

The Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL-P)

<http://lllplatform.eu/>

The Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL-P) is an umbrella organisation that gathers 40 European networks active in the field of education and training, coming from all EU Member States and beyond. Currently these organisations represent more than 50 000 educational institutions (schools, universities, adult education and youth centres, etc.) or associations (involving students, teachers and trainers, parents, HRD professionals, etc.) covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. Their members reach out to several millions of beneficiaries.

Established in 2005, LLL-P promotes a vision of lifelong learning based on equity, social cohesion, active citizenship and personal development. The platform works as a space for knowledge exchange between its member networks and uses their expertise to discuss and feed in EU policy-making, making sure that European citizens have their voice heard. In that sense LLL-P contributes to a better understanding and dialogue between the grassroots level and European institutions.

The Lifelong Learning Platform acknowledges the importance of the common framework of crucial competences for life across Member States, presenting a step forward to a holistic approach to education and training. Overall, the Platform stresses the need for further synergies and a better alignment with other existing frameworks and research, such as from the OECD, Council of Europe and the ICCS study. Languages are a key competence on learning how to communicate in one's mother tongue and foreign languages.

While the Commission continues to promote multilingualism under several of its programmes, in particular the Erasmus+ programme, the LLL-P notices that the EU has, in recent years, considerably scaled down its activity to promote languages as a key aspect of the European project. Therefore LLL-P advocates for a Europe where intercultural dialogue and language learning are put back on the agenda because they greatly contribute to successfully tackling the current challenges we are facing.

LLL-P believes that the EU multilingualism policy should not only focus on its employability assets. A strong EU multilingualism policy is also a key tool to foster a shared European identity and to make the EU public space more democratic. Furthermore, in the light of the refugee arrivals, it is key to assure the respect for language diversity and the support for lesser-used languages as a fundamental value at the heart of the EU identity as outlined in the Charter for Fundamental rights (adopted in 2001). Just like the Paris Declaration (March 2015), calls for "more inclusive societies through education", LLL-P believes it is high time to recognize to power of language learning to build a stronger European union.