

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR A SOCIETAL, DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION

PRIORITIES OF THE TRIO PRESIDENCY GERMANY, PORTUGAL AND SLOVENIA OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (1 JULY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2021)

A ROADMAP

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -

From 1 July 2020 until 31 December 2021, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia will join forces as Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Trio Partners will work together with the common objective to foster a strong, more resilient, digital and knowledge based Europe that promotes equal opportunities among its citizens - a sovereign, inclusive, cohesive and more sustainable Europe.

The upcoming 18 months will be crucial in shaping the overall European Agenda for the next decade and defining the role of education and training in exploring Europe's new path in the wake of the Corona pandemic. Education and training systems must be ready to fully take on the challenge of emerging scientific knowledge, technological and societal changes also linked to digitalisation by fostering innovation for growth and jobs, and investments in people's skills and education, as well as by seeking synergies within the education and training sector as well as with all sectors and policy areas, such as research and employment, innovation and digitalisation, across social and economic activities.

Experience of the challenges faced during the COVID-19 outbreak demonstrates that education and training must be sufficiently flexible and resistant to interruptions in their regular cycles. Strengthening the free and inclusive mobility of students and teachers across Europe in the coming months and years must be also our common priority across Europe. Furthermore, a multilevel approach is needed in order to use the potential of education and training for transformative solutions and to successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG 4 on education.

As Trio Presidency we will work together in strengthening European cooperation in the area of education and training in order to make sure that our education and training systems can find strong answers in supporting the crisis recovery.

Moreover, the Trio Presidency will put on track the new strategic framework (Post-ET 2020) and will make every effort to ensure substantial progress in further developing and implementing the European Education Area (EEA), and to conclude, timely, the negotiations of the future Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) for education and training, youth and sport, having in mind that, at European level, strong investments in education and training – including infrastructure – have to be part of the European economic recovery plan/fund and the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Our joint collaboration will promote three priority areas that we will mainstream across our policy projects and joint initiatives: 1) developing skills and competences; 2) strengthening digitalisation and sustainability in education and training; and 3) fostering inclusion and equity, as well as educational success for all.

Within the period of our Trio Presidency, we will work together - with due regard to subsidiarity and fully respecting the competences of the member states - to support and implement the above policy projects and joint initiatives.

In order to account for the most recent developments and to ensure the necessary flexibility in developing the policy agenda, each Presidency will update the roadmap at the beginning of its term, in cooperation with the Trio partners.