

PROPOSAL of the Czech group on EDUCATION

We agree that the Union should contribute to the development of quality of the education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary by supporting and supplementing their action, while respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organization of education systems and respecting their cultural and linguistic diversity.

However, we think that the competences of the Union in this area should be slightly extended in terms of setting exact rules for **recognising diplomas** (to avoid any discrimination especially in accessing countries) and setting the minimum standards for the teaching languages aiming to ensure that each student when leaving secondary school will be able to communicate in two European languages besides the mother language in order to support the European dimension in education.

For different stages of study we suggest:

1. concentrating on the taking advantage of sensibility of children at **the preliminary stage**
2. focusing on communication, information literacy, development of personality **at the elementary stage**. We suggest that the financial help from special funds should be given to all elementary schools that do not have Internet connection yet. Otherwise they will be out of new information and development. Accessing countries should be also encouraged to found private schools and more boarding schools for gifted pupils as well as for those who can afford to send their children to higher standard schools.
3. supporting flexibility of students **at further stages** of education so that they could adopt easily to new economic and technical trends when necessary and to give more responsibility to secondary schools so that they could focus on branches related to the appropriate region, but, of course, it is necessary to follow common framework given by the state (to decrease unemployment in certain regions)
4. encouraging exchanges of students **at the university stage**. We think it should be obligatory for university students to spend at least three months studying in another member state from where he will be able to transfer his credits earned there, that is to encourage accessing countries' education system to adapt to the one in the EU before the accession. Also, we highly recommend the possibility to choose an internship abroad instead of the exchange programme, depending on the student's choice. We stress that all bureaucratic procedures and obstacles should disappear and it should be as easy as possible for the student to choose a

university of his branch in another member state. **Distance education** should be also possible between Member States.

We think that the Union should focus on long-life education of adults, especially of socio-economic instructors. In our view, the quality of the education system depends on them; they are the key to success of the whole system. We suggest making their salaries dependent on their evaluation to increase their motivation to study more. We suggest that the Union encourages their exchanges in order to get more experience and improve language skills.

We think it would be useful to exchange information and experience from different education systems of Member States. Neither should the importance of cooperation in various scientific researches be underestimated to enhance dialogue between universities focusing on certain fields of study and these “international teamwork “s should be partially financed from the funds of the EU.

In order to achieve all the objectives we think that the Council and the European Parliament should adopt incentive measures after consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

We wish the education became the matter of crucial concern and objective both the Union and the citizens, because the young are the future of Europe and should have enough knowledge and abilities to promote the quality of life in Europe. The future is in their hands!