

Annex

1. Mobilising funding

As part of the 2017 **Erasmus+** budget, the Commission will be proposing to further pursue the priority focus of 2016 through both mainstreaming and dedicated action supporting the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

2. Better knowledge and policy support

The Commission will create a better knowledge base, reinforce the collection of evidence at EU level to support Member States and provide reinforced policy support related to inclusive education as well as the teaching of social and civic competences. This will be done, in particular through:

- Developing a **policy framework for promoting inclusion and fundamental values through education** and an **online-compendium of good practices**, as part of the ET2020 Working Group on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education. The objective is to provide concrete guidance to policy-makers and practitioners on the ground through practical tools, which consolidate the available knowledge on promoting inclusive education and fundamental values;
- The annual **Education and Training Monitor**¹, which captures the evolution of Europe's education and training systems by bringing together a wide array of evidence in one report;
- A newly launched study on **citizenship education across Europe** to be undertaken by the **Eurydice** network of the Commission, which will provide a comprehensive overview of the structure, content, and practice of citizenship education in Member States (2017).

3. Teachers and schools

Schools can make a major contribution to inclusion and better prospects in life. It is here that young people from different backgrounds can come together and sow the seeds for mutual trust and respect in society. Apart from developing a wide set of skills, schools can be an environment where diversity is seen as an asset and can be experienced by everyone, where controversial issues can be openly debated and where fundamental values are understood and embraced. Teachers have a key role: they need to be prepared to see diversity as an opportunity in the classroom. The Commission will boost support mechanisms to schools and educators, notably through:

- Enhancing the use of **eTwinning**², connecting teachers and classrooms across Europe, to step up support to teachers and foster exchanges, in particular with the aim of promoting fundamental values and citizenship. The online e-Twinning platform has already reached 300.000 teachers and is the largest teachers network in the world. eTwinning will be further deployed in some strategic third countries to foster intercultural dialogue among teachers and pupils from an early age.
- Establishing a network of **Ambassadors for Inclusion** under the Erasmus+ programme to allow direct contacts of positive role models for young people, such as entrepreneurs, artists, sportspersons, as well as formerly radicalised people. Thanks to EU funding, those Ambassadors would go to schools, youth and sport clubs and prisons to speak and bond with young people.
- Expanding the **European Toolkit for Schools**³, which is a new online platform, offering good practice examples and resources on how to introduce collaborative approaches in schools to improve inclusiveness and achieve success for all. It will be further developed during 2016 to include additional functionalities and translations in all EU languages;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/et-monitor_en.htm

² <https://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/index.htm>

³ www.schooleducationgateway.eu/europeantoolkitforschools

- Encouraging more **teacher training courses** on citizenship education through Erasmus+. The objective is to empower teachers in dealing with today's more diverse classrooms and in bringing into practice the Paris Declaration principles, with particular attention for promoting inclusion, fundamental values, civic and social competences and non-violence;

4. Universities

Students and staff of higher education institutions play an important role in engaging with their communities through institutional and grass-root initiatives and by providing spaces for discussion. The Commission encourages higher education institutions to **award credits for volunteering** and to **develop curricula that combine academic content with civic engagement**. Some institutions already allocate credits for volunteering and civic engagement during or following an Erasmus mobility stay. The Commission will provide opportunities to share good practices on these topics.

5. Youth work, volunteering and virtual exchanges

Youth work is a particularly powerful tool as it can reach out to the most vulnerable young people and bridge the gap between society and individuals in need of support. Participation in youth work brings tangible benefits not only to society, but also to the individuals involved, since it helps develop a series of skills and competences, including empathy, tolerance and civic responsibility. The Commission will therefore step up support to youth workers and organizations in particular through:

- **Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges** to promote online engagement with young people inside and outside the EU with the aim of reaching 200,000 young people by 2019. These virtual Erasmus+ exchanges would connect young people from Europe, the Middle East and Africa and provide a structured platform for cross-cultural awareness, understanding and cooperation, run by trained moderators.
- Developing a **specific toolkit**, with practical guidance, methods and case studies for training youth workers and youth organisations to reach out and work with young people at risk of marginalization (2016). It will include methods to improve resilience of young people, to detect signs of violent radicalization and to handle conflicts in a non-violent way to be adapted to the specific local environments and needs. The toolkit will be developed by the expert group on the contribution of youth work to fostering active citizenship, preventing marginalisation and radicalization;
- Strengthening the **European Voluntary Service**⁴. For 2016, priority will be given to support projects promoting diversity, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, common values of freedom, tolerance and respect of human rights, and to projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and sense of initiative of young people. The Commission will also open the Service to an even broader range of young people and organisations building upon its increased budget as from 2017 onwards;
- **Reinforcing support to grass-root youth projects** in Erasmus+. The Commission will step up its efforts to involve new actors, such as municipalities, allowing the scaling-up of local initiatives within larger cross-border partnerships;

6. Sport

Participating in sport can be an effective way of integrating into a community and developing a sense of belonging. In addition to the many positive values sports conveys, it can be a safety net for young people not in education or employment and on the margins of society. Supporting local actors who promote inclusion through sport, especially in the most deprived areas, is of crucial importance. The Commission will therefore promote successful and innovative projects through a **European Award for social inclusion in sport** (2017).

⁴ https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering_en