



THE LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

**Commission proposal for
participation of the
Western Balkan countries**



THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE UNION ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **A legal basis in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** (articles 165 and 166)
 - Article on education introduced in the Treaty in 1993
 - Subsidiarity: to support and supplement the action of the Member States
- **Instruments**
 - Open method of coordination
 - EU programmes



Article 165 of the Treaty (education)

Article 165

1. The Union shall contribute to the development of quality education by **encouraging cooperation between Member States** and, if necessary, by **supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.**
2. Union action shall be aimed at:
 - developing the European dimension in education, particularly through the teaching and dissemination of the languages of the Member States,
 - encouraging **mobility** of students and teachers, by encouraging *inter alia*, the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study,
 - promoting **cooperation between educational establishments**,
 - developing **exchanges of information and experience** on issues common to the education systems of the Member States, (...)
 - encouraging the development of distance education. (...),



Article 166 (vocational training)

Article 166

1. The Union shall implement a vocational training policy which shall support and supplement the action of the Member States, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content and organisation of vocational training.

2. Union action shall aim to:

- facilitate adaptation to industrial changes, in particular through vocational training and retraining,
- improve initial and continuing vocational training in order to facilitate vocational integration and reintegration into the labour market,
- facilitate access to vocational training and encourage **mobility** of instructors and trainees and particularly young people,
- stimulate **cooperation** on training **between educational or training establishments and firms**,
- develop **exchanges of information and experience** on issues common to the training systems of the Member States.(...)



The Open Method of Coordination

- **Main principles**
 - Agreement on common objectives, a set of indicators to measure progress, and EU benchmarks
 - Reports by the Member States on their policies towards the EU common objectives
 - Peer learning activities (including thematic expert working groups)
- **The strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (« ET 2020 »)**
- **The European Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth « Europe 2020 »**



The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)

■ **Main characteristics**

- Duration: 1 January 2007-31 December 2013
- Internal EU programme
- All levels of education
- Different actions with different rules (deadlines, duration, eligible costs, lump sums or ceilings, ...)
- Centralised and decentralised actions

■ **Future : new programme 2014-2020 ("Erasmus for All")**

Commission proposal to be discussed in the European Parliament and the Council

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all>



PARTICIPATION OF CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES IN EU PROGRAMMES

Political context

- **In the framework of the pre-accession strategy**
 - Participation in internal EU programmes, on the same footing as Member States
 - To familiarise the country with the EU procedures and working methods

- **Conclusions of successive European Councils**
 - Copenhagen June 1993 European Council
 - Copenhagen December 2002: European perspective of the Western Balkans; potential candidates
 - Thessaloniki European Council (June 2003)



PARTICIPATION OF CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES IN EU PROGRAMMES

Legal basis

- **Framework agreement EU/candidate country on the general principles for participation in all Community programmes (of 22.11.2004)**
- **Decision establishing the programme**
Article 7 LLP: “The Lifelong Learning Programme shall be open to the participation of (...) the candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions laid down in the framework agreements concluded with these countries for their participation in Community programmes.”
- **Memorandum of Understanding Commission/candidate country**
Specific terms and conditions for each programme (to be established)



PARTICIPATION OF CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES IN EU PROGRAMMES

Terms and conditions for participation

- follow the programme rules
- same deadlines, eligibility and selection, same procedures
- at least one Member State to be involved in each project
- representatives of the country to participate as observer in the programme management Committee
- a financial contribution to be paid (“entry ticket”)
- possibility to finance a part of this contribution from the pre-accession funds



PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES IN LLP **Strategy for their progressive integration**

- **In the EU policy cooperation framework**
 - Annual policy dialogue meetings with all candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans
 - Candidate countries invited to the ET 2020 thematic working groups and to report on their policies
- **In the Lifelong Learning Programme**
 - As a first step: participation in centralised actions (not managed by National Agencies)
 - Once familiarised with the decentralised management of EU (IPA) funds, beginning of preparatory measures for the decentralised activities of the Erasmus for All programme
 - Full participation in the Erasmus for All programme once the management structures are well established



PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES IN LLP **State of play**

- **Croatia** : full participation in **all the programme actions** (as of 2011)
- **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
 - MoU for participation in **centralised actions** as of 2012 about to be signed
 - Implementation of **some pilot decentralised actions** in 2012 and 2013 in the framework of preparatory measures
- **Serbia** : participation in **centralised actions** (as of 2012)
- **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro** : plan to participate in the **centralised actions** as of 2013



Participation in LLP centralised actions

- **Projects financed on the basis of a call for proposals**
- **Policy cooperation networks, such as:**
 - Eurydice
 - Europass
 - Euroguidance
 - EQF



Thank you