

Citizen's summary

'Rethinking Education' Communication

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- The **youth unemployment rate is approaching 23% across Europe** and at the same time there are over 2 million vacancies that cannot be filled. We must ensure that education delivers the right skills for the labour market, to support young people to secure their economic future and enable businesses to grow and create new jobs.
- **The challenge could not be tougher** in the middle of widespread austerity measures and cuts in education budgets. Member states must not reduce budgets, but look to improve efficiency and achieve more at less cost.
- Urgent action is necessary **to boost the supply of relevant skills** and increase the chances of young people and adults of getting the right assets for their success in the labour market.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **Young people will get the right skills** to enter the labour market or create their own business.
- **Adults will be able to access basic skills provision** and increased in-work training.
- **Businesses will benefit from an entrepreneurial workforce** which has the right skills for the job.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

There are actions in three areas:

1. Delivering the right skills for employment:

- Make sure that everyone has a foundation in basic skills
- Stronger focus on developing transversal skills, especially entrepreneurial skills
- Increase the level of work-based learning in vocational education and training

2. New ways of teaching and learning:

- Easier recognition of skills and qualifications throughout Europe to enhance mobility and employment prospects
- Embed the use of new technologies in the classroom to increase participation and access
- Make sure that teachers have up-to-date training and are well-supported

3. New approaches to Funding and Partnerships:

- Bring together partners who have a stake in the quality of the workforce
- Target investment to education areas with the highest impact, e.g. early education
- Open up national and EU level debates on how education should be funded in the future

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

European countries are facing similar challenges, despite differences at national level.

The EU can support countries to solve problems by:

- initiating debate
- pinpointing areas for reform
- helping countries learn from each other which policies work and which don't
- targeting European funding on areas where it can really help

WHEN IS THE COMMUNICATION LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- It will be adopted in **November 2012**

Data for search engines	
Title tag	'Rethinking Education' - citizens' summary
Description	The Commission presents a 'Rethinking Education' Communication in which it proposes actions at national level and concrete initiatives at EU level to support the modernisation of education and training systems for growth and jobs. These include delivering the right skills for employment and business creation, increasing the efficiency and inclusion of education and training institutions, and working collaboratively with stakeholders. The Communication is accompanied by the first edition of the Education & Training Monitor to provide a picture of current skills supply and progress towards the Europe 2020 headline targets, and six other Staff Working Documents showcasing policy evidence and good practice.
Link name	Summary - EU XXXXXX proposal
Keywords for url/filename	EU + Xxxxxx