

Newsletter

Committee meeting 19 October 2017

Modernisation of Higher Education

Study by the Policy Department

Mr Bernd Wächter (Academic Cooperation Association) presented the findings of a study on “Modernisation of Higher Education” requested by the Committee on Culture and Education earlier in 2017, and feeding into the Committee’s ongoing report on the “Modernisation of Education in the EU”.

The study analyses the policy developments since the Commission’s 2011 agenda for the modernisation of Europe’s higher education systems, summarises important achievements, shortcomings and challenges, and assesses the renewed EU agenda of 2017 in the light of these findings. It also makes the following specific recommendations for policy action at European and national level:

- Supporting the centrality of teaching and further enhancing teaching excellence;
- Working to narrow the funding gap;
- Showing that internationalisation is a tool that systematically contributes to the objectives of the EU agenda for higher education;
- Supporting multidisciplinary and diversity, instead of the STE(A)M prioritisation;
- Making the agenda better known among higher education institutions, regional actors and in industry.

The presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session, mainly centred on teaching excellence and the link between higher education and employability, the implications of what the “modernisation” agenda really means, the quantity and quality ratio in the field, the role of higher education in the wider context of “lifelong learning”, and challenges in higher education with regard to gender equality and the integration of migrants.

[Study](#)



Modernisation of education in the EU

Exchange of views (Krystyna LYBACKA, S&D)



The Rapporteur presented her approach to the report, stressing that (modernising) education should encompass the different dimensions of individual development. Going to school is not just about getting a job. Good work is a shared core of both education and social improvement. Students need to develop not only labour market skills, but also social skills. Thus, the Rapporteur asserted, a broader look at the whole educational cycle is needed.

In her opinion, we need to abandon the term “educational establishment” and switch to the term “educational space”, where the role of the teacher is different. The recruitment process for teachers has to be stricter and their status more important.

The report will also have a section on the best use of EU funds, and how Member States can modernise their education systems.

During the debate, the majority of the Members voiced their support for the Rapporteur’s approach.

- Procedure file: not yet available

Establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020)

Exchange of views (Silvia COSTA, S&D)



The CULT Committee held an exchange of views on a proposed amendment to the Creative Europe programme, which would recognise the European Union Youth Orchestra as a body eligible for EU grants without a call for proposals. The Rapporteur, Ms Silvia Costa, made a brief presentation on the functioning of the orchestra, its selection process, training and financing.

Members recognised the achievements of the orchestra and its merits in training young musicians and promoting EU values. They also underlined that the orchestra is a unique body, created by a 1976 Parliament resolution and financially supported by the EU for the past 40 years. Members stressed that they would like to see the orchestra continue its activities, though acknowledged that, due to its specific character, it does not fit the criteria for Creative Europe funding, which is designed for cooperation projects and partnerships rather than for large organisations.

Most Members, however, voiced misgivings over the procedure, pointing out that that modifying the legal base of Creative Europe just before the mid-term review and the preparation of the new generation of the programme is not optimal. Not only would it create a precedent, but would also hinder work on a holistic solution for the orchestra that would be acceptable in legal terms, sustainable, transparent and non-discriminatory.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Committee vote: tbc

The implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States

Consideration of draft opinion (Momchil NEKOV, S&D)



In his draft opinion on the EMPL implementation report, the Mr Nekov underlines that that the YEI must reach those most in need of employment - young people who are not in employment education and training (the NEETs) - and in particular the most unskilled among them who are at the greatest risk of social exclusion. Better access to, and recognition of, qualifications stemming from apprenticeships, traineeships and non-formal education, making the YEI accessible to older young people (i.e. increasing the age limit) and a one-stop-shop and single information system were other priorities in his opinion.

To conclude, Mr Nekov asks the Member States to put in place evidence-based and sustainable youth policies, secure adequate financing for the different initiatives and facilitate access to services for young people.

Members of the CULT Committee expressed their support for the draft opinion and added that, in order for the YEI to be effective, it is vital to establish stronger links with structural reforms.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: tbc

- Committee vote: 22 November 2017

Cross-border restitution claims of works of art and cultural goods looted in armed conflicts and wars

Consideration of draft opinion (Nikolaos CHOUNTIS, GUE/NGL)



The CULT committee held a discussion on the "Cross-border restitution claims of works of art and cultural goods looted in armed conflicts and wars" (Rapporteur for opinion: Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL). This opinion should feed into a legislative initiative report under the auspices of the JURI committee.

The Rapporteur underlined the importance of provenance research in the fight against illicit trafficking, the financing of terrorism and the protection of cultural heritage. He insisted on the need to increase transparency in the art market. His views were broadly supported by the shadows. The vote is planned for January 2018.

- [Procedure file](#)
- Amendments deadline: 25 October 2017 at 17:00
- Committee vote: 23 January 2018

The next committee meeting:

Thursday, 9 November 2017 at 9.00-12.30

Useful links

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