



Brussels, 19 November 2013

EUCIS-LLL congratulates the European Parliament for the adoption of Erasmus+ today

After months of interinstitutional negotiations, the European Parliament approved the Commission's amended proposal for Erasmus+, successor of the Lifelong Learning Programme. The new programme 2014-2020 should enter into force in 2014 after a final approval of the Council. EUCIS-LLL welcomes the adoption of the report with an overwhelming majority among MEPs in Strasbourg.

Today MEP Doris Pack (EPP, DE)'s report on the new **Erasmus+ funding programme for education, training, youth and sport was finally adopted** by the European Parliament in plenary session in first reading. We would like to congratulate the Rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs and their team as well as the political advisers for their hard work and commitment on this new generation of mobility and cooperation opportunities to advance lifelong learning. The **Stakeholders' Coalition** that we lead has been following the policy process from the beginning and we very much appreciated that the European Parliament has made a full use of its legislative powers on this Regulation in a genuine co-decision spirit.

The Committee for Culture and Education took the time necessary for the elaboration of a text of great quality, through a **highly inclusive process** involving a broad array of stakeholders and taking their concerns into account. The inclusion of a **structural support to European civil society organisations** in the legal basis is a great leap forward compared to the initial Commission's proposal. We are now sure that the work they accomplished under the Lifelong Learning Programme is politically recognised and will be sustained in 2014-2020. Among other crucial elements that we supported, the upholding of sub-programmes and their brand name, the **recognition of non-formal and informal learning** and the acknowledgment of an individual, organisational and systemic impact of the programme have been introduced by the European Parliament.

Key challenges are still ahead. The Parliament also adopted today the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and **the budget allocated to Erasmus+ should top €14,7bn**. Yet the deal was sealed only after a hard fight on the 2013 EU budget for Member States to pay what they had committed for, which unacceptably threatened Erasmus students' grants and other mobility schemes funding. MEPs underline this situation should not be repeated in the future. As for the programme implementation, the Commission should strive for further **administrative and financial simplification** to make Erasmus+ accessible to as many beneficiaries as possible.

We do hope the new programme will know as much success as its predecessor and allow millions of lifelong learners to enjoy the European experience. Congratulations!

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Notes to the editors: The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is an umbrella organisation that gathers 33 European networks active in the field of education and training, coming from all EU Member States and beyond. Currently these organisations represent more than 45 000 educational institutions (schools, universities, adult education and youth centres, etc.) or associations (involving students, teachers and trainers, parents, HRD professionals, etc.) covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. Their members reach out to several millions of beneficiaries. www.eucis-lll.eu