



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2010/2234(INI)

1.2.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on European cooperation in vocational education and training to support the
Europe 2020 strategy
(2010/2234(INI))

Rapporteur: Joanna Senyszyn

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas while 58.9% of the university qualifications awarded in the European Union go to women, the corresponding figure at PhD level is just 43% and it is lower again at full professor level, and whereas only 15% of Grade A full professors are women,
- B. whereas the Commission's communication entitled 'A new impetus for European cooperation in Vocational Education and Training to support the Europe 2020 strategy' (COM(2010) 296) failed to take the gender dimension into account,
 1. Calls on the Member States to develop national programmes for vocational education and training (VET) that include the gender perspective, promote gender mainstreaming as a priority for future actions and measures and guarantee equal opportunities for all women on the labour market regardless of their legal status, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or religion; underlines the importance of teaching practices designed to encourage equality between men and women and to combat preconceived stereotypes;
 2. Notes that high-standard vocational training is founded on sound, gender-neutral general education, and urges Member States to ensure that teaching materials do not contain gender-specific career models, so as to ensure that boys' and girls' interest in all career possibilities is awakened from the outset;
 3. Urges Member States to conclude basic education with a 'career aptitude' assessment;
 4. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to encourage the establishment of effective partnerships between stakeholders in education, the social partners and civil-society organisations, as well as more cooperation with business, in order to address the gender dimension in education and the relevance of training;
 5. Calls on the Commission and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) to include the gender dimension in the follow-up to the Bruges Communiqué on Enhanced European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training for the period 2011-2020, especially in terms of access to lifelong learning, so that women and men have opportunities to learn at any stage in life, and also by making routes into education and training more open and flexible;
 6. Notes that the dual system (practical and scholastic education) is proving successful in certain Member States thanks to companies' cooperation and interaction in the provision of career-related training;
 7. Calls on the Member States – in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and flagship initiatives – to improve links between vocational training and labour market needs, for example by improving academic and careers guidance services and encouraging

traineeships and apprenticeship contracts for women, and also to create new opportunities for training, including in scientific, mathematical and technological fields, in order to increase women's employability in technical and scientific sectors, non-traditional jobs and the low-carbon and high-tech sectors of the economy, creating permanent jobs with decent wages;

8. Calls on the Member States to develop high-quality, wide-ranging, flexible and affordable access for women to VET, along with specific lifelong guidance and career counselling about qualifications in all types of occupation, addressing women from diverse backgrounds with a view to integrating them effectively into good-quality jobs with decent wages, and tackling their multi-dimensional training needs such as:
 - customised VET to support career development;
 - accessible pathways from informal to formal learning;
 - responsiveness to different learning styles;
 - access to role models and mentors;
 - development of programmes adapted to flexible working arrangements and part-time contracts;
 - tailored online learning options;
9. Calls on Member States, with a view to reconciling family life and careers and assisting women in rural areas, to offer further training in computer technology so as to give female employees the possibility of working from home;
10. Stresses the major importance of acquiring and improving multilingual proficiency as a means of enhancing self-confidence, adaptability and intercultural skills;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure optimal use of the structural funds, including the European Social Fund, for specific programmes that promote lifelong learning, encourage more women to participate in it and aim to increase the rate of female participation in the VET system, not least by means of suitably funded measures specifically designed to achieve this; calls for the development of specific actions under the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs pilot project to encourage entrepreneurship among women;
12. Emphasises the role of teachers and trainers in fostering the gender perspective in VET, and calls for the development of mobility programmes, such as the Leonardo da Vinci programme and the project for apprentices, with specific actions addressing women, in order to facilitate the lifelong acquisition of skills relevant for integration or reintegration into the labour market;
13. Calls for a specific EU initiative to attract girls to the MINT professions (mathematics, informatics, natural sciences and technology) and to combat stereotypes that still dominate these professions; stresses that the media and education play key roles in

combating such stereotypes;

14. Calls on the Member States to develop incentives for employers to facilitate the provision in micro and small enterprises of cost-effective and flexible training adapted to the needs of women; urges the Commission and all the Member States to make determined efforts to combat wage inequalities between men and women, with a view to eliminating the current 18% gender-based wage differential by 2020;
15. Calls on the Member States and the social partners to provide for facilitating the combination of VET, learning and family life, in terms of available childcare and practical lesson times compatible with children's school times.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.1.2011
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Andrea Češková, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Siiri Oviir, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Marc Tarabella, Britta Thomsen, Marina Yannakoudakis
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Anne Delvaux, Christa Kläß, Norica Nicolai, Antigoni Papadopoulou, Rovana Plumb, Joanna Senyszyn
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Stanimir Ilchev