

Consultation Session

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching COM (2018) 23

This [Recommendation](#) is built on four objectives: promoting common values at all levels of education; fostering more inclusive education; encouraging a European dimension of teaching, without prejudice to the national prerogatives in this realm; as well as supporting teachers and teaching.

It encourages Member States and the Commission to share good practice and information; and to develop policies at both national and EU levels. The commitments for Member States are of a voluntary nature and each Member State decides the approach to take in implementing them.

To achieve those aims and support Member States in their endeavour, the Commission will take steps to increase virtual exchanges among schools, notably through the e-Twinning network, and boost school mobility under the Erasmus+ programme. The European Structural and Investment funds can help to support teacher training or fund infrastructure that enables inclusive education.

The present Recommendation builds upon the [Paris Declaration](#) on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education adopted at an informal ministerial meeting held in Paris on March 17, 2015. In the Paris Declaration, education ministers called for actions at all levels of government to reinforce the role of education in promoting citizenship and common values, strengthening social cohesion and helping young people become responsible, open-minded and active members of our diverse and inclusive societies. They also identified four overarching objectives for cooperation at EU level:

- Ensuring that children and young people acquire social, civic and intercultural competences, by promoting democratic values and fundamental rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination, as well as active citizenship;
- Enhancing critical thinking and media literacy, particularly in the use of the Internet and social media, so as to develop resistance to divisive narratives, polarisation and indoctrination;
- Fostering the education of disadvantaged children and young people, by ensuring that our education and training systems address their needs;
- Promoting intercultural dialogue through all forms of learning in cooperation with other relevant policies and stakeholders.

The main aim of the Recommendation is to promote common values, inclusive education and a European dimension of teaching. It is complementary to the Commission's ongoing work on implementing the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) in that the Recommendation further supports 'the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable [everyone] to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.'



The present Recommendation is also consistent with the aims expressed in the [EU citizenship report 2017](#), where the Commission recognised that continuous efforts are needed to make sure that all EU citizens know their rights and can fully participate in the European democratic process. It stressed that promoting awareness of EU citizenship and the values attached to it among young Europeans reaching voting age and those acquiring the nationality of a Member State, and in society as a whole, requires a joint effort of all actors concerned at all levels — the Member States, including their local and regional authorities, EU institutions and civil society.