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Open Public Consultation on the European Education Area initiative Pathways to School Success

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

1

Introduction

School education plays a crucial role in promoting inclusive, fairer and more prosperous societies, by helping all children and young people reach their full potential and develop knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to flourish in life and become active, responsible, resilient and engaged individuals who continue learning throughout their lives. Ensuring access to quality and inclusive education for all and equipping all children and young people with the competences they need in life - whatever the background of the learner helps equal make societies and economies more All Europeans should be given the opportunity to develop the competences needed to adapt to globalisation and to green and digital transitions and live peacefully in culturally diverse societies. Mastering of basic skills (reading, mathematics and science) is of fundamental importance for pupils' academic progress and future life prospects, and the skills and competences gained in upper secondary education are increasingly seen as the minimum credentials for successful labour market entry and the foundations for fulfilling life. and healthy

However, in the EU, still one in five young people does not reach adequate levels of competences in reading, mathematics or science to cope with the requirements of the ever-changing world. Too many young Europeans leave education and training without upper secondary qualifications. In addition, there are signs that pupils' well-being is declining whilst bulling is widespread, with detrimental effects on educational achievements.

This is why the EU wants to assist Member States and their schools to promote better educational outcomes of young Europeans, in particular by raising the level of proficiency in basic skills of as many pupils as possible and minimising the number of young people who leave education without at least an upper secondary degree. These are the main objectives of the new initiative, Pathways to School Success.

Pathways to School Success covers school education, i.e. Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), primary and (lower and upper) secondary education including vocational education and training (VET). It will primarily address groups more at risk of underachievement in basic skills and early leaving from education and training (e.g. children with a migrant background or from an ethnic minority, such as Roma, children from families with weak socio-economic background, with disabilities or special educational needs, living in remote areas, etc.). It will also address children well-being and fighting bullying and exclusion, and

will pay particular attention to gender diversity as appropriate.

But to make this initiative as effective, inclusive and ambitious as possible, we need your help – you as a learner, parent, education practitioner or representative of an organisation active in education and training. The present survey invites citizens and other interested organisations and bodies to provide views and ideas on what is most urgent to tackle underachievement in basic skills and early leaving from education and training, and to improve well-being in schools. These views will serve as input for a proposal for a Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success that the Commission will adopt in early 2022. The results of the survey will be considered together with evidence from scientific literature and the outcomes of targeted consultation activities, to prepare the proposed Recommendation.

Your participation in the consultation is greatly appreciated. The estimated time for completion is 20 minutes. Moreover, stakeholders and practitioners have the possibility to upload position papers. We encourage in particular young learners and their educators (i.e. teachers and trainers) to take advantage of this opportunity and to let us know their views.

A) Want to know more details on the background of this initiative?

- Yes
- O No

School education plays a crucial role in promoting inclusive, fairer, and more prosperous societies and helping equip young people with the competences they need to flourish in life and be responsible, resilient and socially engaged individuals. It can strengthen social cohesion, civic engagement, and democratic participation. A growing body of research has demonstrated that access by children and young people from low-income groups to good quality education helps to tackle unemployment, break the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and contribute to better health. All Europeans should be given the opportunity to develop the competences needed to adapt to globalisation and green and digital transitions and live peacefully in culturally diverse societies.

A large amount of work has been done at the European and national levels to support equal access to education, but more needs to be done to help all learners succeed at school. In particular, school education needs to address three main challenges:

- Giving all young people the chance to reach a certain level of proficiency in basic skills. The results
 from the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 show that one in five
 young Europeans still lacks adequate reading, maths or science competences and that socioeconomic background continues to be the strongest determinant of educational outcomes.
- Minimising the number of young people who leave education without at least an upper secondary degree. Despite notable progress, one in ten young people in the EU <u>still leave school prematurely</u> and only 83% of people aged 20-24 have completed upper secondary education.
- Ensuring pupils' well-being at school. PISA data show that pupils' sense of belonging to school is
 declining and bullying is widespread. This undermines pupils' academic achievements and may also
 increase the risk of leaving school prematurely. Moreover, 10-20% of children and adolescents
 experience mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, which may severely influence their
 development, educational attainment and potential to live fulfilling lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic had made these challenges even more urgent, as its consequences have been more severe for the most vulnerable students. Like a magnifying mirror, this crisis has revealed the numerous inequalities and inadequacies of our education systems.

To address these issues, the European Commission is preparing a new initiative, 'Pathways to School Success', in the framework of the European Education Area. This consultation constitutes a key milestone in its preparation.

'Pathways to School Success' will aim at ensuring that all children and young people across the EU reach their full potential and succeed in education, irrespective of individual and family-related factors, socioeconomic status and life experiences.

It will draw on the <u>2011 Council Recommendation on policies to reduce early school leaving and its assessment</u>, as well as on the <u>technical work already done with Member States in recent years</u> and conclusions from the results of PISA 2018. The initiative will be accompanied by a series of coordinated policy actions at EU and Member State level, which could be supported by financing through different programmes and initiatives. Synergies with other EU initiatives will be sought.

- *B) Please help us adjust the questions for you on the basis of your profile:
 - I am a student/learner, parent or citizen interested in this topic
 - I am a practitioner in the field of education and training or representing an organisation in the field of education and training (public, private, civil society organisation etc.)

2 General questions

*1. What are, in your view, the main obstacles for children and young people to succeed in school education in your country?

School education: Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), primary and (lower and upper) secondary education including VET.

School success: For the purpose of the questionnaire we understand school success as proficiency in basic skills and completion of upper secondary education.

Please tick the 3 most important obstacles

between 1 and 3 choices

- Individual characteristics (e.g. special needs, social and emotional difficulties, etc.)
- Insufficient knowledge of the main language of instruction
- Parents' socio-economic, cultural and educational background

	Insufficient parental engagement in their children education and in school life
	Unsupportive home environment and resources (lack of space for learning,
	lack of tools and materials, lack of appropriate nutrition, etc.)
	Family related difficulties (multiple children, single parents, violence etc.)
	Lack of IT infrastructures, devices and Internet connectivity.
	High concentration in the same school of pupils who are disadvantaged on the
	basis of their socioeconomic, ethnic or cultural background, their level of ability
	Pupils do not feel involved in their learning and in school life
1	Lack of individualized support by the school when necessary
	Learning contents and methods not interesting and relevant for pupils
	Poor teachers/pupils relationships, unsupportive learning climate at school
	Violence, bullying at/around school
	Educators (teachers and trainers) not adequately prepared to deal with pupils
	with cumulative disadvantages
1	Lack of well-trained special support educators
	Lack of accessibility to quality early childhood education and care
	Other characteristics of the education system
	Other

2. Impact of the Covid-19 crisis

2a) What is the impact of the Covid crisis on the ability of the school education system to provide quality education in your country?

	Negative impact	No impact	Both negative and positive impact	Positive impact	l don't know
* In general	•	0	0	0	0
* In particular for pupils belonging to more vulnerable groups	•	0	0	0	0

*2b) Which of the following factors may create particular problems in your country, in particular for more vulnerable pupils?

Vulnerable groups refers to groups more at risk of underachievement in basic skills and early leaving from education and training, for example children with fewer

opportunities (children with a migrant background or from ethnic minorities, low socio-economic background, disadvantaged and/or remote areas ...) as well as children with disabilities or special educational needs.

Please tick the 3 most important factors

between 1 and 3 choices
Lack of individualised support during distance learning
■ Lack of contacts with peers
Lack of contact with teachers
Limited access to digital learning resources (IT infrastructure and equipment,
Internet connectivity)
Insufficient IT skills among learners
Teachers not sufficiently prepared for distance learning
■ Lack of parental support
Lack of suitable learning space at home
☑ Stress, depression, lack of motivation
Other

3. Towards the future. Designing the new initiative 'Pathways to School Success'

3a) Which of the following elements should be given priority to ensure that all children and young people can succeed at school?

* At system level (national/regional/local policies):

Please tick the 3 most urgent elements

between 1 and 3 choices

- Ensuring access for all children to high-quality, affordable and adequately staffed early childhood education and care (nurseries, kindergarten, etc., indicative age 0 to 6)
- Investing in training of educational staff to address early leaving from education and training as well as underachievement
- Fighting all forms of school segregation (concentration of at-risk pupils in some schools or classes)
- Ensuring that inclusion is a strong component of the curriculum, of pupils' assessment, and of all learning activities and materials
- Developing the conditions for a language friendly environment at school
- Finding alternatives to repeating the academic year
- Developing targeted measures to address the needs of more vulnerable pupils

Avoiding assigning students to (early tracking)	different e	ducational	tracks at	an early st	tage	
Promoting non-formal learning of Ensuring appropriate IT infrastrupupilsOther	• •		•			
*At school level:						
Please tick the 3 most urgent element	nts					
between 1 and 3 choices						
Providing effective and individua	alised sup	port to pup	oils			
Accepting and valuing linguistic	diversity i	n schools,	including	minority		
languages						
Promoting a 'whole school appr						
members of the school commun	• ,			•		
teaching and non-teaching staff and play an active role	, pupils, pa	arents and	riamiles)	ieei respo	risible	
	the schoo	l'e daily life	a and deci	sion maki	na	
	Engaging families and pupils in the school's daily life and decision making					
 Promoting cooperation between schools, local organisations and services (NGOs, local authorities, business, public libraries, cultural centres etc.) 						
Promoting cooperation amongst schools locally, nationally and across Europe						
(including through the School Education Gateway, eTwinning, EPALE,						
Erasmus+)						
Developing calm and stimulating	g learning	spaces fo	r pupils af	ter the forr	mal	
school time, within school buildi	ngs (after	school tim	ie extra-cu	ırricular ac	tivities)	
Developing a strategy with cond	Developing a strategy with concrete actions to make the school more inclusive					
Other						
			_		_	
3b) How could the EU best support			-			
education systems in order to ensure school success for all children and						
young people? Places rate each item's importance on a cools of 1 to 4 where 1 is not important.						
Please rate each item's importance on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 is not important and 4 is very important.						
					5 I	
	1 Not Important	2 Quite important	3 Important	4 Very important	don't	
	1	1	12 27 1917 19	1- 3-1	know	

* Supporting mutual learning between countries	0	0	0	•	0
* Collecting data and providing analyses	0	•	0	0	0
* Helping disseminate good practices	0	0	0	•	0
* Providing policy guidance	•	0	0	0	0
* Developing common EU tools and on-line resources (e.g. the European Toolkit for Schools)	0	•	0	0	0
* Strengthening financial support through the Erasmus+ programme and other EU funds	0	0	0	•	0
* Providing tailor-made support for specific reforms/actions in Member States	•	0	0	0	0
* Providing platforms for cooperation such as eTwinning, Epale	0	•	0	0	0
* Supporting schools to build their regional and international networks	•	0	0	0	0
* Other	0	0	0	0	0

'3c) Well-being at school: In addition to the areas identified above, which of the following elements, should be given priority to build a positive learning environment for all in school?

Definition of well-being: A dynamic state in which students are able to develop their potential, learn and play creatively and productively, build and enjoy positive relationships with others, and belong and contribute to their school community. Students are provided with a learning environment where they feel safe, valued and respected, are actively and meaningfully engaged in the academic and social activities, have positive self esteem, self efficacy and sense of autonomy, have positive and supportive relationships with teachers and peers, have a sense of belonging to their classroom and school, and feel happy and satisfied with their lives at school.

Inclusive education and training aims to allow learners to achieve their full potential by providing good quality education and training to all in mainstream settings. Inclusive policies actively seek to support learners at risk of exclusion and underachievement by responding flexibly to the circumstances and needs of all learners.

Please tick the 3 most urgent elements

between 1 and 3 choices

Schools publicly welcome diversity and visibly cherish pupils of diverse colours, diverse languages, diverse abilities and disabilities, diverse genders and sexual orientations, diverse ways of clothing, diverse religions and cultures Training educational staff on well-being at school, diversity and inclusion, gender equality, bullying and mental health Collecting data on school climate, well-being, bullying and violence at school Strengthening social and emotional learning to help pupils feel and show empathy for others and establish and maintain supportive relationships Developing effective antibullying strategies, involving also parents and the community Allowing for time, space and resources for pupils to discuss about wellbeing and express their needs and concerns Developing actions to promote positive relations at school, cooperation and teamwork Increasing co-decisions of pupils at classroom and school level to encourage empowerment, involvement and responsibility Promoting interaction with cultural and sport activities Other measures.

3 Questions for stakeholders

4. Monitoring and prevention

In addition to the elements identified in previous questions, which of the following specific monitoring and prevention measures should be given priority to ensure school success for all children and young people?

Please tick the 3 most urgent measures

between 1 and 3 choices

- Early detection of pupils at risk and assessment of their needs (personal, social, economic, family related, etc.) and related intervention measures
- Mapping at local and regional levels to identify disadvantaged areas and atrisk schools
- Early warning systems (e.g. based on frequent absenteeism, low grades and other indicators)

	Quality assurance mechanisms focusing on inclusion, well-being and
	addressing underachievement and early leaving from education and training
	Developing policies and actions to actively support diversity in schools
	Continuous general and individual educational and career guidance
V	Extra resources to schools with high concentration of vulnerable pupils
	Other measures

*5. Intervention

In addition to the elements identified in previous questions, which of the following specific intervention measures, should be given priority to ensure school success for all children and young people?

Please tick the 3 most urgent measures

between 1 and 3 choices

1	Individualised and qualified mentoring	and tutoring and personalised learning
	approaches	

- More tailor-made, formative, learner-centred and participatory assessment
- Multi-disciplinary approaches and cooperation in and around the school (school staff, psychologists, social services and health professionals, cultural mediators etc.)
- Developing the potential of extra-curricular activities to motivate and engage pupils, including with cultural and sports activities
- Support to educational staff working with disadvantaged children (e.g. extra-resources)
- Promoting alternative teaching and learning methods building on managing and enriching diversity in the classroom
- Other measures

*6. Compensation

In addition to the elements identified in previous question, which of the following specific compensation measures, should be given priority to ensure school success for all children and young people?

Please tick the 3 most urgent measures

between 1 and 3 choices

Providing quality second chance education programmes

back to mainstream education	JO
Recognising and validating prior learning, including competences achieve	ed in
non-formal and informal learning settings	
Providing targeted individual support in mainstream settings, which integrated social, financial, educational and psychological support for young people difficulties	
Other measures	
— Other measures	
4 Your contribution	
7. If you have any other comments that have not been covered by the	
questionnaire, please feel free to enter them here	
2000 character(s) maximum	
Attached, please find our further thoughts on the questions posed.	
8. Submit a file	
	wich
We welcome additional comments or position papers (2 pages A4 max). If you	WISH
to submit a document, please upload it here.	
Important: Please do not include any personal data in the documents, if you v	vish
to opt for anonymous publication. All documents submitted in the context of the	е
consultation may be published as received.	
Only files of the type pdf,doc,docx,odt,txt,rtf are allowed	
5 More information about you	

education and training sector?

yesno

*Have you ever participated in any Education and Training 2020 activities					
organised at European level, such as Working Groups, Peer Learning Activities, peer counselling, or other stakeholder consultation/activity in on					
training, addressing underachievement in basic skills or supporting quality early shill be adjusted and says 2					
rly childhood education and care?					
Yes					
No					
6 About you					
*Language of my contribution					
Bulgarian					
© Croatian					
Czech					
Danish					
Dutch					
English					
Estonian					
Finnish					
French					
German					
Greek					
Hungarian					
Irish					
Italian					
Latvian					
Lithuanian					
Maltese					
Polish					
Portuguese					
Romanian					
Slovak					
Slovenian					
Spanish					

Swedish
*I am giving my contribution as Academic/research institution Business association Company/business organisation
Company/business organisation Consumer organisation EU citizen
Environmental organisationNon-EU citizen
 Non-governmental organisation (NGO) Public authority Trade union
Other
* First name
*Surname
*Email (this won't be published)
*Scope International Local National Regional
*Level of governance Parliament Authority Agency
*Organisation name

1 /	
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science	
willistry of Education, Guitare and Science	

*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

*Country of origin			
Please add your country of orig	gin, or that of your organisation	on.	
Afghanistan	Djibouti	Libya	Saint Martin
Aland Islands	Dominica	Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre and
			Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
			Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American Samoa	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and
			Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	a [©] Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall Islands	Singapore
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	[©] Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia

0	Austria		Finland	0	Mauritius		Slovenia
0	Azerbaijan	0	France	0	Mayotte		Solomon Islands
	Bahamas		French Guiana		Mexico		Somalia
	Bahrain		French Polynesia	0	Micronesia		South Africa
0	Bangladesh		French Southern and Antarctic Lands	0	Moldova	0	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
	Barbados		Gabon		Monaco		South Korea
	Belarus		Georgia		Mongolia		South Sudan
0	Belgium	0	Germany	0	Montenegro		Spain
	Belize		Ghana		Montserrat		Sri Lanka
	Benin		Gibraltar		Morocco		Sudan
	Bermuda		Greece		Mozambique		Suriname
	Bhutan		Greenland		Myanmar/Burma		Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen
	Bolivia	0	Grenada		Namibia		Sweden
0	Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba		Guadeloupe	0	Nauru	0	Switzerland
0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Guam	0	Nepal	0	Syria
	Botswana		Guatemala	•	Netherlands		Taiwan
	Bouvet Island	0	Guernsey		New Caledonia		Tajikistan
	Brazil	0	Guinea		New Zealand		Tanzania
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0	British Virgin Islands		Guyana	0	Niger	0	The Gambia
0	Brunei		Haiti	0	Nigeria		Timor-Leste
0	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and McDonald Islands		Niue	0	Togo
0	Burkina Faso	0	Honduras	0	Norfolk Island		Tokelau
0	Burundi	0	Hong Kong	0	Northern Mariana Islands	0	Tonga

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Cameroon	Iceland	Tobago North Macedonia Tunisia
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Cape Verde	India Indonesia	Oman Turkmenistan
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Odyman Islands	παπ	Caicos Islands
Central African	Iraq	Palau Tuvalu
Republic	пач	r didd
Chad	Ireland	Palestine Uganda
Chile	Sle of Man	Panama Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New United Arab
• · · · · · ·		Guinea Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paraguay United Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru United States
Cocos (Keeling)	Japan	Philippines United States
Islands	·	Minor Outlying
		Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland US Virgin Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia Wallis and
		Futuna
Curação	Laos	Rwanda Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélemy Yemen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena Zambia
		Ascension and
		Tristan da Cunha
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Zimbabwe
	ECSOTIO	
Republic of the Congo	LOSOTIO	Nevis

Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia
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The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

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Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the <u>personal data protection provisions</u>

Contact

Contact Form