Inclusive lifelong learning policies in Europe - status quo, risks and opportunities

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Brikena Xhomaqi, Director of Lifelong Learning Platform - European Civil Society for Education
WHO WE ARE

“Promote a holistic vision to lifelong learning, from cradle to grave, by facilitating European-wide cross-sector cooperation among civil society organisations in the field of education & training and voicing citizens’ concerns”

Founded in 2005

42 European networks (CSOs)

50,000+ education & training institutions
The Lifelong Learning Platform is a cross-sector umbrella organisation consisting of over 40 European networks that represent wide variety of actors and stakeholders in the education & training field.

OUR MEMBERS

Learners

Educators

Practitioners

Teachers

Parents

Volunteers
The Lifelong Learning Platform carries out its activities pursuing the following overarching goals:

- Building inclusive and democratic education systems
- Widening access to quality education for all citizens
- Increasing the relevance of education to modern societies
Inclusion status quo?

- There are **no “LLL” national or institutional strategies / policies** : often skills strategies or adult education strategies
- **Lack of lifelong learning approach** or common shared understanding: education sectors operate in silos
- **Mostly focusing on formal education systems** leaving behind non-formal and informal learning
- There is **lack of flexible pathways** for learners to move from one system or level to another
- **Scattered validation, recognition and accreditation systems / arrangements** beyond the higher education provision
Risks and challenges

- The **commercialisation & austerity measures** : lack of public funding and increase of private interest
- **Digital and green transitions** further increasing the pressure on education and training to act fast
- **The focus on skills** vs competencies endangers the very aim of education turning into a commodifiable good
- **Quantity versus quality of education** : inclusion understood as increasing numbers but reducing quality
- **Equality vs equity** : we do not all start on an equal footing
Opportunities

- **Lifelong learning entitlements**: ILAs extending the public investment to education and training (ILO, UNESCO, OECD, EC)
- **Digital transformation** could lead to more access to learning opportunities if it addresses the issue of digital divide
- **Sustainable development agenda** as guiding principles and goals for their role in the society
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation** among education and training systems: breaking the silos
- Developing more **lifelong learning (career) guidance** service in the institutions
Thank you

References

- *Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Societies*, LLLP 2020
- *21st Century Learning Environments*, LLLP 2019
- *Building Synergies between Culture and Education*, LLLP 2018
- *Reimagining Education in the Digital Era*, LLLP 2017
- *Integration of Refugees and Migrants through Education*, LLLP 2016
- *Building the Future of Learning in Europe*, LLLP 2015 Manifesto

For more information: [http://lllplatform.eu/resources/policy-statements/]