



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

European Conference

**Closing the empowerment gap through citizenship education  
How to address educationally disadvantaged groups**

17 – 19 November 2011

Warsaw, Poland

## Report

### Networking Panel II

**From Lifelong Learning to Education for Europe - Citizenship  
Education and Human Rights Education as an issue in the new  
multi-annual financial framework of the European Union**

**by Anne Stalfort**

Humanity in Action/ DARE Network (Germany)

**Panelists:**

Mr Richard Deiss, DG European Commission, DG Education and Culture (Indicators Unit)

**Moderation:**

Györgyi Toth, Active Citizenship Foundation (Hungary)

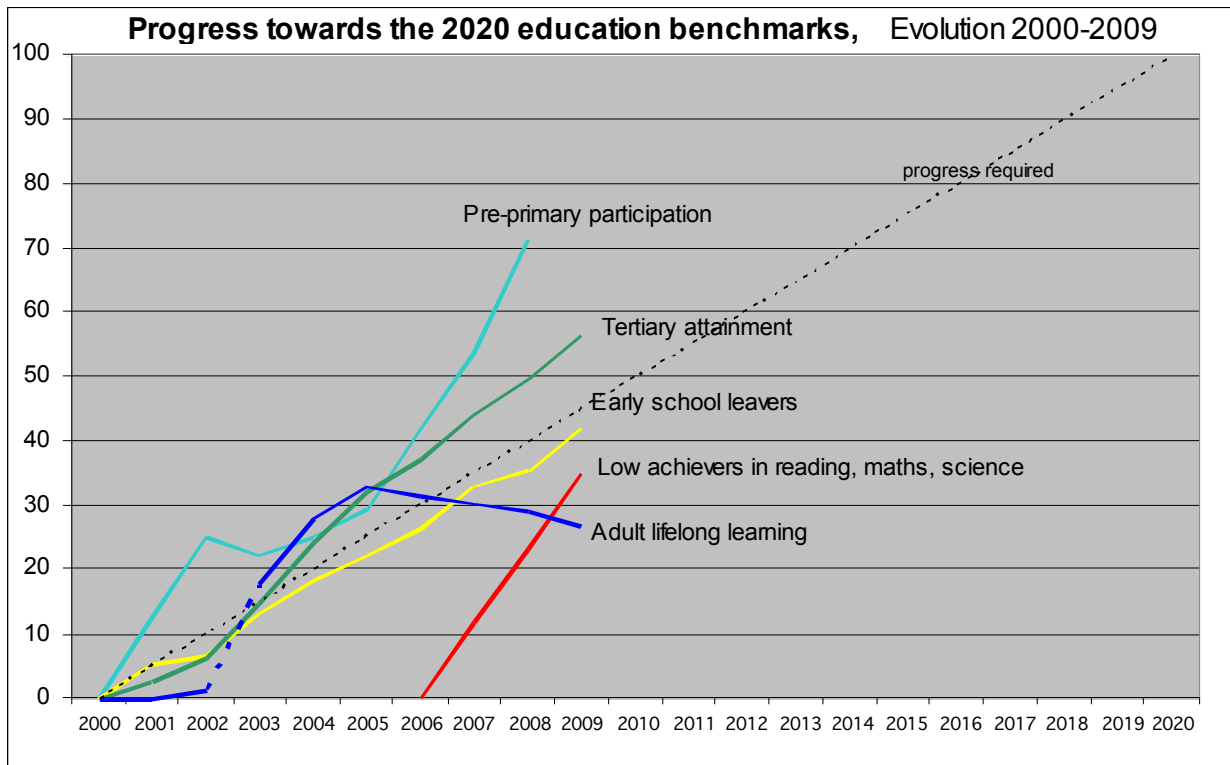
Unfortunately, Aydan Iyngüengör cancelled her participation, so the structure of the networking panel had to be readjusted. Mr Deiss gave a detailed presentation on lifelong learning and citizenship issues reflected in current and future EU policies and grant programmes. Ms Toth moderated the Questions and Answers session.

Starting with the Lisbon Strategy (2000) and ending with Europe 2020 strategy, Mr Deiss presented essential policy papers related to issues of citizenship education and benchmarks of “Education and Training 2020 – ET 2020” as detailed in the Council Conclusions of May 2007. The following five benchmarks are currently used:

- 95% Participation in early childhood education (4+)
- 15% Low performers in PISA (reading, math and science)
- 10% Early school leavers (18-24)
- 40% tertiary completion (30-34)
- 15% Lifelong learning participation (25-64)

Three more benchmarks are currently being developed: mobility, employability, languages. Council conclusions related to the latter can be expected.

The progress towards these benchmarks gives a somehow inconsistent picture:



Another issue of concern for the audience was related to the data presented from the IEA International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS study, undertaken by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement IEA). In this survey 22 EU countries participated. The European module was developed with the help of Commission researchers (CRELL, Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning). European module results were published in autumn 2010. The study builds on a previous study of civic education (CIVED) undertaken in 1999. Compared with CIVED, ICCS results show a slight decline in competence since 1999 in many countries.

Mr Deiss announced that the next survey is planned for 2016. The audience welcomed the possibility to include new areas like financial competence.

Regarding the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Active Citizenship in Education (March 2011, Hungary, coinciding with the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the European Union), Mr Deiss reported on the following recommendations:

- Strengthening of EU cooperation in the field of active citizenship education”
- Importance of financial literacy and entrepreneurship
- Need to resolve the issue of school bullying.
- Active citizenship education should appear among the priority areas for the next work cycle of "ET 2020".

Nevertheless, he stressed that unfortunately there was little to no follow-up on these recommendations yet.



Concerning the continuation of the Europe for Citizens grant programme, Mr Deiss informed the audience that there will be a new programme architecture with two strands - plus valorisation as a transversal dimension:

- Remembrance and European citizenship
- Democratic engagement and civic participation.

All actions which can be funded under the current programme can also be funded under the next generation of the programme, but the Commission will give preference to more structured forms of work plans.

#### “Erasmus for All” grant programme 2014-2020

This new programme will bring together the currently separate sub-programmes of the Lifelong Learning Programme, the international aspects of Higher Education, inclusive Erasmus Mundus, and Youth in Action. It aims for greater efficiency, a stronger strategic focus and for synergies between the various aspects of the programme. The focus will be on developing the skills and mobility of human capital. One of the specific objectives is the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe.

Several experts in the audience expressed their criticism about the EU Youth Programme losing its independence. They argued for the preservation of a programme anchored in youth policy (strengthening of active citizenship and engagement of young people in democracy) instead of an overall orientation towards the economic strategy “Europe 2020”, stripping the Youth programme of its citizenship element. According to a member of the audience, European youth organisations have already expressed these concerns towards the European Commission, but received no answer so far.

Participants also gave voice to concerns regarding the bank guarantee requirement. A bank guarantee - covering the amount of the whole first pre-payment – requires that an applicant organisation provides significant assets as bankable collaterals. Therefore, in practice small and medium-sized NGOs are excluded from the group of potential applicants to LLP grants, because by their very nature they are unable to provide these collaterals.

The session ended with an appeal to Mr Deiss to communicate these concerns to the European Commission, especially to Ana Serador (DG Education and Culture, Unit A2 „Equal Opportunities and Equity”) who initially intended to participate in this networking panel.