



**DRAFT MINUTES  
OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
IN DURRÈS (3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2009)**

**The following regions were present:**

Buskerud (N), Corse (F), Devon (GB), Friuli Venezia Giulia (I), Hampshire (GB), Østfold (N), Nordland (N)

**1. Welcome**

Ian BEACHAM (Hampshire) welcomed the participants and excused David KIRK, who could not come to Durrès due to elections in the UK.

**2. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was unanimously adopted

**3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**

The minutes from the meeting in Lower Austria were unanimously adopted

**4. Education of migrant and travelling children**

It was decided to talk about point of the agenda together with point 5 on the agenda, as both topics were closely related.

**5. AER response to the EC consultation "Migration and mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems"**

Jascha SCHEELE summarised the results of the migrant education survey. The survey has been sent for comments, with the last version dated 31/12/08. The survey showed the most important challenges with regard to migrant education and integration, namely the lack of language proficiency, as well as residential and academic segregation. To overcome this, language acquisition should be promoted as early as possible, ideally at preschool and kindergarten levels.

Saxon SPENCE (Devon) spoke about the policies and reviews of migrant workers in Southwest UK, including the shortages of the work force because of an ageing population. She professed that the level of need and demand for English training are being measured. Studies have found that migrant workers often working below skills and qualification level

because they do not have an appropriate knowledge of English, so they don't understand their rights and responsibilities, and therefore have a danger of being exploited.

**6. Eurodyssee – identifying synergies with the Sub-Committee (Report from the meeting in Brussels)**

Jascha SCHEELE informed the participants about the meeting in January between Committee 3, Eurodyssee representatives and the Youth Team. He said that the aim of the meeting was to make AER youth activities more integrated in all activities of AER. To this end, a Eurodyssee task force should be created to increase membership and participants, and to serve as the first point of contact for regions and students. An alumni network will also be formed to help those interested with obtaining practical knowledge from past participants in the Eurodyssee Program. The task force could also help young people to convince their regions to join the Eurodyssee Program, in case they have not been members so far. Central to all these activities will be the new Eurodyssee website, which will be launched in August this year. Eurodyssee applied for trademark for the name Eurodyssee, but were challenged by Eurodisney for similarities of name. This issue was later worked out, and Eurodisney wants to collaborate with Eurodyssee in the future.

**7. Youth Entrepreneurial Education**

Malgorzata KUCINSKA spoke about Youth Entrepreneurial Education. In February 2009, a new program was created called Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and financed by the European Commission. The program gives young entrepreneurs the opportunity to spend up to 6 months as an entrepreneur in a new country to learn how to grow their own business. The program objectives include the setting up of new business in a new country. The participants can apply via the EU website, with the first registration having a deadline before December 2009. The program will always team up a new entrepreneur with a host entrepreneur through intermediate organization, such as the Chamber of Commerce. An informational and networking meeting will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Toolkit results are available on the website, with examples from past youth entrepreneurial participants.

**8. EU Targets for Education**

Jascha SCHEELE presents the topic. He states that the EU has increased its role in educational policies lately. In terms of the EU education benchmarks developed for 2010, progress on literacy in secondary schools is low, and literacy results are worse now than in 2002. The EU therefore wants to put more emphasis on education over the next 2 years in order to come closer to their 2010 goals. It will place more focus on the training of teachers and high quality learning for every student, as well as on entrepreneurship education. Since the results were received, the EU has placed more emphasis on the use of creativity innovation, using the European Institute of Technology and Innovation, and holding additional discussions on how to improve European educational policies.

**9. Hosting Europe's Knowledge Economy**

Malgorzata KUCINSKA says that Martin Schuurmans has been elected as the new



director of European Institute of Technology. As part of the program, the EU will provide funding for 2 or 3 knowledge and innovation communities or clusters. They will last between 7-15 years, and the EU funding has been set at €15 million. Any region can apply to be a knowledge and innovation community.

#### **10. Update on European Institution of Technology and Innovation**

Jascha SCHEELE adds that the knowledge and innovation clusters are more like scientific institutions. "Boosting Europe's Knowledge Economy" is part of a series of six events related to education in Brussels and Vienna to promote the institute and encourage debate as part of the European year of Creativity and Innovation. The topics of the other debates will be on education, sustainable development, cultural diversity, and creative arts and industries. The dates have not yet been set (as of 02/04/09).

#### **11. Other Business: Sports Project Idea**

Giulio PAPA (Friuli Venezia Giulia) introduces a project proposal to teach young people how to live a healthy lifestyle through non-competitive sporting activities. He would like to involve all of the AER member regions, and include the idea from "Best Practices" that non-competitive sports are a good way to promote health. He says the program should also be expanded to schools and clubs so that every young person has the opportunity to join. He would like to set up a peer-to-peer training to talk about the benefits of non-competitive sports, and produce a publication with a list of all the best practices. He suggests that the sports idea be proposed during the GA. There will be a non-competitive relay race through all the regions during the 2009-2010 academic year for students, or a competition can be held to see who can find the "best practice". In terms of finances, funding can be found through the AER or European Commission, and get the media involved. Details can be sent through email through contacting him directly or through the website.

