



RESOLUTION:

PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
In Zagreb, Croatia, on the 7th of March 2015

Recognising:

- Education & training are a cross-section of many socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing Europe;
- The framework of European cooperation should remain flexible enough to respond to both current and future challenges in this field;
- Early school leaving creates a higher risk of unemployment¹;
- Early leavers are less likely to be active citizens: they participate less in elections and other democratic processes, furthermore they may run a higher risk of anti-social behaviour²;
- Based on a French report by the General Inspection of the Ministry of Education, the cost of each student leaving education & training early is estimated to be between €220,000 and €230,000 through his/her lifetime³;
- In order to prevent early school leaving, the Hungarian Government is ready to launch a new school system: the nine-year elementary school in order to improve the public education and prevent early-school leaving⁴;
- Two of the V4-countries have changed their education system: the nine-year school in the Czech Republic and "6+3" in Poland;
- Unpaid and poor quality internships which do not offer a possibility of employment demotivate youth to continue their education.

¹ In 2013, the unemployment rate amongst early leavers across the EU was 41% (European Commission, 2014)

² http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/empl/dv/empl20150226_earlyschooleaving_cedefop_/empl20150226_earlyschooleaving_cedefop_en.pdf

³ Armand, Bisson-Vaivre & Lhermet, 2013

⁴ <http://www.szeretlekmagyarorszag.hu/johet-a-9-osztalyos-altalanos-iskola/>

Acknowledging:

- In order for Europe to become the most competitive, knowledge-based economy in the world, quality education & training must play an essential role;
- Lifelong learning should be regarded as a fundamental principle and should be treated at all levels: from early childhood education to higher education, vocational education, training and adult learning;
- In order to enhance the efficiency of education & training systems, financial resources from the European Structural Funds should be used properly;
- Better education can lead to a series of positive outcomes related to employment, higher salaries, better health, higher social cohesion, lower public and social costs.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to stop funding the non-functioning Youth Guarantee program⁵ and replace it with a more realistic proposal;
- National governments to make learning more attractive in general: not only with new forms of learning but also with new teaching and learning technologies;
- National governments to pay greater attention to raise the level of basic skills such as literacy and numeracy;
- While fully respecting the competences of Member States, YEPP encourages them to carry out their own strategy to fight against early school leaving in order to reduce unemployment rates;
- National governments to improve apprenticeship schemes and to support dual education systems.
- EU to push all Member States to encourage paid traineeships in public and private sector with the possibility of employment.

⁵ Young people under 25 get a good-quality concrete offer within 4 months of them leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The good-quality offer should be for a job, apprenticeship, traineeship or continued education and be adopted to each individual need and situation. (European Commission)