European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning

ACTIVITY REPORT

2014
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Dear reader,

2014 has been a year of transition. EUCIS-LLL, as other European platforms and organisations had to adapt itself to a new institutional setting with changes in community programmes and changes within the European Commission and European Parliament. Even though the European Commission and DG EAC regularly confirmed their confidence and interest in EUCIS-LLL, we were obliged to reduce a part of our activities and to work with a limited number of staff. Our members have been very committed during the past year, financing the network more than in the previous years. That attitude showed the necessity to search for a new economic model, to reinforce our independence. Nevertheless, those problems did not have much influence on our will to be present on the European scene.

We have organised different events in the European Parliament, such as the important Lifelong Learning Week. We have been partners of different European initiatives in the field of civil society representation. The annual conference was linked to European priorities, enabling us to send timely, concrete and argumented input in the framework of the Education and Training 2020 Review. We went on with our policy analysis and contributions through our website and via different publications, through our participation in high level working groups and events.

Thanks to the engagement of members and very collaborative partners such as foundations, 2014 looks like a “normal” year. But as 2015 begins, we are confronted with the necessity to be stronger in our independence, to find a new economic model, to reinforce the ties with the members and to articulate better the link between European and national (and sometimes regional and local) level. All these challenges are in front of us as we celebrate our 10 years anniversary.

We are confident in the future of the Platform. We need it also because education and more particularly citizenship education and the social dimension of education have been questioned by the terrorists attacks of the beginning of 2015, in France, but also in Belgium, and unfortunately, probably in other countries. More than ever, Education in its transversal definition is necessary to fight against extremisms, exclusion and to stand for a society with more freedom and solidarity.

David Lopez,
President of EUCIS-LLL
JANUARY
/// Position paper on Opening Up Education: Mainstreaming and prioritising digital access in LLL
/// Civil society alliance for a renewed European Convention: Europe+

FEBRUARY
/// Making the case for European civic education report
/// Launch of the LLL-HUB project

MARCH
/// Training session on Erasmus+
/// Policy debate “Digital wave: Supporting a cultural shift in learning systems?”
/// Joint letter to the Commission defending the partnership principle in ESF
/// Launch of Europe+: Civil society for the renewal of European democracy
/// Validation task force meeting
/// Steering committee meeting

APRIL
/// Position paper on the European Commission consultation on the European area of skills and qualifications
/// Press release Validation arrangements needed to bring European youth back into employment!

MAY
/// Activity report 2013
/// Measuring progress in Lifelong Learning report
/// Launch of stakeholders’ consultation on Erasmus+

JUNE
/// Annual Conference “Turning targets into action: Addressing inequalities in ET” and General Assembly 2014
/// Position paper for a common approach to validation of non-formal and informal learning
/// First meeting of the partners in LLL-HUB project and launch of the research phase of the project
/// Erasmus+ survey results
/// CB4LPP Fair - project results launch

JULY
/// Position paper on Education and Training 2020 review: taking up the challenge of social inclusion and participation
/// Proposal for an Intergroup on Lifelong Learning in the European Parliament

AUGUST
/// CSGG 2nd Citizens Summit - co-organisation of workshop “Power and Democracy”
/// Policy debate “Digital wave: Supporting a cultural shift in learning systems?” report
/// Contribution to the Commission Stakeholders’ Consultation guidelines
/// CB4LPP Project Final Conference - co-organisation of workshop “Innovation in Education”
/// Steering committee meeting

SEPTEMBER
/// LLL-HUB partner meeting in Lisbon
/// Europe 2020 working group meeting
/// Education, training and youth forum 2014 Press release and videos: Civil society messages on the future of learning
/// Validation task force meeting
/// Steering committee meeting

OCTOBER
/// Contribution to the public consultation on the Europe 2020 Strategy
/// Annual Conference report on the ET2020 Review
/// Peer Learning Session on Erasmus+ KA3 actions
/// Steering committee meeting

NOVEMBER
/// 4th Lifelong Learning Week
/// Round table on Efficient and equitable funding of education: A target beyond reach?
/// Policy debate on Validation of non-formal and informal learning: All aboard! How to reach the targeted public?
/// Seminar on Inclusive Education. Fighting inequalities in education and training
/// Learning for well-being 1st task force meeting
/// Steering committee meeting
/// Civil Society Europe Launch
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 which is closer to its citizens.

**VISION**

EUCIS-LLL is a tool to promote a holistic vision of lifelong learning, from cradle to grave, which is not limited to formal education, but integrates non-formal and informal learning as well. 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 particularly in the European Union. It believes that the objectives of education and training should not be described only in terms of employability or economic growth, but also as a framework for personal development and well-being.

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### ABOUT US

#### History, Vision & Values

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is an umbrella organisation which brings together 36 European networks active in the field of education and training, coming from the EU Member States and beyond. These organisations currently represent more than 45 000 educational institutions (schools, universities, adult education and youth centres, etc) and 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.

#### 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 members 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

- **General Assembly**
  36 European networks
  Defines the annual priorities of the work programme of the Platform

- **Steering Committee**
  9 organisations representatives
  Implements the work programme adopted by the General Assembly

- **EUCIS-LLL Secretariat**
  Ensures the day-to-day management of the Platform
After three years of hard work and dedication, our policy officer Alexia Samuel has left EUCIS-LLL. We thank her for all she has done for EUCIS-LLL and wish her all the best. Special thanks also go to Florine Yapi, who did a successful three-month internship at our office. EUCIS-LLL welcomes Antti Reinsalo, Ulla-Alexandra Mattl and Alen Maletić who joined the Secretariat in September.

In summer 2014 EUCIS-LLL Secretariat moved to Mundo J, Rue de l’Industrie 10, in Brussels.
EUCIS-LLL General Assembly, 2 June
Delegates from all over Europe gathered at the EUCIS-LLL General Assembly on 2 June 2014 in Brussels. EUCIS-LLL welcomed four new organisations: the European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools (ECNAIS) and the European Students’ Union (ESU) as full members, and the European Association for Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) and Volonteurope Network as associate members. EUCIS-LLL thus counts 36 member organisations, making the Platform even more representative of the diversity of learning actors and strengthening its capacity to have an impact on EU and national policy developments.

Furthermore, EUCIS-LLL welcomed a new member of the Steering Committee, Daniele di Mitri, representing OBESSU. Etelberto Costa (EAPRIL) and Andras Szucs (EDEN) were re-elected. Representatives of our member organisations discussed the ET2020 Review, the priorities of the new Commission and European Parliament. The steering committee highlighted the development plan of the platform, including more efforts to develop partnerships and diversity income. The work plan for 2014 was adopted.

EUCIS-LLL Steering Committee
EUCIS-LLL steering committee met 6 times in 2014, twice in March and every month from September to December in order to prepare the extraordinary General Assembly of January 2015 and adopt the triannual work plan for 2015-2017. It discussed the policy strategy of the organisation as regards its various objectives (peer-learning, advocacy) and monitored the implementation of the work plan by the Secretariat.

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 level. Here are some examples of the most relevant documents we have produced in 2014:

- Infonote on the European Semester, how education and training, especially via the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training “ET2020”. In 2014, the working group had the opportunity to discuss with the ET2020 group the importance and role played by civil society organisations, in a “from practice to policy” approach. The group aims at building evidence and boosting the capacity of Europe to reach its targets for the European Semester, how education and training can contribute to healthier and happier individuals and societies. In turn, lifelong learning can contribute to healthier and happier individuals and societies. In turn, lifelong learning can contribute to healthier and happier individuals and societies. In turn, lifelong learning can contribute to healthier and happier individuals and societies.

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 impact on education and training, especially via the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training “ET2020”. In 2014, the working group had the opportunity to discuss EU Council political priorities with the Luxembourgish Education Attaché. They also exchanged views towards a coordinated input to institutional events such as the European Education, Training and Youth Forum (ETY). Namely, EUCIS-LLL prepared a video with civil society messages on the agenda of the new Commission, which was presented at the ETY Forum. It particularly highlighted the importance and role played by civil society organisations. The group is also the place to brainstorm on the Platform’s upcoming actions (campaigns and events).

A Working Group on Learning for Well-being

EUCIS-LLL has been advocating for validation for many years as a great tool to make lifelong learning a reality for many individuals. It is important for educational stakeholders to grasp 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. The task force met in March and October to work on policy advocacy (position papers and messages to the EQF Advisory Group), to monitor latest policy developments, share outcomes of EU projects and encourage peer learning between participants. Members of our task force are experts and practitioners from all sectors of education and training coming from different countries.

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CB4LLP: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES

EUCIS-LLL has been involved in the CB4LLP project, “Capacity-building for lifelong learning” led by CSCS (Italy, member of EFVET). CB4LLP aims at exploiting successful Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) projects’ outcomes by policy makers and other stakeholders at various levels in setting up policies, strategies and actions. By providing gateways to project databases, organising workshops reaching out to a wide audience and developing an innovative capacity-building methodology, CB4LLP contributed to better dissemination and use of LLP projects - so that they would not remain in boxes after completion; to help end-users for individual, organisational and institutional development.

The project was highly strategic for EUCIS-LLL as it engaged an in-depth reflection on the way successful project outcomes can be better exploited, especially when the new Erasmus+ programme started.

In 2014 EUCIS-LLL organised two Capacity-Building Fairs. The session in Brussels in March aimed at informing stakeholders (50 participants) on the opportunities of the new Erasmus+ programme and presenting the CB4LLP methodology, as a tool to support them in building innovative projects based on LLP initiatives. EUCIS-LLL asked its members for feedback in order to evaluate their satisfaction with the capacity-building tool provided by EUCIS-LLL and its partners.

The second CB4LLP Fair was organised in June at EUCIS-LLL new premises to share the CB4LLP methodology (final publication). Many participants signed up as capacity-builders on the project website and had the occasion to discover the CB4LLP guidebook.

The final conference took place in September in Athens during which EUCIS-LLL co-organised a workshop on Innovation in Education. This successful project ended in November.

More information: www.capacitybuilding.eu

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

Helping the members in their daily activities and providing advice, guidance and support is one of the main missions of the Platform. EUCIS-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 the “Europe 2020” and related initiatives in the field of education and training amongst its constituency and allow stakeholders to play a role as multipliers.

EUCIS-LLL also systematically invites its members to provide expertise and good practices in the framework of its advocacy actions and its events, sometimes at very high level, taking place often in the European Parliament and 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 and our social media channels.

In 2014 EUCIS-LLL launched new peer learning activities on project management in the framework of Erasmus+ KA3.

Our outreach in numbers:
> 61 000 pageviews in 2014
> 6 800 subscribers to our newsletter
> 3 200 likes on our Facebook page
> 1 200 followers on Twitter
EUCIS-LLL organised its Annual Conference on the ET2020 Review: Addressing Inequalities in Education and Training on 3rd June. This was a very timely debate due to the European elections with many new MEPs taking posts. 2014 was a turning point for European cooperation in education and training “ET2020”. It was the moment not only to take stock of more than a decade of community action in the field, but also to make concrete proposals for improving both its priorities and the working methods. This event was organised in partnership with the Learning for Well-being Consortium. The results of the discussions fed into the debate linked to the next cycle of ET2020 (2015-2017), the midterm review (2015-2020) and the broader Europe 2020 Review. It was a unique opportunity for stakeholders to voice concerns and work together in building possible solutions for the future of learning in Europe. EUCIS-LLL acknowledged the progress made so far but considered that evidence showed that much more attention should be paid to addressing inequalities in education and training. The general report of the conference, including key policy recommendations, is available online.

The policy debate “Validation of non-formal and informal learning: all aboard! How to reach the targeted publics?” took place during the Lifelong Learning Week 2014. Member States are encouraged to set up validation mechanisms by 2018, in the 2012 Council Recommendation. How will this turn into concrete actions and reforms and how will this ensure that guidance and counseling are available and affordable for them at every stage of the validation process? What are exactly the new “skills audits” mentioned in the recommendation? By gathering European institutions and civil society representatives and researchers, the policy debate aimed at providing answers on fostering inclusive validation arrangements by presenting existing practices and sharing policy recommendations, so that Europe’s most vulnerable learners can be the primary beneficiaries of validation schemes. The event was organised by EUCIS-LLL with the support of MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI).

EUCIS-LLL Director Audrey Frith actively participated in the EQF Advisory Group “Peer Learning Activity” on writing learning outcomes (Cork, Ireland) and in the CEDEFOP conference on the future of EU tools (Thessaloniki, Greece) in November. EUCIS-LLL contributed to the consultation on the European Area of Skills and Qualifications in which it stressed the importance of better coordinating and communicating different EU tools in a lifelong learning approach. EUCIS-LLL has also provided a feedback on the VNFIL European Inventory thematic reports. The Platform collected its members’ input on new technologies and open educational resources, organised by the CULT Committee of the European Parliament.

Following the Commission’s Communication on “Opening up Education”, EUCIS-LLL released a policy paper emphasising the importance of prioritising and mainstreaming digital access in all education and training sectors with a particular emphasis on providing basic IT skills for all.

Moreover, EUCIS-LLL was invited to present its views in the EESC Study Group on Opening Up Education, while one of its experts actively participated in a public hearing on
the European Guidelines, with the purpose of highlighting the importance of targeting disadvantaged groups with concrete strategies and the recognition on non-formal education. Moreover, EUCIS-LLL has actively participated in the LLL-HUB, GR-EAT and Building Learning Societies projects, where validation/recognition is one of the crucial topics.

Seminar on a Flagship initiative on Inclusive Education, Fighting inequalities and discrimination in education, 10 December

Learning is powerful in getting people more engaged in society in its economic, political and social dimensions. Providing high quality learning opportunities to all and especially to the most disadvantaged is crucial not only for our ageing workforce to cope with ever more competitive and changing labour markets, but also to be more socially included and have better living conditions. Inequalities persist in European education and training systems where vulnerable groups such as migrants are particularly disadvantaged. As European history shows, rising inequalities go hand in hand with rising nationalism and discrimination. EUCIS-LLL firmly believes that we should refocus EU cooperation on equity, democracy and social cohesion. The EU has undertaken a series of actions to face some of these challenges, however we lack a coherent strategy heading those measures towards clear goals and national/regional roadmaps and a strong political will. The seminar was meant to bring people together to discuss what this strategy could look like within the Europe 2020 Strategy. It will be followed by experts meetings in 2015.

And many other actions on access and inclusion...

Throughout its policy papers and meetings with EU officials in 2014, EUCIS-LLL raised the fact that the social dimension of learning had been neglected in the 1st cycle of the Europe 2020 and ET2020 strategies and should be much more prominent in the next. This was the case for instance of its position paper on the Education and Training 2020 Review. This topic has become a priority area of the new "Forward Looking Initiatives" of Erasmus+ KA3.

Building learning societies: promoting validation

The project “Building learning societies: Promoting Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning” aims to develop an awareness-raising campaign for the validation of learning outcomes of non-formal and informal learning as a tool to further improve adults’ career perspectives and stimulate their further education and training. Partners have been exchanging on existing validation practices and developed methods for the identification, documentation, assessment and certification of the learning outcomes of non-formal and informal learning. Together they launched an EU-wide action campaign to promote validation amongst adult education and training providers, employers, trade unions, civil society organisations, and learners themselves.

EUCIS-LLL was in charge of coordinating the publication entitled “European strategic guide for fostering the participation and raising awareness on validation of learning outcomes of NFIL”.

This project was coordinated by the Ligue de l’enseignement with the support of SOLIDAR and 9 other partners from all over Europe, from November 2013 to November 2014.

GR-EAT: Guidelines for Recognition: European Advanced Tool

GR-EAT (2014-2016) aims to propose a comprehensive tool for the implementation of recognition systems and contribute to the overall advocacy process toward the recognition of non-formal and informal learning (NFIL) taking place within youth organisations. Led by AEGEE, EUCIS-LLL is one of the six partners (KA2 Strategic Partnership, Erasmus+) and is responsible for conducting research among employers in order to find out about their needs and expectations regarding the recognition of NFIL and will draft a study report. EUCIS-LLL is also a partner in other intellectual outputs including the development of the online platform. The objectives of the project are to create common guidelines for recognition of NFIL acquired in a volunteering context, supporting youth organisation in providing internal validation systems which can be recognised externally. The project also wants to support long-term volunteers in raising their awareness of competences acquired and their value in an employment context as well as in acquainting them with the identification and documentation procedures that are useful to go through national validation systems. Another objective is to raise the awareness of companies on the benefits and impact of long term volunteering for transversal competence development.
Lifelong Learning Week

EUCIS-LLL organised its 4th Lifelong Learning Week in the European Parliament in Brussels from 2nd to 11th December 2014. The aim of the Lifelong Learning Week was to raise awareness on lifelong learning and to bring visibility and create synergy between the work achieved by EUCIS-LLL and its members in 2014. This year the Week focused on the three pillars of our Manifesto: ensuring accessible and quality learning for all, investing in the social dimension of lifelong learning and bringing the EU closer to its citizens. Among other things, three major events took place, namely, a round table on efficient and equitable funding of education, a policy debate on validation of non-formal and informal learning and a seminar on inclusive education and inequalities in education and training in Europe. Our events attracted the highest number of participants so far, making it one of the most important European lifelong learning events of the year. The Week ended with a networking reception “We are all lifelong learners!” celebrating education for all. See you at the 5th LLL Week!

Civil Society Meeting Place

EUCIS-LLL set up an exhibition at the “Civil Society Meeting Place” in the European Parliament for its member organisations during the Lifelong Learning Week 2014. The Civil Society Meeting Place contributes to sharing practices and building stronger links between civil society and MEPs, since it provides a unique opportunity for them to meet and exchange ideas. EUCIS-LLL collected visitors’ views on “What should be the key for the future of learning in Europe?” on a display panel. Key words such as peace, access, success, jobs, friendships and diversity illustrated the rich and diverse contribution of educational systems in building modern societies in which democracy and solidarity are key values and principles.

Proposal for the Lifelong Learning Intergroup in the European Parliament

EUCIS-LLL stressed the importance of ensuring 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, already in 2013, to take into account three top priorities and a set of 12 policy recommendations for lifelong learning in its Manifesto “Building together the future of Learning”. In 2014 EUCIS-LLL continued its advocacy on lifelong learning and dozens of meetings took place with MEPs from various political groups. Together with the EAEA, EUCIS-LLL has worked on establishing a Lifelong Learning intergroup in the European Parliament, with the support of MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland). Together they gathered signatures from more than 30 MEPs from 6 political groups and 14 different countries supporting the initiative. An informal group on lifelong learning is about to be formed in the Parliament in 2015.

Policy debate on “Efficient and equitable funding of education”: A target beyond reach?, 9 December

The policy debate on ‘Efficient and equitable funding of education: A target beyond reach?’ took place during the Lifelong Learning Week 2014. It aimed at discussing possible answers in order to have a more sustainable funding of our education and training systems; it gathered civil society representatives, researchers, social partners and policy-makers at national and EU levels. There has been growing support for long-term investment in education and training from the EU, stakeholders and citizens. However, although our socio-economic models rely heavily on quality education, budgets are shrinking in most EU Member States. There is a clear lack of coherence between the call for sustainable investment in growth-friendly areas, such as education, and the call for austerity measures, which damages them. The EU shall address this contradiction within the European Semester. How to bridge EU recommendations and national policies? How to find a balance between efficiency and equity in investing in education? Current indicators were discussed as well as legislative solutions to preserve funding in education such as the need to take education out of the fiscal balance sheet (Stability Pact). The event was organised with the support of MEP Jill Evans (Greens/EFA, UK).
A key player in the Education, Training and Youth Forum (DG EAC), October

EUCIS-LLL took an active role at the 3rd edition of the European Education, Training and Youth Forum that brings together various stakeholders once per year to discuss key policy developments linked to the Europe 2020 strategy. The 2014 Forum focused on the review of the Education and Training 2020 work programme. To prepare an open and rich discussion at the Forum, EUCIS-LLL created a video to foster messages on three questions: what are civil society messages to the new Commissioner, what should the priorities of the ET2020 be and how can civil society contribute to this process. Answers highlighted for instance the importance of the social and civic dimension of learning and the need to implement genuine cooperation mechanisms. The video was presented during the second day of the event and was further disseminated via a press release and on our new Youtube channel. EUCIS-LLL President highlighted those messages as well as the need to invest in education both at national and EU level during one of the panels that took place during the Forum.

Participating in the Expert Groups of the European Institutions

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 2014 the Platform was notably represented in the:

- European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group,
- Thematic working group on transversal skills,
- Civil Dialogue Expert Group of DG Communication,
- Stakeholders’ Dialogue within the European Platform against Poverty and Social Inclusion.

It also contributed to the revision of the European Guidelines on validation, conducted for the CEDEFOP. EUCIS-LLL was audited by the European Parliament and EESC at different occasions to present its views on opening up education, rethinking education and the future plan for Europe.

Dialogue with EU representatives

During 2014 EUCIS-LLL organised several meetings with key representatives of EU Institutions to discuss policy priorities related to education and training such as the LLL Intergroup. 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. EUCIS-LLL President and Director met Director General Xavier Prats Monné to discuss changes in the new Commission and relations with civil society.

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. The group aims to guarantee a coordinated approach of the EESC vis-à-vis European civil society organisations and networks and to follow joint initiatives. The Platform works with more than 20 organisations on transversal topics such as civil dialogue. Important dossiers tackled in 2014 were the contribution to the Europe 2020 mid-term review, the European Commission 2015 work programme and the Action Plan for Europe. Cooperation with sections were also reinforced. EUCIS-LLL participated in the Civil Society Day (March) which is held to highlight an important topic of common interest to both the Committee and the member organisations and networks.

2014 Citizens’ Summit

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 2014 was held in Brussels on 23 and 24 September. Representatives of civil society organisations gathered to discuss their idea of the future European Union. EUCIS-LLL co-organised a workshop on “Power and Democracy” during which the need to invest in education and training was strongly highlighted.

In 2014, EUCIS-LLL joined two new civil society groups: Europe+ and Civil Society Europe!
**Lifelong Learning Hub (LLL-HUB) Creating a Space for Lifelong Learning**

The LLL-HUB (2013-2016) is a project co-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 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 3 broad themes covering a range of more specific topics related to lifelong learning, involving key experts and policy-makers. They will then be invited to Brussels to gather for transnational policy learning and the elaboration of key political messages, in real bottom-up and democratic settings. Two partner meetings took place in 2014 (February and October).

**Contributing to the Improvement of the Erasmus+ Programme**

The stakeholders coalition set up by EUCIS-LLL as early as 2011 focused on defending key values such as active citizenship, social inclusion and personal development, preserving a sectorial approach in the new programme and moving forward administrative and financial simplification. EUCIS-LLL efforts have paid off, as many of its recommendations were taken on board in the final version of the programme.

In March 2014 EUCIS-LLL organised a training session on Erasmus+ which included specific provisions for different sectors. Participants had an opportunity to get first-hand advice on how to seize opportunities for civil society, how to find relevant partners, and learned more about success factors (dissemination, exploitation, hot policy topics, impact, etc).

EUCIS-LLL launched a survey aimed at all stakeholders who had applied for a grant under the new Erasmus+ programme. It gathered feedback from 52 interviewees on the programme architecture, the relevance of its objectives, the simplification of application procedures and many other elements. Feedbacks were compiled and discussed with EUCIS-LLL members and partners, the European Commission and the EACEA in June. Some recommendations were taken on board such as the use of a new lump sum system for civil society cooperation (KA3).

**Standing up for Better Community Programmes**

**For a Strong Recognition of Learning & Partnership in the ESF**

In 2014 EUCIS-LLL continued to monitor the elaboration of the new European Social Fund and cohesion policy 2014-2020 where education, training and lifelong learning are among the main thematic objectives. It disseminated its toolkit on the ESF decision-making process in the EU countries (advocacy tips and policy updates) to its members. EUCIS-LLL joined forces with more than 40 NGOs in sending a letter to EU institutions, emphasising the lack of timely access to information, sufficient time for reaction and technical assistance for stakeholders in many Member States and calling the Commission to hold them accountable for their commitment.

Following the action, the Commission expressed its support to the stakeholders’ strong involvement at the ESF Committee of June. The Commission was also about to set up a European Community of Practice on Partnership to facilitate peer-learning and capacity-building.

EUCIS-LLL also pushed for the genuine implementation of the Partnership Principle in the cohesion policy, aimed at involving stakeholders at the national, regional and local level in the design, implementation and evaluation of structural funds.
MEMBERSHIP

A GROWING PLATFORM

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) gathers European and international organisations that are working in education, training and youth. In the last years, the Platform has increasingly achieved more recognition from the EU institutions as a key European actor and consequently enlarging its membership, going from 6 members in 2005 to 36 in 2014.

In 2014, the Platform welcomed 2 new full members and 2 associate members:

- ECNAIS, the European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools
- ESU, the European Students’ Union
- EADTU, European Association for Distance Teaching Universities
- Volonteurope

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.

Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE)

DARE stands for Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe. The DARE Network consists of 48 member organisations from 26 countries in Europe.

European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)

EAEA is a European NGO with 123 member organisations from 42 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.

European Association of Institutions of Non-Formal Education for Children and Young People

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.

European Association for practitioner Research on Improving Learning (EAPRIL)

EAPRIL is a non-profit organisation that bridges practice and research and aims to cross the boundaries between education and working life. It gathers about 500 delegates from across Europe with 7 L&D related networks at its annual conference.

European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE)

ECSWE consists of 26 national Waldorf Associations representing some 700 schools in Europe. They count more than 2000 kindergartens and around 600 institutions for curative education. The purpose of the ECSWE is to strengthen and develop Steiner education in the member countries of the network.

European Council of National Association of Independent Schools (ECNAIS)

ECNAIS is an association founded in 1988 which aims at supporting and pursuing the values embedded in a democratic approach to pluralism in the national educational systems, and the respect of the parental choice.
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.

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 olds 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 28 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 (EVET)

Founded in 1991, EVET 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 the parents associations in Europe which together represent 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 where its members can identify, share and promote best practice in school leadership across Europe.

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

ESN is one of the biggest non-profit interdisciplinary student associations in Europe, founded in 1989 for supporting and developing student exchange. It brings together 13.500 members from 460 local sections in 37 countries. They offer services to 160.000 students.

European Students Union (ESU)

ESU is an umbrella organisation of 47 National Union of Students from 39 countries. ESU acts in representing, defending and strengthening students’ educational, democratic and political and social rights in Europe.

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 183 members from 35 countries.

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.

European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)

EURASHE is the European Association of Higher Education Institutions that offer professionally oriented programmes and are engaged in applied and profession-related research within the Bologna cycles. It gathers about 1.100 higher education institutions in 40 countries within and outside the European Higher Education Area.

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. It represents a network of 44 member Associations and 15 associated members from 52 countries.

European Vocational Training Association (EVTA)

EVTA is a vocational training network which comprises 27 members from 14 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. It gathers 9 national umbrella-organisations of catholic adult education.
European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC)

Founded in 1998, FEDEC is a network of 41 professional circus schools and 14 circus arts organisations located in 24 different countries. FEDEC’s main vocation is to support the development and evolution of pedagogy and creation in the field of circus arts education.

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)

Founded in 1994, IAEC is a non-profit association, constituted as a permanent collaborative structure uniting local governments committed to the Charter of Educating Cities, which is the road map of the cities that comprise it. IAEC has 478 member cities in 36 countries on all continents.

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)

ISCA is an organisation bringing together sport, culture and youth organisations. With more than 191 affiliated organisations and more than 40 million individual members worldwide from 65 countries that share the idea that everyone should be able to participate in international activities.

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU)

Founded in 1975, OBESSU is a platform for cooperation between national school student unions active in general secondary and secondary vocational education. It brings together 24 national associations in 19 European countries.

SOLIDAR

SOLIDAR is a European network of 60 NGOs based in 27 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 Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU)

EADTU is the Europe’s leading institutional association for online, flexible and distance higher education. EADTU has a membership of 15 institutions and 14 national associations across 25 nations. Together they cover over 200 universities and around 3 million students across Europe.

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.

VOLENTUEUROPE Network

Volonteurope is an international network promoting the values and principles of volunteering, active citizenship and social justice at local, regional, national and European level, both in the Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe.