

**Attended events October - November 2014**

# Education, training and youth forum

Brussels, 9-10 October 2014

Carine De Smet attended this event.

The final report of ETY Forum 2014 is now [available](https://education-training-youth-forum.teamwork.fr/en/documents).

# Thematic seminar on early school leaving in Europe and in Belgium

Brussels, 24 October 2014

Eveline Reusens (Vlor) attended this event.

Below you will find the links to the web pages containing the programme of the Seminar as well as the ppt's used for the presentations:

FR: <http://ec.europa.eu/belgium/events/141024_education_fr.htm>

An electronic copy of the Report of the Thematic Working Group on Early School Leaving distributed during the seminar can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/doc/esl-group-report_en.pdf>

The Council's Country-Specific Recommendations to Belgium and the background material underpinning these recommendations can be consulted via this link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm>

# VET – Safe port for youth and business!

Porto, 22-25 October 2014

Manuel Miguéns (CNE) attended this event.

The [European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET)](http://www.efvet.org/) invited EUNEC to its Annual Conference. This years’ theme recognizes that VET Institutions cannot meet the skills challenges alone.  Greater collaboration and engagement with the business community is crucial, combining both theoretical and practical training in the workplace.

[Programme, speakers and presentations](http://www.efvet.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=3&Itemid=18)

# Information day on the Erasmus+ Key Activity 3 ‘Support for policy reform’

Brussels, EACEA, 4 November 2014

Carine De Smet attended this event.

The information day is organized to present the call for Proposal EACEA/31/2014 for Civil Society Organizations active in the field of Education and Training (Lot 1).

**Opening address by Ute Haller-Block, Head of Unit ‘Higher Education – Knowledge Alliances, Bologna Support, Jean Monnet, EACEA.**

* Introduction on the objectives of the day
* Invitation to address EACEA for any support through the functional mailbox

**Presentation of the policy context by Fiorella Perotto, Deputy Head of Unit, ‘Education and training in Europe 2020 governance, DG EAC.**

Ms Perotto mainly refers to the vision in the political guidelines of Juncker: a new Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change, and the new way of working with 7 vice-presidents breaking the silos mentalities. Note: all the vice-presidents are former prime ministers. There is a specific passus very relevant for our kind of organizations: ‘(..) in dialogue with citizens, by presenting and communicating our common agenda, listening to ideas and engaging with stakeholders’.

The portfolio of Navracsics shows important differences with the portfolio of Androulla Vassilliou. VET, adult learning, skills and qualification moved to Thyssen, commissionner for employment. This has important implications for the governments, for the stakeholders, for the Commission. The new structure of the Commission is to be approved in November and will enter into force on 1 January 2015. Cooperation between DG EAC and DG EMPL will have to be enhanced, this process already started.

Responsibilities of Navracsics are on the commissioners website. One of his responsibilities is to outreach to Erasmus+ beneficiaries.

Attention for New Cohesion Policy that will have to be implemented by the Member States, with a thematic objective (n° 10), related to education and training. The implementation of this policy will be based on two relatively new principles:

* Thematic concentration: Member States will have to focus and concentrate funding on some main priorities.
* Ex-ante conditionalities: the award of funding is linked to clear policy priorities, for example on the CSR related measures.

A handbook is to be published on synergies between the European Structural Funds and other funding programmes such as Erasmus+, Horizon 2020. The aim of the handbook is to guide member states.

**Helle Skytte, Policy Officer ‘Education and training in Europe 2020 governance’, DG EAC, explains how the call is in line with the policy priorities explained by Ms Perotto.**

Two elements assure that cooperation with stakeholders will be reinforced:

* The Juncker Guidelines stress the importance of dialogue with stakeholders
* The portfolio of Navracsics includes outreach to Erasmus+ beneficiaries

The general objectives of the call remain the same, with very little linguistical corrections. The general objectives are clear and stable, and stay in line with the new Commission priorities, in the Juncker guidelines:

* Raise awareness of EU policy agendas: Europe 2020, ET 2020, ..;
* Increase stakeholder commitment and cooperation with public authorities for the implementation of policies and reforms in the fields of education and training (such as the CSR);
* Boost stakeholder participation in the field of education, training and youth;
* Boost stakeholder involvement in the dissemination of policy and Programme actions and results of good practice among their membership and beyond.

The specific objectives

* Promoting excellence and innovation
* Tackling the low-skills trap
* Supporting a new generation of education
* Recognizing and valuing competences

These priorities are identical to the titles of the four workshops of the Education, Youth and Training Forum. The reports of those working groups will be available and can serve as support material for the applications.

Applicants need to address at least two of the four specific objectives. This is very important! Work plans of applicants will have to be innovative, creative and targeted. Eligible activities should be directly linked to both the general and specific objectives. Look at how to get a maximum impact out of the investment and the efforts. Impact not only at EU-level, but also at national, regional and local level. Don’t focus on all sub-objectives, it is impossible to realize this, there will be no impact at all.

Award criteria show that focus is on relevance, impact, dissemination and sustainability.

**Submission and selection procedures, by Nihal Yildirim (replacing Cristina Camaiani, Project Advisor ‘Higher Education – Knowledge Alliances, Bologna Support, Jean Monnet’, EACEA).**

How to create an ECAS acount (= necessary to see the eform)?

First have an ECAS account, then register in the participant portal. There is only one PIC per organization. (Link to participants portal on the main page of EACEA website, on the bottom).

The declaration on the honour has to be sent together with the eform, all the other annexes have to be sent by email.

**Luciano di Fonzo, Programme coordinator ‘Erasmus+ sport and youth cooperation, dialogue, Brussels-Link, Studies’, EAC, informs on the new system of simplified grants.**

A simulation has been made based on the grants received in past applications.

Calculation of the grant based on

* Personnel
* Statutory meetings

For personnel we have to introduce the number of personnel and the number of statutory meetings (multiplying the unit value per meeting by the estimated number of statutory meetings). Both multiplications are added, and the grant is limited to a maximum amount of 125.000 euro. There is no co-financing percentage.

Personnel means 1FTE = 220 days. Employment has to be demonstrated; this is possible in three different ways (information in the ppt of Mr Di Fonzo). Subcontracting, volunteering and contribution in kind will not be considered to be personnel.

Per FTE applicants receive 12.925 euro, per statutory meeting about 18.000 euro. To prove at the end, in the reporting phase:

* Personnel: payslips, invoices interim agencies, timesheets, ..
* Statutory meetings: reference of the statutes, invitation, agenda, minutes, signed list of participants. Meetings will have to be real face to face meetings.

If the grant received is not spent, what happens? If they discover after three years that organizations make profit, rules will be reviewed. At the moment, EACEA funds on the basis of staff and of statutory meetings. It’s up to the organizations to decide on what the grant will be spent. A detailed budget of all expenses will not have to be sent. But an annual account will be needed for auditor.

# The role of home-school relationship in preventing school violence and early school leaving

Bucharest, 28-29 November 2014

Kaarel Haav, Estonian Education Foorum, attended this event.

# Education in the digital era

Brussels, 11 December 2014 (upcoming event)

The European Commission invited EUNEC to attend the European High Level Conference on "Education in the Digital Era", which will take place on December 11, 2014 in Brussels. The conference is organised by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and will bring together Ministers, high level experts, and policy makers from across Europe to discuss the challenges and opportunities that the Digital Era brings to European education.

The conference will feature three panels on different aspects of *Education in the Digital Era*, followed by a ministerial panel. The panels will in particular discuss the topics (1) Increasing the quality and relevance of learning, (2) Increasing the impact of educators and (3) Addressing inequalities through better access and lower cost.

As a side event, a replica of European Schoolnet's *Future Classroom Lab* will provide the opportunity to experiment with new learning technologies and a vision of future education. The conference will also be feature the award ceremony for the winners of the *Open Education Challenge*, awarding innovative European education start-ups.

For details of the **conference programme** and future updates on the conference, please consult the conference website:

<http://openeducationeuropa.eu/en/edu-in-digital-era>