

Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture

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

[#FutureOfEurope](#) [#EURoad2Sibiu](#)

TEACHERS

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.

 <p>6 million teachers in Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⚙️ Over 500,000 teachers have registered the eTwinning teachers' with network.⚙️ 4 in 10 schools have participated.⚙️ Over 60,000 projects have taken place in the eTwinning teachers' network since its launch in 2005, covering all Member States.⚙️ 170,000 teachers and school staff have benefited from the Erasmus+ programme, which enabled them to teach and learn abroad.
--	---

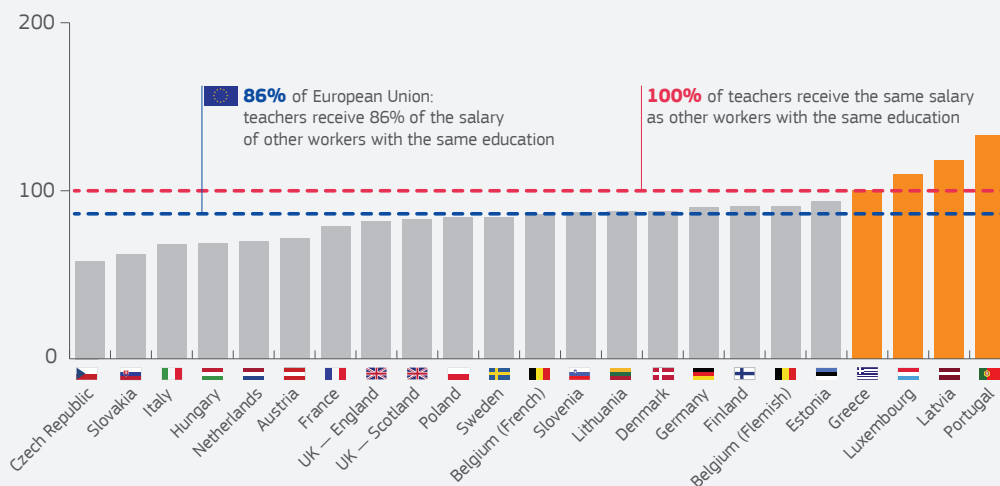
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ▶ **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.

Actual salaries of all teachers, relative to earnings for full-time workers with tertiary education



Source: OECD, 2017

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.