

activity report 2023



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index

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foreword

INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE PRESIDENT

Dear readers,

2023 was another important year for education and training in Europe. With the pandemic finally behind us, the European Union acknowledged the importance of skills and competences for the future by proclaiming 2023 and part of 2024 as the European Year of Skills. The focus on skills was not a casual choice, it signals that the EU recognises skills - and therefore indirectly learning - as a milestone to reach the Green and Digital Transitions. To help learners and learning providers navigate this fast-changing sea, as well as to contribute to the institutional debate on skills offering a holistic perspective, LLLP has chosen to follow the lead of the EU institutions and focus its advocacy efforts on “Key Competences - a Lifelong Learning Approach” as its annual theme for 2023. This theme made us reflect on the importance of key competences and transversal competences for the personal and professional development of all learners; we explored current validation and recognition challenges; and we formulated recommendations to bring key competences back on the policy radar, next to skills. Our end-of-the-year position paper highlights all crucial points and most important demands.

We also kept engaging EU stakeholders, and especially the new Commissioner Iliana Ivanova. We consolidated the Lifelong Learning Lab (in Girona, in cooperation with the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU) and renewed the cooperation with the European Commission for the mid-term review of the European Education Area, both at the exclusive mid-term review event and through our EU Stakeholders Forum. This rendez-vous was a crucial happening, and its conclusions directly fed into the subsequent EU Education Summit contributing decisively to the mid-term review of the European Education Area. LLLP keeps on engaging the network in meaningful project partnerships to serve our advocacy goals by bringing policy and practice; in 2023 our main effort in this sense, Transval-EU, delivered its results, which promise to be a milestone for the years to come in the validation of transversal competences.

We still have many challenges ahead in the path that is leading us to the European elections in 2024. But through our values and the incredible strength of our network we will continue to steadily set sail to build societies where education and training, of non-formal and informal learning are more relevant than ever.

Elisa Gambardella
President of LLLP



2023 highlights

Events remain a transversal and crucial tool for our activities, and help us capitalise on our knowledge.

They serve as focal point to then transfer this knowledge on to influence the policy work of the European institutions. Each of them has a unique purpose and each of them is a tool that we exploit to make sure our mission is fulfilled.

january

LLLPLP launched its **Annual Theme for 2023: Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach**

Meeting **WG Internationalisation of Education**

february

LLLPLP Reaction **EU Economic Governance Review and the European Semester 2023**

march

LLLPLP at the **Civil Society Days 2023**. "Civil society organisations: a pillar of democracy and a key player to overcome current challenges"

Meeting **WG EU2030**

april

Meeting **WG Internationalisation of Education**

LLLPLP Statement **Learning mobility for all**

Meeting **WG Wider Benefits of Learning**

Erasmus+ Coalition Joint Statement Learning mobility framework

may

TRANSVAL EU Policy Conference "Making All Skills Visible: The Validation of Transversal Skills" in Stockholm

COMORELP Final Conference **Inter-regional cooperation for better lifelong learning policies**

Launch of the **European Year of Skills**

Inscool II Final Conference **Inclusion in Action: a holistic approach to inclusion in schools**

LLLPLP organised alongside ETF and EAEA the conference **Civil society for lifelong skills development in Europe and partner countries**

Porto Social Forum 2023

Lifelong Learning Interest Group meeting

june

Making Skills Count Conference flagship event of the European Year of Skills

LLLPLP Reaction **European Year of Skills**

IHES Final Conference in Brussels

Lifelong Learning Lab 2023 in Girona with the Spanish Presidency

LLLPLP General Assembly 2023 in Girona. We welcomed two new members Eurochild and FEDE

Meeting **WG Validation Task Force**

july

Exchange of views hosted by the rapporteur of the **Erasmus+**, MEP Milan Zver from the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education

august

Drafting of Position Paper Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach

september

Meeting **WG EU2030**

Council of Europe **Standing Conference of Ministers of Education**

LLLPLP Members training on **Strategic planning and group facilitation**

october

Meeting **WG Internationalisation of Education**

LLLPLP Statement **Children as first lifelong learners**

LLLPLP Reaction **to Learners first: education for today's and tomorrow's democratic societies** CoE Strategy

EU Regions Week

LLLPLP participated in EDUTech Europe **Inspiration in education 2023**

Lifelong Learning Interest Group meeting

november

EU Lifelong Learning Stakeholders Forum a side event of the European Education Summit

LLLWeek 2023 "Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach"

LLLAwards 2023 ceremony

Meeting **WG Validation Task Force**

Meeting **WG Wider Benefits of Learning**

European Employment & Social Rights Forum 2023

Lifelong Learning Interest Group meeting

december

Launch of the **Position Paper: Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach**

LLLPLP Extraordinary General Assembly

Erasmus+ Coalition Reaction How will the Council of the EU realise Europe's new ambitions? Proposed cuts to all education, training, research, sports and youth EU programmes

Feasibility Study Survey on national lifelong learning platforms

Erasmus+ Implementation Survey

LLLPLP presented the results of the EU Stakeholders Forum at the **European Education Summit**



policy

LLL, A KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

In 2023, LLLP released eight main statements and reactions on a number of EU policy initiatives to highlight civil society's views on the issues at stake.

On top of these, LLLP produced an insightful position paper on "Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach"

LLL Reaction **European Year of Skills**

LLL Reaction **EU Economic Governance Review and the European Semester 2023**

LLL Reaction **European Semester 2023 Country specific recommendations**

LLL Reaction **to Learners first: education for today's and tomorrow's democratic societies** CoE Strategy

LLL Statement **Children as first lifelong learners**

LLL Statement **Learning mobility for all**

Erasmus+ Coalition Joint Statement
Learning mobility framework

Erasmus+ Coalition Reaction How will the Council of the EU realise Europe's new ambitions?

Key competences for all: a lifelong learning approach

In 2023 within the framework of the European Year of Skills, the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) focused its political efforts in highlighting the **importance of key competences development which learners need to adapt to any future societal challenges.**

The aim of the Position Paper was to consider what learners require to boost their resilience considering the ever-changing world, but also the impact of recent crises such as COVID-19, Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the climate crisis and the rampant digitalisation of societies. The Paper draws terminologically from the 2018 Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning and on the Joint Research Centres' various competence frameworks. **The aim was to focus on the fact that learners do not need only skills, but also knowledge and attitudes if they are to thrive in a sustainable way, while also to promote those transversal competences that very frequently are neglected due to the difficulties of measuring their development.**

The Paper provided a series of recommendations for system-level, provider-level and learner-level changes that can usher a new approach to competence development. The main elements refer to the need for a whole-of-government approach that also includes all education and training stakeholders in the decision making and implementation processes of policies, but also to acknowledging the diversity of learning providers and the competences that learners require to be active participants in their learning journey.

project cooperation

ADVOCACY THROUGH ERASMUS+



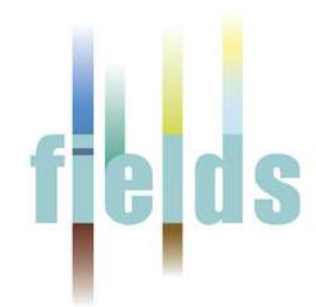
LLLp catalysed the need to make validation processes of transversal skills acquired in non-formal and informal settings explicit. What the project **TRANSVAL-EU** proposes is to experiment innovative approaches for the validation of transversal skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) in five pilot countries.



The **BRIDGE** project supports the European Union aim to bridge the gap between research and policy. The project will address existing gaps between the knowledge and expertise of Higher Education institution-based researchers, practitioners in civil society organisations, and policy-makers, that prevent the effective connection of evidence with policy-making.



The project **COMORELP** mapped and reviewed existing lifelong learning policies in EU regions to develop transnational interregional Policy Lab with educational and training networks.



FIELDS provided strategies and training in the fields of innovation in agriculture and forestry, with particular emphasis on sustainability, digitalisation and bio-economy.



The **Erasmus Career** project seeks to ensure that competences that are gained on mobility contribute to the career prospects of Erasmus+ participants..



DEVISUS aims to create a common ground to evaluate social impact and social utility in the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)



The **iBOX (Inclusion Box)** project aims at ensuring more inclusive organisations, more inclusive education approaches and actions, through a capacity building process to better face and respond to current and future societal challenges.



The vision of the **Inclusive Schools II** project is to significantly increase the knowledge and skills of school leaders, teachers and student teachers to work inclusively with the increasing range of diverse learners in their schools. Taking an inclusive approach means learning environments where every student has an opportunity to succeed.



The project **'Co-operation Youth vote: Enabling future active European citizens'** aims to offer a space for training in the preparation of the 2024 European Parliament election campaigns.



When it comes to higher education, internationalisation and engagement usually compete for resources. **IHES** aims to change this and activate the internationalisation potential for social engagement..

about LLLP

WHO WE ARE

The Lifelong Learning Platform is the unique non-profit umbrella organisation representing European Civil Society for Education. **We bring together 44 European and international organisations active in the field of education and training promoting a holistic approach to education.** Currently, these networks represent more than 50 000 educational institutions and associations covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. We carry out our work and promote the work of our members vis-à-vis European institutions, and beyond.

LLLPP STRUCTURE

LLLPP relies on three main bodies and their tight relation: the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat. The **General Assembly** is the highest body of the association, it defines the annual priorities and objectives of LLLPP and its work programme. Headed by the President, its annual meeting is attended by all the members.

The **Steering Committee** is the administrative body of LLLPP. It is composed of a maximum of nine representatives from the network. The Steering Committee is in charge of the administrative tasks of the association and of the implementation of the work programme adopted by the General Assembly.

The **Secretariat** ensures the day-to-day management of the LLLPP, and it is based in Brussels. LLLPP also relies on a Pool of Experts, which counsels and represents LLLPP on selected topics.

WORKING GROUPS

▶ **WG EU2030**

The **Working Group on EU2030 - Policy Coherence** focused on the mid-term review of the European Education Area, having the European Commission over in our meeting and on the development of the Position Paper and the structuring of the Lifelong Learning Stakeholders' Forum.

▶ **WG VALIDATION TASKFORCE**

The **Validation Task Force** looked at our involvement in the VPL Biennale, promoted consistent comments and looked at European Qualifications Framework. Most of all, it recommends to the elaboration of the Cedefop's European Guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning.

▶ **WG WIDER BENEFITS OF LEARNING**

In 2023 this working group addressed the issue of a lifelong learning approach in early childhood education and care (ECEC). Building on LLLPP's values and mission as well as on previous positions, the WG developed a comprehensive and coherent position on children as first lifelong learners, highlighting the need to implement ECEC policies with a learner-centred, holistic approach and to ensure that all children have access to high-quality ECEC systems. The WG also adopted a new strategic plan for the coming years, choosing to focus its work on citizenship education and wellbeing.

▶ **WG INTERNATIONALISATION OF EDUCATION**

LLLPP gathered its members interested in learning mobility and international cooperation to formulate positions and recommendations for all sectors of education and training. In 2023 the WG focused on the renewed Learning Mobility Framework "Europe on the Move".

OUR MEMBERS



OUR PARTNERSHIPS



LLL P STEERING COMMITTEE



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(SOLIDAR Foundation)



Raffaella Kihrer
General Secretary
(EAEA)



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LLL P would like to wholeheartedly thank for their commitment and work **Giusseppina Tucci, Tamara Gojković, Martina Darmanin** and **Matteo Vespa** who ended their mandates in 2023.

LLL P would like to thank **João Sousa, Andrea Fellini, Belén Duarte, Amer Habayba** and **Laura Guiso** who shared their professional path with the LLLPlatform until 2023 and are now off to new adventures!

LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM

BUILDING TOGETHER THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

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