

Newsletter

Committee meeting 4 December 2017

Education and Training Monitor

Presentation by the Commission

Denis Crowley (Head of Unit for Country Analysis) and Jan Pakulski (Head of Unit for Evidence-based Policy and Evaluation) from the European Commission's DG EAC presented the main findings of this year's "Education and Training Monitor".

With its international comparison and country analysis, the Monitor fuels debate on priority themes for education and training and informs national education reform. Relying on a broad range of quantitative and qualitative sources, the Monitor charts in particular the implementation of the EU's main targets in the field, namely:

1. to reduce the proportion of early leavers from education and training to below 10%
2. to reach 40% tertiary educational attainment among 30- to 34-year-olds
3. to achieve 95% participation in early childhood education and care
4. to reduce under-achievement in reading, maths and science to below 15%
5. to achieve a recent graduate employment rate of 82%
6. to achieve 15% adult participation in learning

The lead theme of this year's Monitor is inequality, whether in the form of inter-generational educational under-achievement or the difficulties faced by low-skilled migrants.

The presentation of the Monitor was followed by a question-and-answer session, in which CULT Members probed for more detail about this year's findings and the political responses they might require, both at EU and national level.

There was also a general discussion about the advantages and potential disadvantages of a mainly quantitative approach to, and benchmarking of, policy goals.

Education and Training Monitor



Dear Reader,

As 2017 draws to a close and with the last CULT meeting of the year now over, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone – Members and staff alike – for their hard work and commitment over the past twelve months. It's been a busy period, with the AVMSD and Europass files at the trilogue stage and a lot of hard work being done on the proposal for the new European Solidarity Corps. We have also contributed, and continue to contribute, as an opinion-giving committee to a number of other legislative priorities – from the Copyright Package and the Telecoms Package to the revised VAT rules for e-publications and the proposal on the import of cultural goods. And our INI reports – for example on sport, skills and cultural relations – have helped to chart new ways forward. Next year promises to be equally busy as we expect proposals for the next generation of the three CULT programmes, as well as new initiatives on digital skills.

In 2018, our committee has something in particular to look forward to as we celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Europe in all its cultural and linguistic diversity and I urge each and every one of you to support it in any way you can.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Petra Kammerevert,
Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education

2016 discharge: Commission and Translation Centre

Consideration of draft opinions (Rapporteur: Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI, EPP)



As is customary in the CULT Committee, the Rapporteur for the 2016 budget appraised the implementation of that budget as part of the annual discharge procedure. This year, as well as the usual opinion on the Commission discharge, he also decided to draw up a draft opinion on the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union. In introducing the two opinions, he stressed the importance for the CULT Committee of the quantitative and qualitative scrutiny exercise that the discharge represents.

The draft opinion on the Commission discharge focuses, as always, on the three CULT programmes. On Erasmus+, the Rapporteur welcomes the fact that the programme is well on the way to achieving its 4-million participant target by 2020, though raises concerns about the very low take-up and patchy geographical coverage of the Student Loan Guarantee Facility. The opinion highlights the persistently low project success rates in both Europe for Citizens and Creative Europe (especially the Culture sub-programme). On the latter programme, it calls for swift EFSI frontloading of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility launched in 2016. Finally, it commends the role of the EACEA in implementing all three programmes and calls on the agency to seek to speed up payments to what are often very small beneficiaries.

On the Translation Centre, the Rapporteur underscores the committee's whole-hearted commitment to multilingualism in the EU and welcomes the Centre's role in delivering on that commitment. He notes the Centre's implementation of recommendations on reducing its budgetary surplus, applauds its commitment to quality and training and calls on the Centre to continue to invest in innovative language technologies. Finally, the draft opinion notes that Centre's compliance with staff reduction targets and cautions against further budget or staff cuts in future.

- [Procedure file - Commission](#)
- [Procedure file - Translation Centre](#)

- Amendments deadline: 8 December 2017 at 16:00

- Committee vote: 22 January 2018

Access to culture

Exchange of views (Rapporteur: Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI, EPP)

In this initial exchange of views, the Rapporteur introduced the subject by identifying potential reasons why Europeans do not engage more actively in cultural activities.

The main reasons include lack of accessibility owing to disability, the scarce cultural offer in some remote regions, and fiscal and financial obstacles linked to public spending on culture and investment in infrastructure. The presence or absence of tax breaks, such as reduced VAT rates, is another key factor. Finally, the report will analyse reasons behind non-participation in culture, such as a migrant or other challenging socio-educational background and poverty, and will try to identify possible solutions.

- Procedure file (not yet available)

- Amendments deadline: February 2018 (tbc)

- Committee vote: April 2018



MFF post-2020

Adoption of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Helga TRÜPEL, Greens/EFA)

The CULT committee adopted - by a large majority (14 in favour, 1 against) - the opinion on the next MFF.

The committee stressed that long-term investment stability is essential for culture, education, media, citizenship, youth and sports programmes. The CULT opinion calls for a fundamental reform of the MFF, respecting the criteria of simplicity, predictability, transparency, adaptability and responsibility. Furthermore, the committee highlights the role of cultural, educational and sports programmes in tackling the challenges posed by the integration of refugees and migrants. Finally, the Committee insists that the new MFF should properly fund digital skills education.

Further reading

- [Global Human Capital Report 2017 - Preparing People for the Future of Work](#)
- [PISA 2015 results – collaborative problem solving](#)
- [Better use of skills in the work place](#)
- [Evidence-based policy making for youth well-being](#)
- [Why the fake news bomb has exploded](#)

The next committee meeting:
Monday, 22 January 2018 at 15.00-18.30 and
Tuesday, 23 January 2018 at 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
- [DG EAC Newsletter](#)
- [The Estonian Presidency of the Council](#)

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