



Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture

The Commission's Contribution to the Leaders' Working Lunch
Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

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KEY POLICY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO EU LEADERS

The Leaders are invited to discuss and give a strategic orientation on the following **six key policy suggestions** from the European Commission, without prejudice to the final decision on the next Multiannual Financial Framework:

1. boost the **Erasmus+ programme** for all categories of learners it already covers (pupils, students, trainees, apprentices and teachers) with the aim of doubling the number of participants and reaching out to learners coming from disadvantaged backgrounds by 2025;
2. work on a **Council Recommendation on improving language learning in Europe**, setting out a benchmark that by 2025 all young Europeans finishing upper secondary education have a good knowledge of two languages in addition to their mother tongue(s);
3. work on a **Council Recommendation on the mutual recognition of higher education and school leaving diplomas/study periods abroad**. This could be accompanied by a new process building on experiences from existing cooperation schemes to facilitate such recognition and take further the cross-border validation of training and lifelong learning certificates ('Sorbonne process');
4. strengthen the financing capacity of the **Creative and Cultural Sectors Guarantee Facility** by 2020 in order to allow banks and other financial institutions from an enlarged number of countries to significantly increase financing of small and medium-sized companies in the cultural and creative sectors;
5. work towards truly European universities which are enabled to network and cooperate seamlessly across borders and compete internationally, including the **creation of a School of European and Transnational Governance** (hosted by the European University Institute in Florence, Italy);
6. strengthen the European dimension of **Euronews**.