



Making the European Education Area a reality: state of affairs, challenges and prospects

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1. From Utopia to Policy

Historical perspectives and early achievements

- Europe as a common educational space: a vision dating back before the twentieth century
- Significant achievements since the 1980s: Erasmus, Bologna Process, European Higher Education Area

The Commission's 2017-2018 vision of creating a European Education Area by 2025

- Remove a number of barriers to allow for better flows of learners, teachers and knowledge
- Contribute to the emergence of a European identity and the strengthening of European citizenship

2. Four Flagship Initiatives

European Universities

- A well-received initiative that prompted a large number of reactions (inclusion, financial sustainability)

European Student Card

- A project positively perceived despite implementation difficulties (data protection, digital issues and cost)

Mutual recognition of diplomas

- A room for progress through digitisation despite the difficulties encountered with existing schemes

Improved language learning

- A focus on primary and secondary education but a limited reaction across the education community

3. Towards a More Ambitious Strategy

Communication on “achieving the European Education Area by 2025”

- 6 dimensions
- 46 proposals for action
- Emphasis on gender equality green transition, geopolitical dimension; less prominence given to “European identity”, media literacy
- An “enabling framework”



Quality in education and training



Teachers and trainers



Inclusion and gender equality



Higher education



Green and digital transitions



Geopolitical dimension



4. Recommendations – Strategy

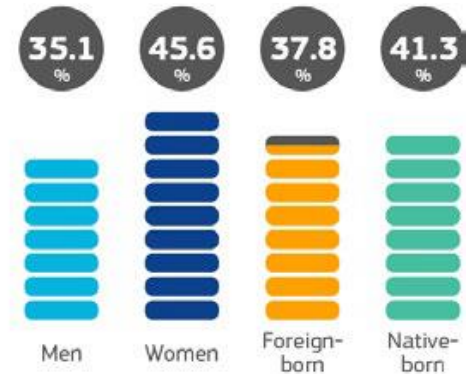
Implementation strategy and evaluation framework

- Set up a consistent and concrete implementation strategy and draw up a comprehensive evaluation framework, consistent with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”), in order to monitor progress and identify shortcomings in the implementation of EEA initiatives.

Underachievement in



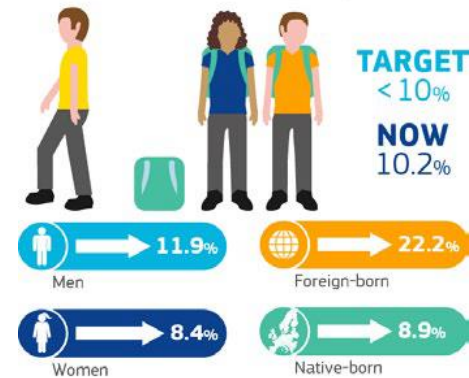
Tertiary educational attainment (age 30-34)
TARGET 40%
NOW 40.3%



Early childhood education (age 4+)



Early leavers from education and training (age 18-24)



4. Recommendations – Strategy

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Geographical scope

- Provide clarifications on the geographical scope of the EEA, taking into account current good practices in the Erasmus+ Programme and the implementation of the Bologna Process.

5. Recommendations – Governance

Actors

- Clarify governance arrangements with regard to the type of participation required from MS and other levels of government, including local and regional authorities.

Stakeholders and society

- Specify the level of involvement expected from stakeholders and engage further with representatives of sectors that have so far been underrepresented.

Synergies

- Elaborate on how to ensure synergies between the governing bodies of the EEA, the ERA and the EHEA.

6. Recommendations – Policy Priorities

Media literacy

- Foster media literacy at all stages of learning as a central means of empowering responsible European citizens.

Academic and pedagogical freedom

- Establish the principle of academic and pedagogical freedom as a core principle of the EEA.

Inclusiveness

- Foster inclusiveness in the broadest sense of the term, in order to support the participation of disadvantaged learners.

European education

- Strengthen a distinct European dimension in students' curricula and teachers' training.

Thank you for your attention!

