European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning

ACTIVITY REPORT

2013
Dear reader,

2013 has been a year full of activities. All of them do not have the same importance, but all of them have marked our organisation and will be a milestone in EUCIS-LLL history. First we have a new President to face new responsibilities in a rather complex European environment.

We have coordinated, with other civil society partners, stakeholders’ contributions to the elaboration and implementation of the new Erasmus+ programme. We defended the necessity to keep specific strands for adult education and youth, the operating support to European NGOs and platforms and the overall administrative and financial simplification. We could influence the content of new EU funding programmes in collaboration with Members of the European Parliament and Council. This way we could reinforce our key role in the various sectors of education in Europe.

We also kept on monitoring closely EU policy developments and reacting through our position papers. From active citizenship in the framework of the 2013 European Year of Citizens to the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning, we have organised working groups and public hearings among other events. Answering the request of the European Commission, Parliament and Economic and Social Committee, we intervened on the « Rethinking Education » and « Opening up Education » Communications. We reflected on basic skills, entrepreneurial skills and more generally on transversal competences.

Finally, we reinforced more than ever our transsectorial vision of learning and our position of civil society representative in lifelong learning. The survey presented to the European Education, Training and Youth Forum 2013 showed our influence and capacity to cooperate with high-level policy makers. Yet 2013 has also been a transitional year. Change in EU funding programmes and creation of Erasmus+, setting up of new functioning rules for sectorial or intersectorial associations in the field of education and training, leave of one staff member, change of office.

2014 starts with uncertainties. Political uncertainties linked to the European elections and the designation of a new Commission, financial uncertainties for the next funding period. But without failure from the birth of EUCIS-LLL, we will keep on the path followed in 2013: the reinforcement of organised civil society in the field of education and training, linked with the other sectorial platforms.

EUCIS-LLL became indispensable and wants to continue to achieve the mission given by its members.

David Lopez,
President of EUCIS-LLL
/// 2013 AT A GLANCE

**JANUARY**
- EUCIS-LLL Key messages on education and citizenship (EYC2013)
- 6: Europe 2020 Working Group
- 6: Erasmus+ stakeholders’ coalition

**FEBRUARY**
- Position paper on the “Rethinking Education” Communication
- Position paper on “Building synergies between education and culture”
- Press release on civil society funding in Erasmus+
- 7: Civil Society Day “As European as we can get! Bringing economy, solidarity and democracy together”

**MARCH**
- Position paper on the “Rethinking Education” Communication
- Activity report 2012
- LLL Mag #2 “We make Europe - Active citizenship and lifelong learning”

**APRIL**
- 2 April: Erasmus+ stakeholders’ coalition
- Activity report 2012
- LLL Mag #2 “We make Europe - Active citizenship and lifelong learning”

**MAY**
- 7: Policy Debate “Partnerships for LLL: a new idea?”
- European Parliament
- 14: EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference on “Rethinking Learning: Transversal competences in the spotlight”, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 15: EUCIS-LLL General Assembly
- EUCIS-LLL Press release: “Civil society organisations in danger in the Erasmus for All proposal!”

**JUNE**
- Position paper on the “Entrepreneurship skills: A common understanding across sectors?”
- 28: Erasmus+ stakeholders’ coalition
- 7: Policy Debate “Partnerships for LLL: a new idea?”, European Parliament
- 14: EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference on “Rethinking Learning: Transversal competences in the spotlight”, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 15: EUCIS-LLL General Assembly
- EUCIS-LLL Press release: “Civil society organisations in danger in the Erasmus for All proposal!”

**JULY**
- 11: Task force on Validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Position paper and compendium of good practices “Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets”
- Press release “Civic education under threat in Spain!”

**AUGUST**
- 2012 Conference report “Social innovation for Active Inclusion – Lifelong Learning Contribution for a Better Tomorrow”

**SEPTEMBER**
- Press release: “Erasmus for All: Support to European Associations in Education & Training still needed”
- Position on Validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Press release calling for a renewed Memorandum on Lifelong Learning

**OCTOBER**
- 16: Europe 2020 Working Group
- 17-18: European Education, Training, and Youth Forum, Brussels
- Press release “PIAAC survey: adult education, the smart investment”

**NOVEMBER**
- Press release on the adoption of Erasmus+ by the European Parliament
- Manifesto for EU elections: “Building together the future of learning”
- Annual Conference 2013 report «Transversal competences in the spotlight»

**DECEMBER**
- 2-6: Lifelong Learning Week, European Parliament
- 3 December: Roundtable on EUCIS-LLL Manifesto, European Parliament
- 4: Task force on Validation of non-formal and informal learning
- 4: Policy debate “Making the case for European civic education”, European Parliament
History, Vision & Values

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is an umbrella organisation that brings together 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.

HISTORY
The creation of the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is a response from civil society organisations to the defining and implementation of a European education and training policy in the framework of the “Europe 2020” strategy. EUCIS-LLL encourages its members to work together and to contribute to a policy dialogue in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC). Dialogue is essential if we want a European Union that is closer to its citizens.

VISION
EUCIS-LLL is a tool to promote a holistic vision of lifelong learning, from cradle to grave, that is not limited to formal education but integrates non-formal and informal learning. By bringing together actors from all sectors and levels of education and training, EUCIS-LLL embodies lifelong learning and contributes to an increased flexibility and continuity between formal, non-formal and informal learning settings.

VALUES
EUCIS-LLL is committed to advancing the principles of equity, social cohesion and active citizenship within education and training systems in Europe and in particular in the European Union. It believes that the objectives of education and training should not only be described in terms of employability or economic growth but also as a framework for personal development and well being.

Objectives

1. Pursuing an active dialogue with European Institutions
   EUCIS-LLL advocates for a stronger consultation and participation of organised civil society in order to involve parents, educators and learners in European policy-making.

2. Enabling exchanges of good practices, experiences and expertise
   EUCIS-LLL is a forum for cooperation between various European civil society organisations. The Platform offers its members the possibility to benefit from a broad range of activities in order to share knowledge and build innovative solutions.

3. Monitoring and disseminating information on EU policy developments on lifelong learning
   EUCIS-LLL ensures capacity-building for its member organisations. It provides regular information on major policy developments on education and training and on topics of common interests in Europe. It helps its member in their advocacy actions and in building common messages.

4. Promoting a more democratic, civic and social Europe
   EUCIS-LLL raises awareness on the specific role of lifelong learning in building a more democratic, civic and social Europe. Its value encompasses the provision of knowledge and skills to shape an open European society, develop civic ownership of Europe and promote solidarity and social cohesion.

Organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
<th>Steering Committee</th>
<th>EUCIS-LLL Secretariat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33 European networks</td>
<td>9 representative organisations</td>
<td>Ensures the day-to-day management of the Platform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Assembly
- Defines the annual priorities of the work programme of the Platform

Steering Committee
- Implements the work programme adopted by the General Assembly

EUCIS-LLL Secretariat
- Ensures the day-to-day management of the Platform
Andras Szucs
Vice-President
Secretary General of EDEN, the European Distance and e-Learning Network

David LOPEZ
President
Secretary General of the European Federation for Education and Culture and representing SOLIDAR

Etelberto Costa
Vice-President
Board member of ETDF, the European Training and Development Federation

Lucille Rieux
Vice-President
Secretary General of AEGEE-Europe, the European Students’ Forum

Rasmus ÅBERG
Vice-President
Representative of ESN, the Erasmus Students’ Network

Steering committee

Joke Van Der LEEUW-ROORD
Secretary General
Executive Director of EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators,

Etain M. Montgomery
Vice-President
Board member of ETDF, the European Training and Development Federation

A special thanks to our trainee:

Joke Van Der LEEUW-ROORD
Secretary General
Executive Director of EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators,

Audrey FRITH
Director

Noé VIEDMA
Project Officer

Alexia SAMUEL
Policy Officer

A special thanks to our trainee:

Béatrice SCHOBbens
Communication and fundraising assistant

David LOPEZ
President
Secretary General of the European Federation for Education and Culture and representing SOLIDAR

Andras Szucs
Vice-President
Secretary General of EDEN, the European Distance and e-Learning Network

Geoff SCAPLEHORN
Vice-President
Representative of EfVET, the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Helmut VOGT
Vice-President
Representative of EUCEN, the European Association for University Lifelong Learning, EUCEN

Gerhard BISOVSKY,
Treasurer
Board member of EAEA, the European Association for the Education of Adults

Joke Van Der LEEUW-ROORD
Secretary General
Executive Director of EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators,

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Communication and fundraising assistant
EUCIS-LLL General Assembly, 15 May 2013

On 15th May 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, our General Assembly gathered European organisations’ delegates from around Europe. 2013 marked a very special turn in EUCIS-LLL history as its president, Regina Ebner, who brilliantly headed the organisation for the last 5 years, ended her mandate. EUCIS-LLL now counts on the activism of its new President, David Lopez, and General Secretary, Joke Van Der Leeuw Roord as well as on the other EUCIS-LLL steering committee members.

EUCIS-LLL welcomed three new organisations: EucA as full member and ICC and IPCP as associate members. EUCIS-LLL thus counts 33 member organisations. EUCIS-LLL welcomed 4 new members in the Steering Committee: Gerhard Bisovsky (EAEA), Lucille Rieux (AEGEE), Etelberto Costa (EDTF) and Andras Szucs (EDEN) while Joke van der Leeuw-Roord was reelected. Members were actively involved in the definition of the Platform future work plan and on how to improve EUCIS-LLL internal functioning and general impact.

A working group on Europe 2020

The aim of this working group is to foster ownership amongst the membership on the EU strategy for growth and jobs “Europe 2020” and its declination in education and training as well as the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training “ET2020”. In 2013, the working group met twice (February and October) and had the opportunity to receive the Lithuanian and Greek Presidency Education Attachés to discuss Council political priorities. They also reflected on a coordinated input to key EU developments such as the “Rethinking Education” Communication and institutional events such as the European Education, Training and Youth Forum. The group is also the place to brainstorm on the Platform milestones such as the Annual Conference and partnerships i.e. with the Learning for Well-Being Consortium.

Policy monitoring

One of EUCIS-LLL services in relation to its members is to provide them with updated information on EU policy developments in education and training in order to engage them in policy debates at EU and national levels. Here are some examples of the most relevant documents we have produced in 2013:

- Infonote on the European Commission education and training policies for 2013 (January 2013) synthesising DG EAC 2013 Management plan implementing the President’s political guidelines and the Commission Work Programme;
- Draft toolkit on Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning (December 2013) presenting latest EU developments in VNFIL i.e. the 2012 Council Recommendation on VNFIL and its potential impact on education and training sectors;
- Infonote on Opening up Education (November 2013) giving an overview of the challenges raised in the latest Commission’s Communication on the potential of new technologies for teaching and learning innovation.

A task force on validation of non-formal and informal learning

EUCIS-LLL held two meetings of its new task force on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) in July and December. The group is composed of experts and practitioners from all sectors coming from various countries. EUCIS-LLL has been advocating for validation for many years as a great tool to make lifelong learning a reality for the largest number of people. It is important for educational stakeholders to understand how the development of validation mechanisms can contribute to broaden access to further learning and qualifications especially for disadvantaged groups; giving formal value to personal development; and contributing to career development and employability. Within the task force participants looked at the implementation of the 2012 Council Recommendation on VNFIL and exchanged views with European Commission representatives; they followed up on the EQF Advisory Group meetings and fed in the current revision of the 2009 European Guidelines and the 2010 European Inventory. They also defended key values and principles in the field and set up concrete actions such as Erasmus+ projects or awareness-raising events.
Helping the members in their daily activities and providing advice, guidance and support is one of the main missions of the Platform. EU-CIS-LLL is regularly invited by its members to do presentations about the EU policy agenda, its relevance to specific civil society groups and how they can participate in EU decision-making processes and projects. The aim is to foster a better knowledge about Europe 2020 and related initiatives in the field of education and training amongst our constituency and allow stakeholders to play a role as multipliers. EU-CIS-LLL also systematically invites its members to provide expertise and good practices during its events, sometimes at very high level since organised in the European Parliament or the European Economic and Social Committee. Dissemination of members’ activities and projects is also done through our website in a database of good practices, our bi-monthly newsletter or our social media channels.

**CB4 LLP: building capacity for successful initiatives**

EUCIS-LLL is currently involved in the CB4 LLP project, “Capacity-building for lifelong learning”. CB4 LLP aims at enabling policy makers and other stakeholders at various levels to exploit successful Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) projects’ outcomes in setting up policies, strategies and actions. By providing gateways to project databases, by organising workshops reaching out to a wide audience and by developing an innovative capacity-building methodology, CB4 LLP will contribute to better disseminate and use LLP projects - so that they do not remain in boxes after their completion; but rather help end-users for individual, organisational and institutional development. At a time when a new Erasmus+ programme is elaborated and implemented, this project is highly strategic for EUCIS-LLL as it engaged an in-depth reflection on the way successful project outcomes can be better exploited. The Secretariat has led an investigation among members during two workshops to collect ideas of potential projects and will provide them in 2014 a methodology to guide them on how to build on innovative existing initiatives funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme.

**Preserving EU funding for civil society**

In the framework of the negotiations of the Erasmus+ programme, EU-CIS-LLL took the leadership of a joint initiative with 33 other educational and youth organisations to feed in the policy process. Based on a joint declaration and position paper in 2011, the Coalition continued its work in 2013 on the future programmes for education, training and youth and met regularly to launch joint initiatives. One of the main missions of the Coalition was securing operational support for European NGOs that had originally disappeared from the Commission’s proposal. Thanks to EUCIS-LLL and its partners’ advocacy work (letters to and meetings with EU representatives, press releases, etc.), organised civil society at EU level could apply in 2014 for renewed operating grants to sustain their daily work and ensure that citizens’ voice is heard in EU policy-making in the field of education, training, youth and sport.

**Significant improvements in Erasmus+**

The Coalition of stakeholders on Erasmus+ set up by EUCIS-LLL also focused on defending key values such as active citizenship, social inclusion and personal development, preserving a sectoral approach in the new programme, moving forward administrative and financial simplification to make it more user-friendly, feeding into the programme guide for a smooth implementation. EUCIS-LLL efforts have paid out as many of its recommendations were taken on board in the final version of the programme.

**Fighting for an increased EU budget focused on citizen’s needs**

EUCIS-LLL has also closely monitored the negotiations around the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, determining the future budget of EU programmes and funds. The Platform is a member of the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) gathering 8 important NGO platforms (social, international solidarity, human rights, sustainable development, women, culture, public health and lifelong learning) and aiming to strengthen and promote participatory democracy in Europe. In 2013 the CSCG monitored the budget review process and joined forces to advocate towards key EU policy-makers at very high level (i.e. EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy or Commissioner Lewandowski’s Cabinet) to increase or at least secure current budget headlines for the various sectors. EUCIS-LLL is thus proud to have contributed to a 40% budget increase for the new Erasmus+ programme.
FOR A STRONG RECOGNITION OF LEARNING & PARTNERSHIP IN THE ESF

EUCIS-LLL has monitored negotiations for the new European Social Fund 2014-2020 as one of its thematic objectives is education and lifelong learning. In 2013 the Platform produced a new advocacy toolkit aimed at members and other interested stakeholders to make their voice heard and to defend investment in education and training. It also pushed for a correct implementation of the Partnership Principle in the cohesion policy, aimed at involving stakeholders at national, regional and local levels in the design, implementation and evaluation of structural funds. Besides the toolkit’s policy updates and advocacy tips, EUCIS-LLL joined forces with more than 40 NGOs in sending a letter to EU institutions to strongly support the partnership and multi-governance principles.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013: TRANSVERSAL COMPETENCES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Following the release of the Commission’s Communication on Rethinking Education, EUCIS-LLL echoed this political impulse by organising its Annual Conference on the theme “Rethinking Learning: Transversal competences in the spotlight” on 14 May in Vilnius, Lithuania with more than 120 participants. The aim was to create a debate around the concept and role of transversal competences. Contributing every day through grassroots initiatives to equip people with the right competences to become fulfilled, active and employed citizens, civil society can participate in the debate by providing innovative approaches and concrete practices in formal and non-formal education. During the conference participants worked more specifically on four topics: civic education in the framework of the European Year 2013 of Citizens, digital competences, entrepreneurship skills and learning to learn. A general report of the conference including key policy recommendations is available online.

FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSETS

Entrepreneurship skills were at the heart of the Commission’s Communication on “Rethinking Education” in 2013. EUCIS-LLL released a policy paper on the topic to express its will to have a broader understanding of the entrepreneurship competence as a set of transversal competences not only aimed at setting up a business. The position was illustrated by good practices from its members gathered in a compendium also accessible on our website. EUCIS-LLL also organised a policy debate in June entitled “Entrepreneurship skills: Common understanding? Common Expectations?” in the European Parliament. Around 40 experts took part in the meeting, which also featured civil society good practices in the field. A report of the event was published with a synthesis of the interventions and a set of key policy recommendations.
Opening up Education for new learning environments

Another key EU development in 2013 was the release of the “Opening Up Education” Communication by the Commission. EUCIS-LLL had drafted a position paper in reaction to the publication of the document and submitted amendments to the European Parliament report. It mainly defended quality and access of open educational resources, the urgent need to upskill people with basic digital literacy skills, the importance of preserving open education as a fundamental right or the necessity to recognise learning outcomes acquired in digital settings. EUCIS-LLL has also fed in the EESC study group and contributed to their Opinion. In continuation of this work in 2014, EUCIS-LLL sent one of its experts to speak in a public hearing organised by the Parliament and organised there a policy debate on «Digital wave: supporting a cultural shift in learning systems?» where the Commission, the Belgian Digital Champion to Neelie Kroes and many experts intervened.

Lifelong Learning Manifesto

The 2014 European elections will provide the right momentum to think about the future of learning in Europe. EUCIS-LLL believes we need a vision to ensure our education and training systems deliver better for economic development, social and civic participation, personal fulfilment and well-being. That is why it called MEPs in 2013 to consider three top priorities and a set of 12 policy recommendations for lifelong learning in its Manifesto “Building together the future of Learning”. It produced information notes and a toolkit on the European elections to accompany the document. In December during its Lifelong Learning Week the Platform organised a roundtable with several MEPs to discuss the document, which concrete recommendation is the setting up of a Lifelong Learning Intergroup in the European Parliament.

Lifelong Learning Week

EUCIS-LLL organised its 3rd Lifelong Learning Week in the European Parliament in December 2013. This year, the Week had a particular focus on the upcoming European Elections of Spring 2014. Many events took place in order to create a space of dialogue between civil society representatives, practitioners and policy-makers on the future of learning in Europe. EUCIS-LLL presented its Manifesto for the elections but also held two policy debates on European civic education and how to measure progress in lifelong learning. A civil society meeting place was also set up to enable mutual learning and networking.

Focus: measuring progress in lifelong learning

A key moment during the LLL Week was the EUCIS-LLL international seminar on Measuring Progress in Lifelong Learning. The EU has set ambitious goals for lifelong learning up to 2020 and we also have our own definition on what should be quality education and how to get there in the coming years. However progress is a highly subjective notion and even more when it comes to improving learning. This seminar was about rethinking progress measurement in lifelong learning in a partnership approach. Several voices including the European Commission and the OECD were raised to debate on the relevance and scope of indicators and of evidence-based policy-making among central issues.
At the occasion of the Lifelong Learning Week, EUCIS-LLL hold an exhibition on “Picture the future of learning – Unlocking each and everyone’s unique potential” as a result of a competition that run from 1st October to 10th November 2013. Out of 158 pictures in competition 11 were selected, with an overall very high quality level. An international jury selected 11 pictures and 3 finalists by taking into account both the number of votes on Facebook and qualitative criteria (creativity and visual impact, original concept, emotional power and strength of the vision conveyed). The exhibition was hosted by Emer Costello, Member of the European Parliament (IE, S&D) and organised in partnership with the Learning for Well-Being consortium and the S&D Group with the support of Universal Education Foundation and InterRail.

Civil Society Meeting Place

EUCIS-LLL organised stands within the European Parliament as a meeting place between civil society representatives from our member organisations and MEPs. The exhibition was hosted on the meeting space as well as stands to showcase the work of EUCIS-LLL and its members. A cocktail reception took place on 2nd December with MEP Emer Costello, our partners and two winners of the photo competition.

EUCIS-LLL Key Messages to the European Year 2013 of Citizens

Active citizenship is one of the core values that EUCIS-LLL has always defended. The Platform welcomed in that sense the European Year of Citizens by releasing its key messages that highlight important topics to our organisations, such as education to (European) citizenship or civil dialogue and participatory democracy. Those messages include recommendations such as valuing citizenship education or raising the level of basic skills for all. They were discussed during EUCIS-LLL Annual Conference of May 2013 and often echoed in its actions in 2013, such as the support of Spanish NGOs who fought against the suppression of civic education in Spain through a press release.

The Lifelong Learning Magazine “LLL-Mag”

In the framework of the European Year of Citizens, EUCIS-LLL published the second item of its Lifelong Learning Magazine, LLL-Mag, entitled “We make Europe - Active Citizenship and Lifelong Learning”. The Magazine compiles various contributions from policy-makers, academics, civil society thinkers and other relevant stakeholders of what European citizens means. It also presents the work of Dan Perjovschi, a renowned Romanian cartoon satirist that has produced consequent work on local, national and international affairs. Many references and resources can also be found on teaching and learning citizenship, as well as EUCIS-LLL key messages on the European Year of Citizens.

A Strong Commitment in the European Year of Citizens Alliance

EUCIS-LLL naturally joined the European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA) gathering more than sixty European and national organisations to voice the opinion of organised civil society on EU citizenship and enhance a broader vision than simply individual rights. EUCIS-LLL Secretariat and Board regularly attended the Alliance meetings, working groups and events, contributing to elaborate its final key recommendations and multiplying its work. Moreover, EUCIS-LLL was invited to represent the Alliance in the jury of “Generations@School” second edition, a project inviting pupils and older to organise intergenerational discussions about Europe, its past, its present and what old and young can do together for building the Europe of tomorrow while also gaining a better understanding of each other.
**Making the case of European civic education**

The Lifelong Learning Week in December 2013 was also the occasion to build on the legacy of this European Year of Citizens and exchange ideas on the role played by education in getting citizens closer to the EU, during a roundtable organised by EUCIS-LLL and the European Civic Forum. Policy-makers, researchers, teachers and other key stakeholders gathered to discuss how to teach and learn European active citizenship at school but also beyond formal education. The crucial role of civil society organisations in that sense was reminded, as “the best friends of society and often the best friends of Europe”.

**Defending the Citizens’ programme**

Besides Erasmus+ and the European Social Fund, EUCIS-LLL closely monitored the negotiations on the new “Europe for Citizens” programme 2014-2020 content and budget, which is also key to finance innovation in education and training notably through projects on citizenship and history education. In June, nearly 100 European and national organisations and networks, including EUCIS-LLL, signed an open letter to support the programme and protest against its budget cut while the amount allocated was already derisory and the European Year of Citizens had the smallest budget ever allocated to a European Year.

**PROMOTING AND PARTICIPATING IN CIVIL DIALOGUE**

*for a Europe that puts citizens at the heart of its policies*

**Policy Debate “Partnerships for lifelong learning” in the European Parliament**

The “Rethinking Education” Communication emphasises the need for a collaborative work with all relevant stakeholders as a “systematic part of the policy approach”. This priority is further developed in the accompanying Staff Working Document on “Partnership and flexible pathways for lifelong skills development” which presents cooperation between different stakeholders, policy sectors and levels of governance as key for the efficient management of lifelong learning (LLL) strategies. To echo those recommendations, EUCIS-LLL organised in collaboration with the European Youth Forum a policy debate on “Partnerships for lifelong learning: a new idea?” in May, aiming at sharing ideas and experiences on how this partnership approach for LLL takes shape at the grassroots level but also at national and EU level. Civil society representatives presented good practices that could inspire policy makers and practitioners. Representatives from the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council, the Commission, the EESC and BusinessEurope provided some policy feedback. A report of the event was published and is available online.

**Concretising pioneer research on national stakeholders’ forums: the “LLL-HUB”**

The LLL-HUB (2013-2015) is a project funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme under Key Activity 1 “Policy cooperation and innovation” and coordinated by EUCIS-LLL. Engaging 10 partners from all over Europe and from various backgrounds (public authorities, civil society organisations...), the LLL-HUB aims to create through a multilateral network a feeling of shared responsibility and ownership among relevant stakeholders on EU lifelong learning strategies. This will be achieved by fostering national and transnational public spaces for debates and mutual policy learning, involving the grassroots level in a genuine reflection with decision-makers on the design and implementation of coherent and comprehensive lifelong learning strategies. A research phase and a seminar will take place in partner countries on four specific topics related to lifelong learning, involving key experts and policy-makers. They will be then invited to Brussels to gather for transnational policy learning and the elaboration of key political messages, in real bottom-up, democratic settings.
A key player in the Education, Training and Youth Forum

EUCIS-LLL supported the European Commission in the organisation of the 2nd edition of the European Education, Training and Youth Forum that brings together various stakeholders once per year in order to discuss key policy developments linked to the Europe 2020 strategy, the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020) and the European Youth strategy. The 2013 Forum promoted the idea of “Working together for Reforms”, emphasising the need for policy-makers and key stakeholders to work in partnership, in particular through the opportunities offered by Erasmus+. To prepare an open and rich discussion at the Forum, EUCIS-LLL organised an online consultation. 733 responses were collected and served as an input during the event. Answers highlighted for instance the lack of cooperation mechanisms between different sectors and actors or the need to simplify EU funds management.

Feeding in the European institutions’ working groups

EUCIS-LLL participated in several expert groups organised by the EU Institutions in order to exchange views and consult key stakeholders on the implementation of EU policy initiatives in education and training. During 2013 the Platform was notably represented in the European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group, the Network of observatories on skills needs and mismatches, the Civil Dialogue Expert Group of DG Communication and the Stakeholders’ Dialogue within the European Platform against Poverty and Social Inclusion of the European Commission. EUCIS-LLL also supported the need to have civil society representatives in the Thematic Working Groups set up by DG EAC as part of its reform of the Open Method of Coordination.

Connecting with European Institutions representatives

During 2013 EUCIS-LLL organised several meetings with key representatives of EU Institutions to discuss policy priorities related to education and training. The meetings were a great opportunity to present the Platform’s vision and objectives and to tackle central issues at the European policy level as EU2020 and ET2020 implementation, civil dialogue and citizenship. The key moment of the year is usually the high-level meeting organised during the Lifelong Learning Week in December. This year members met with Pierre Mairesses, Director for Europe 2020 – Policy development and country analysis in DG Education and Culture at the European Commission about the EU agenda in the field. EUCIS-LLL board members also debated with Commissioner Vassiliou in the framework of the ConnectEuranet project and met Director General Xavier Prats Monné to discuss civil society support within Erasmus+. During the negotiations for the new programme, EUCIS-LLL met with many Education Attachés representing various Member States. The Platform also sustained a close collaboration with MEPs and EESC representatives.

Member of the Liaison Group with organised civil society of the EESC

EUCIS-LLL is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Liaison Group (LG). This group aims to guarantee a coordinated approach of the Committee vis-à-vis European civil society organisations and networks to follow common initiatives. The Platform works there with 21 other organisations on transversal topics such as the European Year of Citizens and/or the European Statute of European Association. Every year a Civil Society Day is held to highlight a particular important topic of common interest to both the Committee and the member organisations and networks. The 2013 edition “As European as we can get! Bringing economy, solidarity and democracy together” brought together some 280 participants over the course of the day and was marked by high-quality discussions.

2013 Citizens’ Summit of the CSGC

EUCIS-LLL represents the education and training sector within the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) that gathers eight large and value-based European NGOs. The CSCG aims to encourage and promote a transparent and structured civil dialogue that is accessible, properly facilitated, inclusive, fair and respectful of the autonomy of NGOs. The Civil Society Citizens’ Summit 2013 was held in Brussels on 24 and 25 June 2013, a few days before the official European Summit. Representatives of civil society organisations gathered to discuss their idea of the future European Union as an alternative to Member States’ representatives’ vision. Participants voiced their concerns towards austerity measures and emphasised the importance of core values of the EU such as equity, solidarity and human rights to move the Union’s project forward. The Summit is aimed to be an annual alternative event to the Spring Council and EUCIS-LLL will contribute to sustain it in 2014.
The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) gathers European networks that are working in education or training. In the last years, the Platform is increasingly achieving more recognition from the EU institutions as a key European actor and consequently enlarging its membership, going from 6 members in 2005 to 33 in 2013.

In 2013, the Platform welcomed 1 new full member and 2 new associate members:
- EuCA, the European University College Association
- ICC, the International Language Association
- IPCP, the International Platform for Citizen Participation

EUCIS-LLL and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) renewed their partnership agreement to strengthen the position of education, training and youth stakeholders on European Level, increase the impact on EU policy in education with the goal of obtaining a structured Dialogue in Education and Training.

### FULL MEMBERS

#### European Students’ Forum (AEGEE)
AEGEE is one of the biggest students’ organisations that promotes cooperation, communication and integration amongst young people in Europe. It counts around 13,000 members, active in more than 200 university cities in 40 European countries.

![AEGEE Logo](image1)

#### Contact-2103
Contact-2103 is an International non-governmental organisation founded in 1998. It was created by organisations active in the field of youth to achieve a common and co-ordinated policy at the European level.

![Contact-2103 Logo](image2)

#### Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE)
DARE stands for Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe. The DARE Network consists of 51 member organisations from 25 countries in Europe.

![DARE Logo](image3)

#### European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)
EAEA is a European NGO with 130 member organisations from 41 countries working in the fields of adult learning. It promotes adult learning and the widening of access and participation in formal, non-formal and informal adult education for all, particularly for groups currently under-represented.

![EAEA Logo](image4)

#### European Association of Institutions of Non-Formal Education for Children and Young People (EAICY)
EAICY is the European association that gathers organisations working with children and young people in their leisure time in Europe. EAICY gathers over 25,000 organisations of non-formal education in Europe.

![EAICY Logo](image5)

#### European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE)
ECSWE consists of 27 national Waldorf Associations representing some 680 schools in Europe. The purpose of the ECSWE is to strengthen and develop Steiner education in the member countries of the network.

![ECSWE Logo](image6)

#### European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN)
EDEN exists to share knowledge and improve understanding amongst professionals in distance and e-learning and to promote policy and practice across the whole of Europe and beyond. It counts with more than 200 institutional members and over 1200 members in Europe.

![EDEN Logo](image7)
European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU)

Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU) is the umbrella for national YFU organisations in Europe and currently has 29 member organisations. EEE-YFU provides exchange programmes for 15 to 18 year old students in more than 50 countries worldwide.

European Federation for Education and Culture (EFEC)

EFEC is a federation gathering non-religious educative associations from 8 European countries. It represents the European branch of the International Teaching, Education and Popular Culture League that gathers 20 organisations worldwide.

European Forum for Freedom in education (effe)

effe is an NGO in the field of education, it gathers people from more than 20 countries, from public and private schools and with various teaching method views. It was designed as a forum in which all current issues concerning education at primary and secondary level can be discussed.

European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)

EFIL is the umbrella organisation of 27 AFS organisations in Europe. AFS’s activities include the long-term secondary school-based exchanges of students in order to promote intercultural learning and active citizenship.

European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET)

Founded in 1991, EfVET is a unique European-wide professional association which has been created by and for providers of technical and vocational education and training. It consists of 1500 member associations and institutions.

European Parents’ Association (EPA)

EPA gathers 50 parents’ associations from 28 countries in Europe and represents more than 150 million parents. EPA works in partnership both to represent and give parents a powerful voice in the development of education policies and decisions at European level.

European School Heads Association (ESHA)

ESHA is a professional organisation for European School Heads within primary and secondary education. Represented by one or more organisations in each European country, it aims to provide an exchange platform for its members can identify, share and promote best practice in school leadership across Europe.

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

ESN is the biggest student associations in Europe, founded in 1989 for supporting and developing student exchange. ESN is present in more than 450 Higher Education Institutions from 37 countries and helps 180 000 students annually.

European Training and Development Federation (ETDF)

Linking national associations and training and human resources professionals, the ETDF incorporates 12 national associations which gather 146 000 members.

European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)

EUCEN is the largest European multidisciplinary Association in University Lifelong Learning. It is an international non-governmental non-profit making organisation which gathers 212 members from 42 countries.

European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)

EURASHE is the European Association of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that offer professionally oriented programmes and are engaged in applied and profession-related research within the Bologna cycles.

European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO)

EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators, promotes a responsible and innovative teaching of history based on multi-perspectivity, critical thinking, mutual respect, and the inclusion of controversial issues.

European Vocational Training Association (EVTA)

EVTA is a vocational training network which comprises 23 members from 16 European countries, representing thousands of national training centres and, in certain cases, national employment services.

European Federation for Catholic Adult Education (FEECA)

FEECA represents Catholic adult education on a European level. FEECA aims to contribute in furthering both European integration and international cooperation, based on faith in freedom and a democratic order.
European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC)
Created in 1998, FEDEC is a network of 55 members: 42 higher education institutions and vocational training centres and 13 partner organisations in 26 countries in Europe and beyond.

International Federation of Training Centres for the promotion of new education (FICEMEA)
FICEMEA aims to federate the action of its member organisations in order to promote active training methods as widely as possible and to contribute to the evolution of educative and social practices all over the world.

International Association of Educating cities (IAEC)
IAEC gathers 331 local governments in 34 countries with the common goal of working together on projects and activities for improving the quality of life of their inhabitants and according to the approved Educating Cities Charter.

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)
ISCA is an organisation bringing together sport, culture and youth organisations. With more than 130 affiliated organisations and more than 22 million individual members worldwide that share the idea that everyone should be able to participate in international activities.

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU)
OBESSU is a platform for cooperation between national school student unions active in general secondary and secondary vocational education in more than 25 European countries.

SOLIDAR
SOLIDAR is a European network of 56 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning.

European University College Association (EuCA)
EuCa works to promote the excellence of university halls of residence, to create an international network among university halls of residence, promote cultural exchanges and so to encourage active citizenship among young people. It represents around 30 000 students and 194 halls of residence in 10 countries.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

European University Foundation - Campus Europae (EUF-CE)
EUF-CE is a network of 20 European Universities aiming at strengthening and accelerating the development of the sphere of European education by establishing examples of concrete cooperation.

Foundation of European Regions for Research in Education and Training (FREREF)
FREREF promotes concrete interregional cooperation in the field of lifelong learning. It has 15 member Regions and 3 member Institutions, and cooperates regularly with some 20 other Regions, as well as with national and European institutions and agencies.

MENON Network
MENON is a European research and innovation network, working for more than 10 years to foster and smoothen innovation processes in areas such as education and lifelong learning, knowledge society and social inclusion.

The International Language Association (ICC)
ICC groups professionals from all areas of language education and intercultural communication promoting excellence in the teaching and learning of languages by defining professional standards and disseminating these standards and practice to the widest possible public. It represents 25 members located in 12 countries worldwide.
The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning

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