

Summary of the conclusions of the round table on migration and education

Early school leaving has causes at three different levels:

- The structural level, a.o. the education system and the socio-economic context
- The institutional level, a.o. the lack of social networks and social capital
- The individual level, a.o. the resilience and the engagement of the pupil.

During the round table participants have formulated proposals related to the three levels and related to the following themes:

- support identity development
- develop supporting networks
- teachers who make the difference
- study choice processes
- the attractiveness and dynamism of alternative learning paths.

At the structural level participants formulated proposals that have to lead to

- A secondary education with less walls between the educational types and more possibilities to postpone an irreversible study choice
- A teacher training and a continuous professional development for teachers with a lot of attention for dealing with diversity and communication
- A structural cooperation with supplementary education, outside of the school and by the community in the language and the culture of the land of origin
- Enhance the possibilities for pupils who left school early to obtain a qualification anyway.

At the institutional level proposals have been formulated aiming at the mobilisation of social and cultural capital in order to support school careers of pupils with a migrant background:

- Elaboration of more networking and cooperation between schools, social organizations, civil society and organizations from ethnical and cultural minorities
- Elaboration of more networking between schools
- Facilitation of networking between parents with a migrant background and other parents.

At the individual level participants formulated proposals to support the individual learning pathway of the youngsters. They plead in favour of a continuous support of informed and motivated study choice throughout the school career, and not only at pivotal moments.

All the proposals have been clustered based on the policy level that should take initiatives to realize them:

- School and class level
- Local and regional level
- The level of the Flemish Community

The proposals are not limited to the policy domain of education. Participants also have formulated cross-sectoral proposals (welfare, work, ..), based on the vision that early school leaving is not only the responsibility of education, but of the whole Flemish Community and the federal government.