WHAT EXISTS TODAY

▶ The Erasmus+ programme supports the professional development of school staff involved in pre-primary, primary and secondary school education.

▶ eTwinning is the largest teachers’ network in the world from pre-primary to upper secondary schools. This programme allows teachers to create joint projects. eTwinning improves teachers’ and pupils’ competences and is crucial in building a European sense of belonging.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

▶ Policy cooperation and peer learning among Member States has led to the development of guidance principles for teachers’ professional development.

CHALLENGES

Pay, contractual status and clear career prospects are important for the attractiveness of the profession. In some Member States, teaching loses out to other professions in the competition for the best candidates. On average, teachers in the EU earn 14% less than other workers with the same level of education (tertiary education). Teachers are concerned about the quality of their preparation and induction and want better career opportunities. Improving the attractiveness of the teaching profession is a necessity in most Member States.
WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

- The eTwinning network is more developed in some Member States (Italy) than in others (Germany) with only 10% of European teachers participating. This can be improved by:
  - multiplying the number of participating teachers and schools, which in turn multiplies virtual exchanges within Europe aiming for 600,000 users by 2020.
  - encouraging Member States to embed virtual exchanges as a standard element in their national school education policy. Italy, Lithuania, Malta and Poland have already taken steps in this direction.
- Developing an online EU Teacher’s Academy providing online courses on issues such as the use of digital technologies to enhance quality teaching or new methodologies for language learning.
- Creation of a prize for the EU Teacher of the Year which would be awarded for high-quality and innovative teaching and exemplary transnational cooperation activities. The objective would be to promote the public recognition of the teaching profession in Europe.
- The EU to reinforce the social dialogue on education with a particular focus on teachers’ careers.

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES WITH A 2025 PERSPECTIVE

- 1.5 million teachers, school leaders and other education staff participating in exchange programmes (Erasmus+) across Europe to complement their knowledge, skills and competences.

The political ambition would need to be aligned with the means to act and reflected in the future discussions on EU finances.