



Organiser: LLLP, EAEA

When: 1 December - 14.30 - 16.00

[Register here before November 26th](#)

Lifelong Learning Interest Group - Funding Education for Wellbeing

Concept

Education and training are considered key to addressing the Twin Transitions, labour-market changes, and for broader societal issues for instance related to digital media literacy too. However, education and training institutions and providers will only be able to deliver on these expectations if there are the means to do so. Huge gaps exist and have been further exposed by the Covid-19 crisis, spanning from teacher shortages to digital learning divides, poor infrastructure, underachievement and early leaving, socio-economic inequalities, among others. Overcoming these challenges will require robust investment and public expenditure in public services such as education and training.

Yet, governments tend to shy away from solid investments in the field of education, this can be seen for instance from the 2018 ['Boosting Investment in Social Infrastructure in Europe'](#) report highlighted an investment gap of EUR 1,5 trillions in social infrastructure and services for the period between 2018 and 2030, including education, training. While [Eurostat reported in 2019](#) that the EU average for spending in education is on average 4.7% of the country's GDP (with considerable differences amongst Member States and amongst the education sector and level), this share is [constantly decreasing](#).

Considering this, how can the EU support Member States in improving their E&T systems, advancing the skills of their populations, and ensuring equal access to quality education? How can EU funds and programmes, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility be used in efficient and effective ways that respond to the true needs of society and that take into account a holistic lifelong learning approach?

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health and wellbeing. Moreover, it has undeniably had a considerable impact on people's wellbeing, with alarming figures on the decline of mental health of young people but also older generations¹. Education and training can have a positive influence on learners' and educators' wellbeing when policies are holistic and adequate funding is provided - the latter having been demonstrated as a big challenge across the European Union. In European policy discourse, there is a lack of discussions on how to ensure the wellbeing and resilience of learners and educators alike in the context of lifelong learning - this can include educational policies on wellbeing, adequate and stable funding for sports, health education, and

¹ European Parliament, 2020, Mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, [here](#)

other activities contributing to wellbeing; but just as importantly on educators' capacity building for their own health and that of their students.

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
 - LLL Interest Group Chair MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen
- Panel
 - Ema Perme, Slovenian Presidency Representative
 - Dr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO Director for Lifelong Learning Policies
 - Dorota Sienkiewicz, Eurohealthnet
- Open discussion facilitated by LLLP President Giuseppina Tucci
- The OECD perspective on funding for wellbeing
 - Andreas Schleicher, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills OECD
- Q&A
- Closing remarks
 - MEP Radka Maxova
- Wrap-up
 - Susana Oliveira Vice-President LLLP