



Bringing teachers together – bridging the experience gap

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Representing the European Pupils from Moldova at the EUPAS General Assembly, we stress the importance of giving more teachers the chance to enhance their teaching abilities and to broaden their intercultural knowledge and experience.

Alluding to the EUPAS Political Program, in order to educate the youth to embrace the European spirit and empower them to build for themselves an international future, we shall, first of all give the teachers the necessary tools to initiate the students into the study of European values: "modern curricula, effective teaching methods and well-trained teachers". Moreover, we have to recognize the importance of non-formal education and how pivotal it is for teachers to possess the necessary skills to use and implement non-formal education as to boost the European cultural awareness among students. Although we do realize that such programs, that focus on the mobility of teachers exist, we want to make them easier to access and to make them more spread throughout Europe.

Teachers, being one of the most important actors in the educational system, have a major input and influence on the bringing up of the new generation. Therefore, they should receive the necessary trainings and experience gaining opportunities, as to be able to keep up with the ongoing modernization of the educational system and the globalization. This point is also made in the political programme of EUPAS about lifelong learning: "We strongly promote the concept of lifelong learning through adult education centers and seminars or workshops offered by other institutions or non-profit organizations."

The main issue here is that nowadays, programmes are not accessible to teachers from all the European countries. Whereas, some programmes

exist, lack of information, the lack of frequency of organizing these programmes, and the financial matters are the main factors that hinder the further professional development of teachers. Although, usually the participation to such events is financed by the organizers or a third party, sometimes a participation fee is required or the travel expenses are just not affordable for the teachers.

We, the European Pupil's Association:

- **Understanding** that learning and professional development should be an ongoing process, regardless of one's age, occupation or social status;
- **Assuming** that not all teachers have equal access to quality trainings, exchanges and job shadowing experiences;
- **Assuming** that learning about European culture and gaining multicultural and professional experience is pivotal for quality teaching;
- **Stressing** the importance of having skilled teachers, with up-to-date teaching methods and with a broad European cultural background to pass on to their students;
- **Assuming** that the exchanges we are talking about already exist, but they are not as easily accessible and known about as we want them to;

Call upon the members of the European Parliament, especially the Committee for culture and education to:

- Elaborate on a plan for informing teachers throughout Europe about the already-existing exchange opportunities;
- Initiate a dialogue platform for the Ministries of Education from different European countries, in order for them to discuss about the potential teacher exchanges they could do;
- Further support the Erasmus+ programme, which has proven to be very efficient in bringing cohesion between citizens of different countries from and outside Europe;