Basic information

2002/0303(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies **Subject** 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	MAURO Mario Walter (PPE-DE)	21/01/2003

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	MAURO Mario Walter (PPE-DE)	21/01/2003

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	WYNN Terence (PSE)	11/02/2003
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	GRÖNER Lissy (PSE)	23/01/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2518	2003-06-16
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2484	2003-02-06
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2503	2003-05-05
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	2003-11-24

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/12/2002	Legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0751	Summary
13/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
06/02/2003	Debate in Council		
17/03/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
17/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0080/2003	
07/04/2003	Debate in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0146/2003	Summary
29/04/2003	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0245	Summary
16/06/2003	Council position published	08642/1/2003	Summary
03/07/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
29/09/2003	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
29/09/2003	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0314/2003	
20/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		
21/10/2003	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0441/2003	Summary
24/11/2003	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
05/12/2003	Final act signed		
05/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0303(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149-p4 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/19455

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0080/2003	17/03/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0146/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0025-0169 E	08/04/2003	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0314/2003	29/09/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0441/2003 OJ C 082 01.04.2004, p. 0026-0104 E	21/10/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council statement on its position	10221/2003	06/06/2003	
Council position	08642/1/2003 OJ C 233 30.09.2003, p. 0024-0034 E	16/06/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2002)0751	19/12/2002	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2003)0245	29/04/2003	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2003)0753	27/06/2003	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2003)0699	11/11/2003	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2009)0159	06/04/2009	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0115/2003 OJ C 133 06.06.2003, p. 0033-0037	26/03/2003	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0073/2003 OJ C 244 10.10.2003, p. 0042-0046	09/04/2003	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2003/2318 OJ L 345 31.12.2003, p. 0009-0016	Summary

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 11/11/2003 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepts the Parliament's amendment setting the financial framework for the implementation of this Programme at EUR 44 million.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 29/04/2003 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission can accept fully or in the essence 24 of the 27 amendments adopted by the Parliament; Concerning the amendments fully accepted by the Commission, they deals with the following issues: - as regards the scope of the programme, there is a series of amendments stressing the importance of teacher training for the overall objectives of the eLearning programme, and of the e-twinning action area as a tool for "in-service" teacher training in the use of ICT and in European cooperation; - a second series of amendments introduce references to specific target groups, such as the disabled, rural areas, or immigrants, and to gender issues; - as regards financing, several amendments call for keeping the programme's budget at the same level as preparatory actions and can be accepted. A compromise amendment changes the Commission proposal, allocating a higher share of funding to the etwinning schools in Europe action line and reducing consequently the percentage for action line 1 "e-learning for fighting the digital divide"; - adding to the programme's objectives the promotion of the development of high quality multimedia European software, contents and services, can also be accepted. The same can be said for the amendments calling for simplification of the programme's management and those which develop the concept of international cooperation, calling for attention to known good e-learning practice, namely to that of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. As regards the amendments accepted in part or in principle by the Commission, these are as follows: - again on the scope of the programme, one amendment develops the teacher training aspects of the schools twinning action, with a particular emphasis in the exchange of good practice and the development of cooperation at teacher level. While there is agreement in the essence, the proposed wording of the amendment is very long and has a repetitive sentence on good practice. It is proposed to shorten it and to eliminate this repetition. It is also proposed to take away the reference to "virtual training rooms", a concept that would present a problem for some Member States. Lastly, concerning the amendments not accepted by the Commission, these concern those which state the importance of digital television, and calls for guaranteeing interoperability in accordance with Article 18 of the Directive on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive). While fully agreeing with the essence of the amendment, the actions called for are beyond the competences of education and training programmes. This amendment is therefore rejected. Another amendment proposes an augmentation of the total budget from EUR 36 million to EUR 54 million. However, at this stage, the Commission must stay with its original proposal. The amendment asking for "European teacher training programmes" cannot be accepted. Teacher training is an exclusive competence of Member States.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 21/10/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, Italy) and adjusted the figure for the programme's budget. (Please see the document dated 29/09/03.)

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 16/06/2003 - Council position

In its common position the Council has approved (the German delegation voting against) the Commission's proposal in principle, while making certain amendments which it thought desirable, and which in the majority of cases are in line with the European Parliament's opinion as well as the Commission's amended proposal. The Council considers that its common position reflects a good balance between the various actions envisaged in the context of the contribution of eLearning to enhancing the European dimension of education and promoting cooperation between Community programmes and instruments as well as Member State actions. It will moreover complement existing programmes and contribute to the preparation of future instruments in the field of education and training. Concerning the amendments made by the Council to the Commission's proposal, these are follows: - role of eLearning : the Council has introduced a new recital which stresses the significance of the programme both in complementing existing programmes and in helping to prepare the new generation of education and training programmes; - co-operation, complementarity and synergy : with a view to greater clarity and concision with respect to the above considerations, the former articles 4, 7 and 8 have been merged into two: Article 4 (Implementation of the programme and co-operation with the Member States) and Article 7 (consistency and complementarity); - funding : the Council is of the opinion that a financial framework of EUR 33 million would enable the programme to meet its objectives, while bearing in mind the need to exercise budgetary restraint; - budget distribution : in relation to distribution, a greater proportion of the budget (45%) has been allocated to eTwinning and teacher training, while "promotion of digital literacy" (initially designated "fighting the digital divide") has been allocated 10% as this action is considered as essentially exemplary; - promoting digital literacy : this action line has been clarified and simplified in accordance with the new budget distribution; - European Virtual Campuses - this Action Line has been consolidated into 3 actions. The concept of developing existing instruments has been preferred to referring to the "Bologna Process" as such since this is an ongoing process and susceptible to change; - eTwinning for primary and secondary schools in Europe and promotion of teachers' training: the Council has introduced a series of amendments to reinforce the aspect of eTwinning between schools. It has also underlined the importance of e-learning in the context of teacher training; - transversal actions and monitoring of eLearning : this Action Line has been redrafted in the interests of clarity. For example, the organisation of an annual conference was not considered necessary, in view of the relatively short duration of the programme. The role of international projects can be considered as of general relevance in the context of the programme. As regards the amendments not accepted by the Council, these refer to : - the establishment of a link between the financial andadministrative basis of the programme and the preparatory actions; - references to gender equality, disability and geographical location; - the specification of rural areas; - the promotion of high quality software; - long-term sustainability of strategic pilot projects; - the design of projects related to translating and interpreting languages; - participation in international projects.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 27/06/2003 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission is of the opinion that the text of the common position is broadly acceptable as it largely respects the substance of the Commission's original proposal. Concerning in particular the budget, the Commission's proposal was carefully costed, within a spirit of budgetary restraint. The amount proposed was judged as a minimum threshold for impact on the three main action areas. However, the Commission accepts the common position adopted by qualified majority, reducing the budget to EUR 33 million, in order to allow the continuation of the procedure. The Commission considers that the text of the common position is a good basis for a European Parliament and Council decision.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 19/12/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to establish the eLearning Programme, a multi-annual programme for the effective integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education and training systems in Europe. CONTENT : this proposal concerns the adoption of a financial support programme. The overall objective is to improve the quality and accessibility of European education and training systems through the effective integration of new technologies (e-learning), supporting and complementing the actions of Member States in this field. The specific objectives of the programme are: - to explore and to promote ways and means of using e-learning for strengthening social cohesion and personal development, fostering intercultural dialogue, and fighting the digital divide; - to promote and develop the use of e-learning as an enabling factor for the implementation of the lifelong learning paradigm in Europe; - to exploit the potential of e-learning for enhancing the European dimension in education; - to facilitate a more structured co-operation in the field of e-learning between the diverse Community programmes and instruments and Member States actions; - to provide mechanisms for encouraging improvement of quality of products and services as well as for their effective dissemination and for exchange of good practice. There are four areas of intervention: - fighting the digital divide. Actions in this area will address the contribution of ICT for learning, in particular for those who -due to their geographical location, social situation or special needs- are not able to benefit from traditional educational and training provisions. The objective is to foster awareness and understanding of how ICT can aid these less privileged groups to acquire basic educational skills that are needed for the knowledge society. It will identify good examples and build synergies between the many projects which address these target groups. The budget available is around 25% of the total budget. - universities and higher education institutions. The priority here is better integration of the virtual dimension in physical mobility, quality assurance and the mutual recognition schemes of the Bologna Process. The objective is to encourage the development of new organisational models for European universities (virtual campus) and for European exchange and sharing schemes (virtual mobility), building on existing European co-operation frameworks (Erasmus programme, Bologna process), and providing an "e-learning dimension" to their operational tools (ECTS, European Masters; quality assurance; mobility). 30% of the total budget is available for this area. - school twinning via the Internet. The objective is to strengthen and develop schools networking, in particular via an European-wide school-twinning scheme which should make it possible for all European schools to build pedagogical partnerships with a school elsewhere in Europe, fostering language learning and intercultural dialogue. 25% of the total budget is available. - Transversal actions for the promotion of e-learning in Europe, building on the monitoring of the eLearning Action Plan. Theobjectives are the dissemination and promotion of good practice from the many projects which have been funded at the European level or by Member States and to reinforce co-operation between the various actors involved, in particular by

fostering public-private partnerships. 10% of the total budget is available for this. In order to achieve its objectives, the programme will finance the following types of actions: - support for strategic pilot projects, with potential for significant impact, and clear prospects for long-term sustainability; - support for the development of research, analysis and monitoring of methods, tools, practice and trends in the design and use of 'e-learning' models for education and training; - support for strategic actions by European networks and partnerships designed to foster innovation, quality in the design and use of products and services, based on the relevant use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for education and training; - support for European platforms for dissemination, co-operation and exchange of good practice and technical and administrative assistance. The programme will be implemented over a period starting on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2006.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 06/04/2009

This report was written to fulfil the requirements set out in the European Parliament and Council decisions establishing the Community action programmes in the field of education (Socrates 2000-2006), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci 2000-2006) and integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education and training systems in Europe (eLearning 2004-2006).

Together, these programmes received more than **EUR 3 billion of Community funds**.

For the period 2007-2013, the various initiatives under these three programmes have been integrated under a single umbrella, the new Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). The decision to conduct a joint evaluation and to present this joint report follows the same line as this integration.

Recall that the **eLearning** programme aimed to support and further develop effective use of ICT in education and training. The objective was to contribute to high-quality education and to put the needs of the knowledge society into a lifelong learning context. The budget available for 2004-2006 was EUR 44 million, 45% of which was for twinning and networking schools via ICT (eTwinning). New organisational models were developed to create virtual campuses to add a virtual dimension to European cooperation between universities. Digital literacy was also promoted by encouraging new skills needed in an information-driven society.

Results of the evaluation: the eLearning programme was particularly effective at producing short-term results for organisations. More than 98% of the eLearning coordinators consulted considered that their project had made a positive impact on cooperation between institutions. Especially prominent institutional benefits included involvement in transnational cooperation, establishment of contacts and exchanges of good practice. Overall, the eLearning programme contributed very positively to the objectives of Education and Training 2010. It performed especially well on developing skills for the knowledge economy and ensuring access to ICTs. Between 67% and 75% agreed or strongly agreed that their project had produced higher standards of digital literacy.

eTwinning was particularly effective at providing an innovative and interesting model offering schools free access to the eTwinning portal, a partner-finding service, support for school-level projects, pedagogical advice and good practice. This approach proved popular with the target audience and highly cost-effective. It exceeded stakeholders' and participants' expectations.

The report also notes that Grundtvig (sub-programme of Socrates) and the eLearning programme had the strongest impact on tackling socio-economic disadvantage.

Lastly, the report notes that the eLearning activities have now been mainstreamed into the Lifelong Learning Programme (notably eTwinning in Comenius and virtual campuses in Erasmus).

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 08/04/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the draft by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, Italy) and made several amendments to the Commission's proposal. (Please refer to the summary dated 17/03/03.) Other amendments emphasised support for European networks that straighten the pedagogical and education use of the Internet and ICT and also for the exchange of good practice. These activities are designed to ensure that teachers and pupils are not only technically proficient at using the Internet and ICT but also use them in a critical and educationally responsible manner. On the question of experts, Parliament raised the level of funds allocated for the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses to 0.5%, from the original ceiling of 0.2%.

Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

2002/0303(COD) - 05/12/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to set up the eLearning Programme. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2318/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual programme (2004 to 2006) for the effective integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education and

training systems in Europe (eLearning Programme). CONTENT : this Decision establishes the eLearning Programme, a multiannual programme for the improvement of the quality and accessibility of European education and training systems through the effective use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The programme will be implemented over a period starting on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2006. The overall objective of the programme is to develop further the effective use of ICT in European education and training systems, as a contribution to a quality education and an essential element of their adaptation to the needs of the knowledge society in a lifelong learning context. The specific objectives of the programme are: - to identify the actors concerned and inform them of ways and means of using e-learning for promoting digital literacy and thereby contribute to strengthening social cohesion and personal development and fostering intercultural dialogue; - to exploit the potential of e-learning for enhancing the European dimension in education; - to provide mechanisms for supporting development of European quality products and services, and for exchange and transfer of good practice; - to exploit the potential of e-learning in the context of innovation in teaching methods with a view to improving the quality of the learning process and fostering the autonomy of learners. The objectives of the programme will be pursued in the following areas of intervention, in accordance with the action lines described in the Annex: - Promoting digital literacy: actions in this area will address the contribution of ICT in school and more broadly in a lifelong learning context, in particular for those who, owing to their geographical location, social situation or special needs, do not have easy access to those technologies. The objective is to identify good examples and build synergies between the many national and European activities, which address these target groups. Around 10 % of total budget is available for this. -European virtual campuses: actions in this area will pursue a better integration of the virtual dimension in higher education. The objective is to encourage the development of new organisational models for providing higher education in Europe (virtual campuses) and for European exchange and sharing schemes (virtual mobility), building on existing European cooperation frameworks (Erasmus programme, Bologna process), and providing an "e-learning dimension" to their operational tools (European credit transfer system (ECTS), European Masters, quality assurance, mobility). Around 30 % of total budget is available for this. - E-twinning of schools in Europe and promotion of teachers' training: actions in this area will support and further develop networking in schools, to make it possible for all schools in Europe to build pedagogical partnerships with schools elsewherein Europe, to promote innovative cooperation methods and transfer quality educational approaches and reinforce language learning and intercultural dialogue; actions in this area will also address the updating of teachers' and trainers' professional skills in the pedagogical and collaborative use of ICT through an exchange and dissemination of good practices and the setting up of transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation projects. Around 45% of the total budget is available for this action. - Transversal actions: actions in this area will address the promotion of e-learning in Europe, building on the monitoring of the eLearning Action Plan. The objectives are the dissemination, promotion and transfer of good and innovative practices and results from the projects and programmes and to reinforce cooperation between the various actors involved, in particular by fostering public-private partnerships. A maximum 7.5 % of total budget will be spent. Furthermore, a maximum 7.5 % of total budget is available for technical and administrative assistance. The financial framework for the entire period is EUR 44 million. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 20/01/04.