Strategic framework – Education & Training 2020

**What is the EU's role in education & training?**

Each EU country is responsible for its own education and training systems, so EU policy is designed to support national action and help address **common challenges**, such as ageing societies, [skills deficits in the workforce](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-development_en.htm), and global competition.

The EU offers a [forum for exchange of best practices](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/bologna-process_en.htm), gathering and dissemination of information and statistics, as well as advice and support for policy reforms. Funding is also available for [activities that promote learning and education](http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/index_en.htm) at all levels and for all age groups.

Through the strategic framework for education and training, EU countries have identified four common objectives to address these challenges by 2020:

* Making lifelong learning and [mobility](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/mobility-cbc_en.htm) a reality;
* Improving the [quality and efficiency ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0669)of education and training;
* Promoting [equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/social-inclusion_en.htm);
* Enhancing creativity and innovation, including [entrepreneurship](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/entrepreneurship_en.htm), at all levels of education and training.

**What has been done so far?**

The following EU benchmarks for 2020 have been set for education:

* At least 95% of children (from 4 to compulsory school age) should participate in [early childhood education](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/index_en.htm);
* fewer than 15% of 15-year-olds should be under-skilled in [reading, mathematics and science](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/math_en.htm);
* fewer than 10% of young people should [drop out of education and training](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/early-school-leavers_en.htm);
* at least 40% of people aged 30-34 should have [completed some form of higher education](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/attainment_en.htm);
* at least 15% of adults should participate in [lifelong learning](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/adult-learning/index_en.htm);
* at least 20% of higher education graduates and 6% of 18-34 year-olds with an initial vocational qualification should have [spent some time studying or training abroad](http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/index_en.htm);
* the share of employed graduates (20-34 year-olds having successfully completed upper secondary or tertiary education) having left education 1-3 years ago should be at least 82%.

[Progress on these benchmarks](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/indicators-benchmarks_en.htm) is assessed in each EU country through a yearly country analysis, with the EU also providing recommendations.

**Find out more**

* + [DG EAC's Strategic Framework: Education and Training 2020 ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52009XG0528%2801%29:EN:NOT)
	+ [Education and Training monitor](http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/et-monitor_en.htm)
	+ [Country Specific Recommendations ](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm)
	+ [Europe2020 thematic paper on the skills gap and labour mobility(594 kB) ](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/themes/27_skills_gaps_and_labour_mobility.pdf)
	+ [Europe2020 thematic paper on quality of education and training(290 kB) ](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/themes/30_quality_of_education_and_training.pdf)
* EU legislation / initiatives



* + [2012 report on implementing the strategic framework for education and training ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:070:0009:0018:EN:PDF)
	+ [Commission policy paper on rethinking education ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012DC0669:EN:NOT)
	+ [Commission working document for rethinking education: country analysis ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012SC0377:EN:NOT)
	+ [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0047:0199:EN:PDF)- For the parts on education and training, see title XII, [Article 165 (education) ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E165:EN:NOT)and [Article 166 (vocational training) ](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E166:EN:NOT)