



PRIORITY SECTOR  
Innovation, Research,  
Education and  
Competitiveness

## Programme area n°3 Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship

### OBJECTIVE

Enhanced human capital and knowledge base

### AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Institutional cooperation at all levels of education between donor and beneficiary countries
- > Enhancing the quality and relevance of education and training in the beneficiary countries at all levels of education
- > Cooperation and partnerships between education, research and the world of work
- > Traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements
- > Youth entrepreneurship
- > Improving adult participation in lifelong learning
- > Professional development of teachers
- > Higher education student learning mobility and staff mobility between donor and beneficiary countries

### SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Joint projects with national and regional partners as well as donor countries
- > Exchange of knowledge and best practice between stakeholders and professional networks
- > Public awareness-raising
- > Curriculum development and development of joint programmes and degrees
- > Integration of new technologies in education and training, and new modes of teaching and training
- > Skills for job potential
- > Sharing innovative solutions for inspiring and recruiting young people to studies, work or entrepreneurships
- > Fostering youth entrepreneurship in and through education and training
- > Inclusive education: addressing the needs of disabled people and socio-economic disparities in access, retention and completion of education
- > Projects supporting synergies between research, education and the world of work
- > Support for public-private partnerships
- > Developing and supporting quality dual learning, trainee, apprenticeship and work placement systems
- > Recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education and training
- > Training of teachers and trainers, staff exchanges and job shadowing
- > Higher education student and staff mobility

## RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Cooperation within the fields of education and research is an objective shared by all European countries. The significance of transnational cooperation has been highlighted as part of the development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Strategic Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training 2020 (ET2020), as well as the Copenhagen process aimed at improving vocational education and training (VET).

Investment in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning is one of the key objectives of the EU cohesion policy. Increasing both the quality and relevance of education/training at all levels has been identified as crucial in regard to this objective. Reinforcing the link between education, research and innovation, and the world of work, is a key driver for growth and job creation. Having a work force that possesses the required skills is essential both for growth and employment, especially of young people. The transition from education and training to employment for young people can be stimulated through targeted schemes such as quality dual learning, traineeships, apprenticeships, and work placements. Valuable skills can also be promoted through measures that support youth entrepreneurship.

Education plays a key role in ensuring social inclusion, fostering personal development, critical thinking, citizenship skills, and democratic attitudes and values, which are also priorities of ET2020. European Education Ministers have highlighted that education and training's mission of developing intercultural competencies, fostering dialogue and acceptance of differences of opinion, convictions and beliefs is key to combating intolerance and discrimination, and to providing a sustainable response to the growing threat of radicalisation leading to violent extremism.

International mobility as part of education and training can improve students' career options and provide skills needed for the EU/EEA job market. Despite increased EU funding through Erasmus+, there is still a need for additional funding to provide this opportunity to a larger number of students from all socio-economic backgrounds. As part of ET2020, a set of indicators and reference levels have been agreed on early school-leaving, higher education completion, basic skills, early childhood education, lifelong learning, transition to the labour market and mobility between countries.

In the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU has set the following targets to be reached on average by 2020: at least 20% of higher education graduates and 6% of VET should have undertaken a study or training period abroad; 40% of people aged 30 – 34 should have a higher education attainment; at least 15% of adults should participate in lifelong learning; the share of employed graduates should be at least 82% three years after graduation; and the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10%. The EEA and Norway Grants support the beneficiary countries in contributing to these average targets.

## PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > All programmes shall address gender disparities in education and training
- > Priority shall be given to bilateral partnerships offering added value
- > All programmes shall address inclusive education

## BILATERAL INTEREST

The donor and beneficiary countries share common challenges in the education sector. Programme and project cooperation and mobility of students and staff are encouraged in order to support learning, knowledge development and sharing of best practice.