Basic information

1994/0001(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Community action programme 'Socrates' Amended by 1996/0130(COD) Amended by 1997/0103(COD) **Subject** 4.40.03 Primary and secondary school, European Schools, early childhood 4.40.04 Universities, higher education 4.40.08 Language learning, regional and local languages	

Key players

European Parliament

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	THEATO Diemut R. (PPE)	22/02/1994
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	GARCÍA AMIGO Manuel (PPE)	08/10/1993
FEMM Women's Rights	HERMANS Anna (An) M.A. (PPE)	25/02/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	1778	1994-07-18
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	1773	1994-06-21
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	1811	1994-12-05
Research	1833	1995-03-10

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/02/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1993)0708	Summary
21/04/1994	Debate in Parliament		
16/05/1994	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0180	Summary

18/07/1994	Council position published	08144/1/1994	Summary
22/07/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
06/10/1994	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
06/10/1994	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0014/1994	
25/10/1994	Debate in Parliament		
05/12/1994	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
05/12/1994	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		Summary
25/01/1995	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
31/01/1995	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	03604/2/1995	
23/02/1995	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0036/1995	
28/02/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
01/03/1995	Debate in Parliament		
10/03/1995	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
14/03/1995	Final act signed		
14/03/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/04/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0001(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 1996/0130(COD) Amended by 1997/0103(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 170 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 126 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 127
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/06260

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T3-0360/1994 OJ C 128 09.05.1994, p. 0413-0479	22/04/1994	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0014/1994 OJ C 323 21.11.1994, p. 0006	06/10/1994	

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0051/1994 OJ C 323 21.11.1994, p. 0038-0050	26/10/1994	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0036/1995 OJ C 068 20.03.1995, p. 0014	23/02/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T4-0080/1995 OJ C 068 20.03.1995, p. 0016-0028	01/03/1995	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	08144/1/1994 OJ C 244 31.08.1994, p. 0051	18/07/1994	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1993)0708 OJ C 066 03.03.1994, p. 0002	03/02/1994	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1994)0180 OJ C 164 16.06.1994, p. 0008	16/05/1994	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1994)1217	19/07/1994	
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1994)0502	11/11/1994	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2001)0075	12/02/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0564/1994 OJ C 195 18.07.1994, p. 0029	27/04/1994	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0043/1994 OJ C 217 06.08.1994, p. 0018	17/05/1994	Summary
CSL/EP	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	03604/2/1995	31/01/1995	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1995/0819
OJ L 087 20.04.1995, p. 0010-0024 Summary

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 17/05/1994 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 26/10/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

Parliament amended the Council's common position with the adoption of 22 amendments which aimed mainly to: - fix the date of the entry into force of the programme for 1 January 1995; - introduce as an objective the development of the knowledge of Community languages and promote the intercultural dimension of teaching; - establish as an objective the participation of around 10% of all students in the European Union; - set out the responsibilities of the programme's committee; - promote cooperation with the OECD and UNESCO; - ensure that the Commission informed Parliament of the draft of implementing measures for the programme and took account of the priorities established by the other institutions, amending its draft if necessary; - open the programme to young nationals of Cyprus and Malta as well as the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe; - include in the annex, as an objective of the programme, university activities serving as European encounters, projects on cooperation in the field of intercultural and linguistic teaching between European schools and national schools and collaboration between students aimed at stimulating intercultural cooperation; - include the official languages of the Member States that did not have the status of official languages of the European Union in the projects relating to the preparatory language training of students.

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 22/04/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Parliament approved the Commission proposal subject to the amendments it tabled, which aimed to: - fill certain gaps in the text, such as the problem of access to information; accommodation; the recognition of study periods carried out; prior knowledge of the language of the host country, etc.; - reduce the effects of social and regional inequalities affecting young people in respect of access to the programme; - extend the programme to all teaching languages in the Community; - encourage the translation of university prospectuses; - promote the use of sabbatical years among teachers; - increase organised mobility of teachers.

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 03/02/1994 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision concerned the establishment of the Community action programme "Socrates". This programme, established for a duration of five years from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1999, aimed to contribute to the development of quality education and training and an open European area of cooperation on education. With a financial envelope of ECU 1 005.6 million over five years, "Socrates" had three objectives: - to promote cooperation in higher education: this mainly involved actions incorporating the activities of the old Erasmus programme: promoting the European dimension in universities, establishing networks of European universities and funding student mobility grants; - to promote cooperation in school education ("Europe at School"): this was the main new feature of the programme and provided for the establishment of partnerships between schools in different Member States for the joint implementation of education projects (pre-schools, primary and secondary schools), particularly in the field of languages, cultural heritage, protection of the environment or other topics of common interest. It would also involve promoting the creation of networks bringing together, according to their field of interest, the institutions involved in these partnerships, thus facilitating exchanges of information, and an improvement in or production of new teaching products. Finally, it would seek to promote education for the children of migrant workers and gypsies and to facilitate the updating of teachers' skills; - to implement horizontal actions at all levels of education: promoting language skills in the Community and open and distance learning. Actions were also planned to promote information and exchanges of experiences, particularly through the extension of the EURYDICE network (information on education in the Community programme) and through study visits for key players in education ("ARION" measures).

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 18/07/1994 - Council position

The Council adopted its common position on this proposal for a decision. In its common position, the Council maintained the essential elements of the Commission proposal but added a number of amendments concerning: - comitology: the Council opted for a committee whose terms of reference would be based either on the management committee procedure or advisory committee procedure, depending on circumstances. The committee would be assisted by two sub-committees: one in the field of higher education and the other in the field of school education; - financing: the Council included

in the text of the decision the amount deemed necessary (ADN) in terms of Community financial resources to implement the programme, which totalled ECU 760 million, broken down as follows: a minimum of 55% for the Erasmus programme, a minimum of 10% for the "Europe at school" programme, and at least 25% for the other actions (including linguistic actions); - the procedure for selecting projects: the Council amended the procedures for proposing and selecting projects according to whether an action was deemed to be centralised or decentralised; - the scope of actions under Chapter II - Action 2 (School education): the Council extended the scope of this action to include the children of migrant workers and the children of occupational travellers as well as including the concept of intercultural education; - the aims of certain actions under Chapter III, by strengthening the measure aimed at promoting the European dimension of adult learning in comparison to the original proposal; - the name of the chapters, by stipulating that Chapter I would be called "Erasmus" and Chapter II would be called "Comenius".

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 27/04/1994 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 16/05/1994 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission introduced amendments aimed at clarifying the initial text and improving the text in terms of enhancing the target groups. More specifically, the Commission did not accept a number of amendments aimed, in particular, at: - amending the legal basis (Articles 126 and 127 of the Treaty instead of Article 126 alone, as proposed by Parliament); - including provisions concerning the responsibilities of the Member States or the composition of the consultative committee, as well as those relating to preferential treatment for certain establishments in regions of cohesion countries; - enabling associated European countries to participate in the programme; - introducing language learning in categories not considered to be targets of the programme; - doing away with certain aspects of cooperation in the field of distance learning; - introducing changes to the methods of distributing Community funds among the various actions of the programme; - introducing a provision on the automatic renewal of the existing programmes (Erasmus, Lingua). The Commission had an open attitude to Parliament's proposal to give a name to Action 3 of Chapter I (Erasmus grants) and Chapter II (Comenius programme) and III (Luis Antonio Vernei), while underlining that this programme should retain a horizontal nature. It also took over the amendments aimed at improving student mobility, with a view to achieving a participation of at least 10% in the Community, and ensuring that this mobility was accessible to as many students as possible from all social backgrounds (particularly the most disadvantaged). Finally, the Commission stressed the concept of an intercultural dimension, in particular in the chapter concerning the improvement of education for the children of gypsies.

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 14/03/1995 - Final act

This decision by the European Parliament and the Council (819/95/EC) sets up the "SOCRATES" programme for the period from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1999, the aim of which is to develop quality education and training and an open European area of cooperation on education. It supports and complements action by the Member States in this area, while fully respecting their responsibility for the curricula and organisation of their education system and their cultural and linguistic diversity. Objectives and actions: SOCRATES has three major objectives: - to promote cooperation in higher education (ERASMUS programme), comprising two actions: . action 1: to promote the European dimension in universities, . action 2: to encourage student mobility by funding student mobility grants; - to promote cooperation in school education (COMENIUS programme): this is the main innovation of SOCRATES and it makes provision for: . action 1: to set up new partnerships between schools in different Member States on European education projects (nurseries, primary and secondary schools), especially in the area of languages, use of technologies etc., . action 2: to educate children of migrant workers, persons exercising itinerant professions, travellers and gypsies and to promote intercultural education, . action 3: to update and improve teachers' skills; - to implement horizontal actions in the following areas: . action 1: LINGUA: to promote linguistic skills in the Community, . action 2: to promote open and distance learning, . action 3: to promote exchanges of information and experience, mainly by extending the EURYDICE network (information on education in the Community programme) or NARIC and by study visits by key players in education (ARION). Complementary measures are also planned, one of the main measures being cooperation with the Council of Europe in organizing the "Europe at School" competition. Funding: with a budget of ECU 850 million over 5 years (divided into annual grants on the basis of current financial perspectives), the programme suggests an allocation of: 55% for the ERASMUS programme, 10% for COMENIUS and 25% for other measures (including linguistic measures). Management of the programme: the Commission will be assisted in implementing this programme by a committee which will act as a management or advisory committee, depending on the subject matter. The committee will be assisted by two sub-committees: one in the area of higher education and the other in the area of school education. Project selection methods vary, depending on whether measures are centralised or decentralised. Cooperation: the programme is to be implemented in tandem with other Community initiatives or programmes (LEONARDO, research programmes) and in cooperation with the associated countries of eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta.

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 01/03/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

Parliament approved the joint text.

Community action programme 'Socrates'

1994/0001(COD) - 12/02/2001

This report concerns the implementation of the SOCRATES programme during the period 1995 to 1999, which corresponds to the first phase of the programme. It takes into account all analyses available, particularly the conclusions of the interim evaluation and of four external evaluations completed in November 2000. This document has undergone thorough consultation within the SOCRATES Committee and the support group set up by it. The analysis and information gathering carried out must also inform the debate at the broadcast level in order to contribute inter alia to the success of the new phase of the SOCRATES programme by drawing on the experienced amassed between 1995 and 1999. The report comprises an examination of the results achieved by the programme in relation to the objectives set by Decision 819/95/EC. This analysis is followed by a summary of the main developments in the programme, considering at the same time the transition of the programme from its initial phase to the second phase and the political environment in which SOCRATES evolved. It is intended to be a synthetic report and priority is given to qualititative analysis. With regard to the implementation of the programme from 1995 to 1999, the external evaluation points to three types of criticisms from those who took part in the initial phase of SOCRATES. The main criticism is of the implementation procedures, the dissemination of results and the policy for following up and evaluating the programme in general. Many procedures have been deemed excessively cumbersome and complex in relation to the financing involved, which are sometimes small. Furthermore, payments are often excessively long. The external evaluation also finds that access to information has been judged satisfactory by the participants, with the exception of disabled persons. The content of infomation provided nonetheless remains excessively complex and dissemination of the programme results has been disappointing. The SOCRATES programme remains popular but questions remain as to its visibility. The Commission intends to take due account of this critcism in order to shape for the future a policy which is better targeted as regards communication, in partnership with the participating countries. In addition, the Commission acknowledges that the policy on monitoring and evaluation implemented in the first phase of the programme was inadequate. The results achieved through the various actions of the programme have to be appreciate in light of the SOCRATES objectives during its intial phase. These results are presented in the order of the ten programme objectives set out in 1995 which according to the Commission have a excessively vague definition which makes it difficult to have an overview of the results achieved. for the sake of clarity, this report accordingly focuses first on the objectives primarily linked to the resolve to develop European citizenship, then to those targeting more specifically the improvement of the quality of education systems. Lastly, the report hopes to contribute to the success of the second phase of the SOCRATES programme (2000-2006) by highlighting the experience of the first phase. The experience shows that SOCRATES is very successful in that it hascontributed to asserting the European dimension throughout education in general. Nevertheless, improvements are needed so as to make the programme management more user-friendly. The gap between the programme's objectives, the ambition of which is enthusiastically shared by the education community, and sometimes inadequate resources for implementation both at European level and at national levels, must be narrowed. Moreover, the success of the second phase largely depends on the human and financial resources allocated to its implementation at national and European level.