

LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM

ACTIVITY REPORT



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The LLLPlatform benefits from the financial support of the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the LLLPlatform and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



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In our fast-changing and digitised world, societal and labour market needs are constantly evolving thus making lifelong learning more important than ever. The Lifelong Learning Platform is absolutely vital in developing well-functioning and strong EU policies in this sphere. On behalf of all the EU actors, a big thank you for all your work!



MEP Emilian Pavel Host of the LLLWeek



The Lifelong Learning Platform, bringing together so many organisations and stakeholders in the field of education and training, has been a valuable voice in the debates on EU policy cooperation. Its ambitious plans on how this cooperation should move forward, particularly for the Erasmus+ programme, are exactly what Europe needs to create a bright future for all learners!

Martine Reicherts former Director-General of DG EAC

INTRODUCTORY WORDS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2017 has been a year of momentum: full of challenges and opportunities for the Lifelong Learning Platform, its members, partners, and Europe at large. We celebrated 60 years of the European Union, the proclamation of the of European Pillar of Social Rights, 30 years of Erasmus, and to conclude the year the European Education Area was announced.

The EU is faced with a variety of challenges, including growing mailugog. xenophobia. spreading of fake news, high youth unemployment, as well as the protectionist discourse of some Member States. These phenomena pose a serious threat to our future. As the unique European Civil Society Platform for Education, we believe that high-quality and inclusive lifelong learning is at the heart of the solution to these challenges. This was a view shared throughout 2017 by most Member States, during the 60th anniversary in Rome and the Social Summit in Gothenburg.

To find solutions together, we actively engaged with the European Commission, Parliament and Council of the EU throughout the year. We welcomed the EC's new Agenda for the modernisation of higher education, and look forward to its developments in the years to come. We appreciate the place given to inclusive education and to the impact of digital technologies on education by the Maltese and Estonian Presidencies of the EU - the cornerstone of both our LLLWeek and

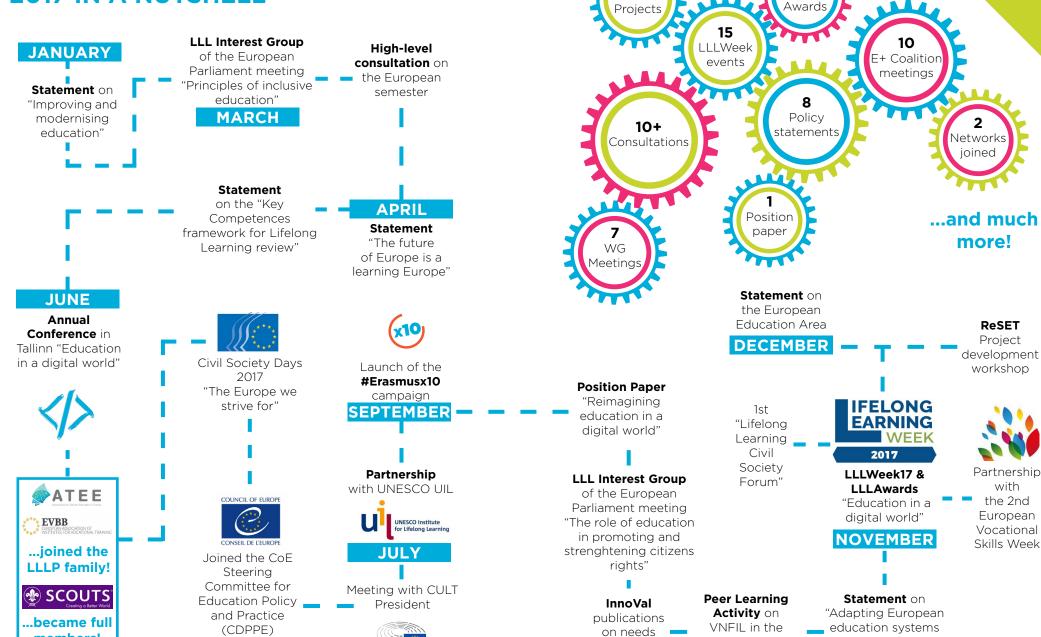


Annual Conference.

With our partners the European Youth Forum and Eurodesk, we also launched the Erasmusx10 Campaign, which has been growing with success, gathering over 100 civil society organisations and stakeholders and thousands of supporters. We also strengthened our ties with UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Finally, our work was given a new impetus thanks to the proposal for a European Education Area.

Drawing from our experience, building on our members' expertise, pooling resources and fighting for what we stand for, we are ready for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. More than ever, education in its universal scope must be recognised as the foundation upon which to build an open and fair society.

2017 IN A NUTSHELL



European Parliament

framework of

EQF

assessment

to society's

challenges"

members!

ABOUT

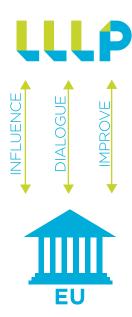
...WHO WF ARE

The Lifelong Learning Platform is the **unique non-profit umbrella organisation** representing European Civil Society for Education that brings together **over 40 European and international organisations active in the field of education and training** promoting a holistic approach to education (lifelong learning systems). These networks represent more than 50 000 educational institutions (schools, universities, VET, adult, youth, volunteers and training centres...) and associations (students, teachers, trainers, parents...) covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning.



VALUES

The LLLPlatform believes education is the key to foster equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. It retains 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. The Platform believes education should not be limited to formal systems but integrates non-formal and informal learning as well. It is essential to raise awareness on the fact that lifelong learning should include a large range of learning settings and create more complementarity and continuity between formal, nonformal and informal learning.



...WHAT WE DO

VISION

The LLLPlatform promotes a **holistic vision of lifelong learning**, "from cradle to grave". By bringing together actors from all sectors and levels of education and training, the LLLPlatform embodies this idea, and contributes to ensuring flexibility - without losing continuity - between formal, non-formal, and informal learning. By encouraging an exchange of knowledge, it aims to build citizens' voices on education and training issues, but also to propose concrete solutions to make lifelong learning a reality for all.

OBJECTIVES

- Pursue an active dialogue with European institutions
- Enable exchanges of best practice, experiences and expertise
- Disseminate information on key issues in the lifelong learning sector
- Organise events and develop activities in transversal lifelong learning topics
- Promote a more democratic, civic and social Europe.



POLICYLLLP, A KNOWLEDGE HUB

POLICY MONITORING

Every month, the LLLPlatform delivers an "Advocacy Newsflash" to its members to inform them about the latest EU policy developments in the field of education and training. This intelligence-gathering service supports members in their own advocacy work. and provides a unique and comprehensive monitoring of policies in education and training. Also, in 2017 the Platform successfully launched the "Call for Action", a new monthly communication aimed at providing information about EU public consultations and gathering views on the LLLPlatform's own activities. It assists members further in planning and delivering their contribution to the EU policy-making process.

LLLP INSIGHTS

In 2017, LLLP has implemented a new thematic newsletter, focusing on one important topic at a time. This item seeks to provide readers with full insights on LLLP's work on said topic, what initiatives its members are implementing, as well as the latest policy developments. On top of that, LLLP keeps on delivering a thorough and informative "External Newsletter", where the most important developments of the month are featured.

WEBINARS

The webinar organised by the LLLPlatform aims to help members and other civil society organisations applying for Erasmus+ grants understand the programme, get informed about the call for proposals and funding opportunities, and last but not least, learn the tips and tricks for successful project applications. After explaining the new Erasmus+ structure, it provides support on how to identify the right call, how to assemble a solid partnership, how to define key performance indicators, and how to organise dissemination and exploitation. It also gives guidelines for time and human resource management, as well as financial planning.

POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS

In 2017 the LLLPlatform released statements on a number of EU policy initiatives to highlight civil society's views on the issues at stake. These included reactions to President Juncker's "White Paper on the Future of Europe", the review of the "Key Competences Framework" and the Commission's Strategy for high quality, inclusive, and future-oriented education. The LLLPlatform also welcomed the ambitious plan for a European Education Area while recalling the need to closely involve all stakeholders in the process.



POLICY FOCUS EDUCATION IN A DIGITAL WORLD

LLLP held its **Annual Conference** in Tallinn, Estonia on 31 May and 1 June, where the Platform's network and other education experts gathered to discuss the implications of the digital age for our education and training systems. The main focus was laid on reducing inequalities through digital technologies in education.

Discussions at the AC informed the LLLP's **position paper** "Reimagining education for the digital age" which aims to raise awareness about challenges and opportunities that digital technologies present for the processes of learning. It highlights how a careful integration of these technologies can foster innovative and inclusive learning.

The **LLLWeek17** sought to develop the topic even further, with the contribution of members and partners. Fifteen events tackled the many facets of "Education in a digital world", from big data to e-learning, from Al to mobility and youth workers. The **LLLAwards17** gathered best practices and contributed to the creation of a knowledge hub.

The LLLPlatform's **Working Group on Digital Learning**, aiming to build Members' capacity to contribute to the EU's digital agenda, met twice to exchange views, experiences and best practices on innovative learning environments, access to ICT and media literacy as well as discuss the ongoing work of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.



2 0 1 7

was a big year for the
Erasmus+ programme, the EU's
flagship programme in education, training,
youth and sports. Celebrations for the Erasmus
30-year anniversary took place throughout the year,
highlighting the programme's various achievements and
positive impact on millions of learners' lives, and the European
Commission was preparing its report on the mid-term evaluation of
the current 2014-2020 programme.

The LLLPlatform released the results of its 2016 **implementation survey** stressing respondents' concerns about diverging implementation of rules by National Agencies, complexity of bureaucratic procedures hindering the access of smaller organisations, and need for additional funding while ensuring a fairer distribution of budget between KAs and specific budget items.

The Platform continued its cooperation with external partners within the **Erasmus+ Coalition**. In September, the Lifelong Learning Platform, European Youth Forum, Eurodesk and other members of the Coalition launched the **"Erasmusx10" Campaign** calling for a 10-times increase to the budget of the Erasmus+ programme, including the need to widen participation among under-represented groups, promote active citizenship and support reforms of national education systems.

The Campaign will continue into 2018 and already achieved a number of successes, gathering support from former Director-General of DG EAC Martine Reicherts, the European Parliament's CULT Committee, and from many external organisations including the European University Association.

The LLLP and the YFJ lead the **Erasmus+ Coalition**, a group of more than 40 European Civil Society Networks active in the field of education, training, youth and sport.



PROJECT COOPERATION

INNOVAL



LLLP is currently coordinating the European project INNOVAL (2016-2018), an Erasmus+ KA2 project aiming to identify innovative and reliable assessment methods that can allow all learners to have a chance at validation, with a special focus on the needs of disadvantaged groups such as refugees, long-term unemployed and early-school leavers. It is directly linked to the 2012 Council Recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning by encouraging Member States to speed up its implementation. The first stage of InnoVal reviewed the state of play of non-traditional assessment methods across Europe, while focusing on the needs of the target groups. The research phase led to the collection of 60 case studies which set the basis for the development and piloting of a training programme on the implementation of innovative assessment methods, organised around Open Educational Materials and targeted at validation practitioners. Partners: Dafni Kek (Greece), EIESP (France), ANESPO (Portugal), EUCEN (Spain), and UCLL (Belgium), Associated partner: Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany)

ODESEA

LLLP is involved in ODESEA (2017-2018), an Erasmus+ KA1 "Staff mobility" project together with its members EAEA and EARLALL. Partners participate in trainings and job shadowing to develop their knowledge and capacity on adult education-related topics.

DIGIT



The LLLPlatform is partner in the EU project 'DIGIT - Boost competences for a responsible use of online identity'. It is funded under Erasmus+ KA2 'Strategic partnerships', will last for two years (2017-2019) and boost digital competences for a responsible use of online identity. The consortium will investigate digital identity implications for adults and provide the necessary educational instruments and supporting tools for adult educators. Two main outputs will be delivered: the "DIGIT Manifesto and Guidelines for adult educators" and the "DIGIT Training Strategy" to ensure consistency between adults needs and training material for adult educators. Partners: INnCREASE (Poland), DomSpain (Spain), DLearn (Italy), Platon (Greece), UPI (Slovenia), Inova (United Kingdom) and the LLLPlatform (Belgium)

COMANITY



In 2017, LLLP joined COMANITY as a partner. COMANITY is an Erasmus+ KA3 'Support for Policy Reform' under the Social inclusion fund, involving nine European partners -Arcola Research (UK), Universidad Internacional de la Rioja (Spain), Comune di Perugia (Italy), Ke.th.E.A. (Greece), Borgorete (Italy), Docklands Outreach (UK), Mind2Innovate (Greece), Documenta (Spain) - over two years (2017-2019). The consortium aims to develop an inclusive learning ecosystem for marginalised and vulnerable young people through the creation of a "community animateur" job position and programme. The community animateur's role will be to bridge the existing gap between young people on the margins and mainstream institutions by acting as a "social mediator". Thus, the project has a twofold ambition: getting youth services to become more engaged with marginalised youth, and viceversa.

PROJECT COOPERATION

THE NETWORK FOR EU PROJECTS

LLLP is in the Advisory Board of the H2020 project Wyred, which seeks to drive the e-participation of young people in policy-making **WYRED Advisorv Board** CAPACITY **BUILDING** EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND with the Flemish Ministry of **Social Economy** 1EMBERS **EXTERNAL** HUB **NETWORKS PROJECT** DEVELOPMENT **WORKSHOP** with the ReSET network LLLP participates in the transnational project of the ESF about lifelong LLLP took a leading role in organising learning strategies in the 3rd project development **European countries** workshop of the ReSET network on "Teachers and trainers of tomorrow"

LLLP NATIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY ON LLL

In 2016, the Lifelong Learning Platform decided to update a previous study (2012 Feasibility study on national stakeholders' Forums) by launching a survey in 5 EU countries (Sweden, Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria). The survey aimed at collecting education stakeholders' views on the context and implementation of lifelong learning strategies in their country and on their interest vis-à-vis the creation of a national lifelong learning platform. This was followed by qualitative interviews with the same stakeholders and led to the writing of a final report to be published in 2018. Results will feed into the



advocacy work of the LLLPlatform towards engaging local, regional and national educational institutions and their staff in the policy-making through cross-sector cooperation and established partnerships.

EQF PEER LEARNING ACTIVITY ON VALIDATION

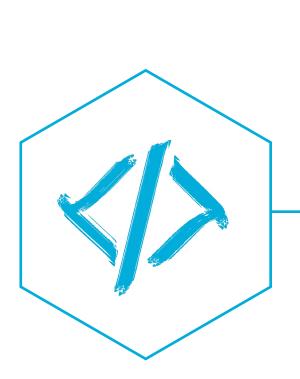
The LLLPlatform organised with partners the EQF AG Peer Learning Activity on "The role of non-governmental stakeholders in implementing the 2012 Recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning" in the Escola de Comércio Lisboa. Around 80 people participated. The PLA was coorganised by EQF AG members LLLPlatform and the European Volunteer Centre



(CEV) in collaboration with CEDEFOP and intended to respond to the fact that a critical success factor for Member States to put in place all arrangements for validation of non-formal and informal learning in Europe is the involvement and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders in the design, implementation, awareness raising and promotion of the systems.

OUR EVENTS

RAISING AWARENESS IN LLL





EESC CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS 2017



In the framework of the EESC Liaison Group for Civil Society, LLLP co-organised on 26 June the Civil Society Days 2017. Titled "The Europe we strive for!", the gathering sought to give new political impulsus to civic dialogue. Together with the European Citizens Action Service (ECAS), LLLP organised a workshop on the future of civil society in e-democracies.

LLLP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

The Annual Conference 2017 took place on **31 May and 1 June in Tallinn**, Estonia, titled "Education in a digital world: reducing inequalities through lifelong learning". The challenge of education in a digital world commands us to open education as widely as possible to include all, through flexible pathways and innovative thinking in order to enable all to adapt to yet unknown developments. The two days in Tallinn have brought us vibrant inputs, valuable contributions and have opened our minds on the main topics (and beyond).

Representatives of the **Maltese and Estonian presidencies** of the Council of the EU, academics and stakeholders gathered on the first day. An inspiring keynote speech was delivered by Dr Mart Laanpere, from Tallinn University, demonstrating the enormous possibilities of the digital revolution in education and learning. A reception to celebrate the **30th anniversary of the Erasmus+programme** concluded the first day.

On 1 June, representatives from DG EAC and from DG EMPL addressed the state of play in education and training from the European Commission's perspective. Together with Prof Tiit Land, rector of Tallinn University, they attempted at answering the topical question.

Participants could then deepen the theme by narrowing down the angle in the **digital fishbowl**. In a circle, participants were called to answer the ultimate question of the two-day event: «is the digitalisation of education contributing to really reducing inequalities?».



LLLP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

LLLP held its General Assembly on 2 June in Tallinn. Important decisions were taken, two working groups took place (EU2020 and Digital Learning), and Members could benefit from a training course on investments in education by Eurydice. **Two new members joined LLLP** (ATEE and EVBB) and one updated its status from associate to full member (WOSM).





LLLWEEK 2017

The LLLPlatform held its 7th Lifelong Learning Week on 20-24 November 2017. The LLLWeek took place in cooperation with the **2nd edition of the European Vocational Skills Week**. The LLLWeek also benefited from the **partnership with the European Youth Forum**, and was **supported by the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU**, as well as the **LLL Interest Group** and the **Youth Intergroup**.

Participants were brought into debates around the main topics of discussion. Discussions took place on the **"Future of Erasmus+"**, on the impact of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, and on the true meaning of **inclusive education**.



LLLP is particularly proud to have organised the **first Lifelong Learning Civil Society Forum**, to address the urgent needs of dialogue between CSOs and the European institutions. The second part of the week was dedicated to exploring **Education in a Digital World**, discovering the implication of the digital revolution.

LIFELONG LEARNING INTEREST GROUP

Initiated by EAEA and the Lifelong Learning Platform together with a number of MEPs, the European Parliament Interest Group on Lifelong Learning brings together civil society representatives and MEPs to discuss key issues connected to lifelong learning with strong emphasis on adult education.

In 2017 the LLL-IG held two very important meetings. On 21 March, it discussed "Principles of inclusiveness for improved and modernised education", addressing the issue of inclusive education systems. In September it held its second meeting of the year, debating "The role of education in promoting and strengthening citizens' rights", and where the Eurpoean Commission presented the report "Recommentation on promoting social inclusion and shared values through formal and non-formal learning".

Towards the end of the year, the LLL-IG presented its mid-term review, with 10 guiding principles for lifelong learning.

LLLAWARDS 2017

During the **LLLWeek Reception** on 21 Nov, LLLP unveiled the winners of the 2nd edition of the LLLAwards. Drum roll for the winners...

- Historiana eLearning by EUROCLIO for "Education and Innovative Pedagogy"
- Learning Circles, by the Peer2Peer University and Centre for Research and Interdisciplinarity, for "Education and Social Inclusion"
- Youth e-Perspective on Migration by ALL DIGITAL for "Education and Democracy"

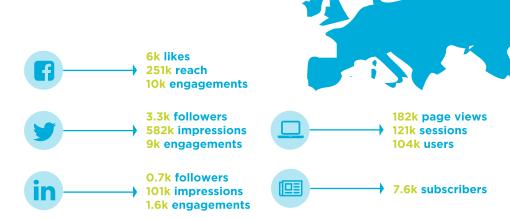


PARTNERSHIPSBROADENING THE HORIZONS





LLLP IN NUMBERSOUTREACH



FUNDING

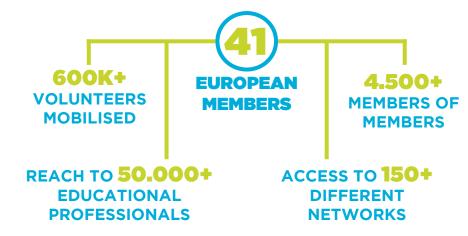
Income	320.944
Grants	247.130
Membership fees	45.025
Others	28.789

Expenditures	318.809
Personnel	223.637
Administration	86.475
Others	8.697



THE PLATFORM

A GROWING NETWORK



ATEE joined the LLLPlatform in 2017, and this proved to be a successful decision. The association benefited from information sharing, strong connections, and an improved credibility. Being a member offered an opportunity to raise the profile of the organisation, to attend high-level meetings, and to give an extra value to our membership.»



Åsa MorbergPresident of ATEE



Lifelong learning very well fits into the holistic concept EVBB and its members pursue in the context of both general and vocational education and training. It is a crucial component in the current debates on education reforms to match present and future demands of the labour markets and to ease the path to more open and flexible education systems validating skills throughout the formal and nonformal education chain. EVBB hopes to show more commitment in

the years to come and to support LLLP and its members in their European activities, particularly in VET related topics. We hope that LLLP can also support EVBB and its members in their advocacy initiatives on the EU level.»

Horst Dreimann Secretary-General of EVBB

THE PLATFORM

OUR MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBERS



Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe



All Digital (formerly Telecentre Europe)



Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe



European Association for the Education of Adults



European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education



European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools



European Distance E-learning Network



European
Educational
Exchanges - Youth
for Understanding



European Federation for Education and Culture



European Forum for Freedom in Education



European Forum for Technical and Vocational Training



European Parents' Association





ASSOCIATE MEMBERS





THE PLATFORM STRUCTURE

The LLLPlatform functions thanks to the collaboration of 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 the Platform and its work programme. Headed by the President, its annual meeting is attended by all its members.



The **Steering Committee** is the administrative body of the LLLPlatform. It is composed of a maximum of nine representatives from the network. The Steering Committee is in charge of the daily 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 LLLPlatform, and it is based in Brussels

WORKING GROUPS

WG EU2020

The LLLP Working Group on Europe 2020 seeks to share expertise on issues related to the Europe 2020 Agenda. The first meeting of the year discussed the Platform's 2018-2020 Advocacy Strategy, while the second focused on sharing updates about the Education and Training Monitor, European Pillar of Social Rights and proposal for a European Education Area. A representative of the Bulgarian EU Presidency also attended this meeting to present its priorities for education.

WG DIGITAL LEARNING

The LLLP Working Group on Digital Learning, aiming to build members' capacity to contribute to the EU's digital agenda, met twice during the year to exchange views, experiences and best practices on innovative learning environments, access to ICT and media literacy as well as to discuss the ongoing work of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, one of the initiatives included in the New Skills Agenda.

WG WIDER BENEFITS OF LEARNING

The LLLP Working Group on Wider Benefits of learning, aiming at providing a space for members to exchange views about wider benefits of learning and elaborate solutions. The WG members met in September to discuss how to address wider benefits of learning from early age such as wellbeing, tackling early childhood education and care. ISSA (International Step by Step Association) shared its INTESYS project results on integrated ECEC systems.

VALIDATION TASK FORCE

The Validation Task Force aims to bring together members and partners (CEV, YFJ, EESC, CEDEFOP) around the topic of validation of non-formal and informal learning. A Peer Learning Activity for the EQF Advisory Group was organised in September on the role of stakeholders in VNFIL. During the LLLWeek the Task Force met to prepare an advocacy plan for VNFIL post 2018 and shared project examples.



OUR PEOPLESTEERING COMMITTEE



David Lopez President SOLIDAR



 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Gina Ebner} \\ \text{EAEA} \end{array}$



Luis Costa Treasurer EfVET



Jean-Marie Dujardin EUCEN



Mare Oja EUROCLIO



Eszter Salamon EPA



Joanna Panakowska AEGEE



Giuseppina Tucci OBESSU



Elected or re-elected on 2 June 2017 Tallinn, Estonia

The LLLPlatform would like to thank Brian Jurczik-Arnold, Andras Szucs, and Daniele Di Mitri, who terminated their mandates in 2017

SECRETARIAT



Brikena Xhomaqi Director



Ulla-Alexandra Mattl Programme and Partnerships Manager



Andrea Lapegna Communication and Campaign Officer



Andrew ToddPolicy and
Advocacy Officer



Pauline Boivin
Project and
Policy
Officer



Maria Farruggia Administrative Assistant



Georgios
Triantafyllou
Project Officer

The LLLPlatform would like to thank Claudia Engstrom McKenny and Alen Maletic, who after several years left LLLP in 2017 for new challenges. A big thank you as well to Peter Hunor, Project Assistant, and to Dasa Koribanicova, Research and Policy Assistant in different moments of 2017.



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