

Consultation on the Future European Programme on Education and Training (Lifelong Learning Programme)

EUCEN proposes the following pertaining to a future LLL programme, which concern partly political and partly administrative/financial issues:

1. POLITICAL ISSUES

1.1 Dialogue and Cooperation

In order to support and enhance LLL in Europe, we believe in further development and strengthening of the dialogue and co-operation, co-thinking and collaboration between the various sectors of European LLL (Adult learning, Higher Education, Vocational education and training). There is a need for more cooperation between these sectors as well as between universities/institutions and the LLL units.

1.2 Programmes and Projects

- Future programmes should balance better the focus on the labour market and the focus on social responsibilities. As it is now there is a need for projects that are less labour market driven.
- The programmes should give more space for networks and better articulated criteria for network projects.
- The LLL programme should be prepared to support risk taking projects. Innovation always implies risks, which means that there is a need for being allowed to not always succeed in the projects and to learn from this outcome.
- The proposals, contracts and assessments are much too focused on measurable issues. Merely quantitative measures do not show qualitative impacts of project work.

- Projects are now awarded separately without taking into account the results of other previous or parallel projects. In future there must be articulation and exchange of experience between projects. The LLL programme should include more deep analysis of projects' results in order to capitalize on former project outcomes and impact. (CEDEFOP's practice concerning EQF shows examples of good practice concerning such articulation between projects.)
- It is important to have more projects that concentrate on the learner.
- The new programme should foresee the sustainability of the results of projects. For instance when a relevant website is created, it would be necessary to have some guarantee that a follow up project would be granted to ensure maintenance and updating.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Today there is often a discrepancy on the one hand between the points submitted and accepted in the proposal and the actual rules stipulated in the project contract, and on the other hand between the proposals/bids and what is required by evaluators to be covered in the reports.
 - The management process of the agency (EACEA) is mainly focused on financial and administrative issues, while in the future it would be desirable and more beneficial to focus equally or more on content and impact of projects. For instance, the national networks' experiences and shared knowledge are not easily measured.
 - It is not completely clear how evaluators/experts are selected for a specific project and what their methods and criteria for assessment are. This process of selection of evaluators/experts should be more transparent.
 - There is also a need for a formal appeal procedure in relation to evaluation results.
-

Barcelona, 25 November 2010