impart basic skills, learning groups engaged in raising awareness on various issues, mature students at university, open and distance learning, on-the-job training, courses that combine theory with practice, and classes or other learning activities taken in pursuit of a special interest. The infographic explains the modalities that non-formal learning takes across Member States.

**Multilingualism and lifelong language learning**
*‘At a glance’ note by Denise Chircop, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2017*
Rooted in the Treaties, multilingualism reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the European Union’s Member States. Language learning is critical to the construction of the European Union and imparts essential basic and transversal skills. Language acquisition starts at home, and early childhood education can further enhance self-expression. Yet it does not stop with schooling, as there are a range of approaches to help adults to acquire language skills, even outside the formal educational system.

**Research for CULT Committee: Migrant education: monitoring and assessment**
*Study by Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, February 2017*
This is a first attempt to explore the monitoring and assessment of migrant education (MAME) in EU countries. A review of literature indicated the main dimensions of MAME, and these have shaped a questionnaire completed by national experts of 27 EU countries. The country reports reveal that little has been done to monitor and assess migrant education, but that most countries already have an enabling infrastructure.
Further reading:

**Creating opportunities: The EU and students**
Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2017

**Research for CULT Committee: Education and youth in the European Union – Current challenges and future prospects**
Study by Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, September 2019

**Research for the CULT Committee: Modernisation of higher education**
Study by Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, October 2017

**Adult learners in a digital world**
Infographic by Denise Chircop and Eulalia Claros Gimeno, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2019

**Integration of migrants: The education dimension**
Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2016

**Integration of refugees and migrants: Participation in cultural activities**
Briefing by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2017

**Why cultural work with refugees**
In-depth analysis by Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, November 2017

**EU funding for cultural work with refugees: current practice and lessons learned**
In-depth analysis by Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, November 2017

**Cohesion policy and the integration of migrants in urban areas**
Briefing by Christiaan Van Lierop, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2016

**EU policies – Delivering for citizens: The migration issue**
Briefing by Joanna Apap and Anja Radjenovic, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2019

**The cost of non-Europe in the area of legal migration**
Study by Wouter van Ballegooij and Elodie Thirion, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2019

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