

4th. edition, December, 2023

NEWSLETTER



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1. CIE IN 2024

Each new year brings new expectations, challenges and plans. There will be a lot going on here. In addition to the implementation of already started projects, there will, of course, be more. The beginning of the year will be marked by studies in Outdoor Learning. Sic! This is the first such project in Poland, carried out together with the University of Gdańsk. The 2-semester postgraduate studies provide for over 400 teaching hours, including field trips! Lecturers from the University of Gdańsk and outdoor trainers from Poland and Europe will lecture. The Senate of the University of Gdansk on December 14, 2023 **passed a resolution** on establishing the program of postgraduate studies Outdoor Learning!



2. NEF BRUSSELS' SUMMARY


We are concluding this year with yet another significant meeting that brought together European policymakers, the business community, educators, and youth: the New Education Forum Brussels 2023.

The 34th Forum proved to be a platform for the exchange of important ideas. The inspirational Opening Working Dinner at the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Mr. Tomasz Frankowski and CIE, set the stage. During this event, three presentations from European youth provided explicit insights into why and how formal education should evolve. This laid a solid foundation for the discussions that unfolded on the next day December 5th at the headquarters of BusinessEurope, the largest employers' organization in the EU.

Addressing the participants in her opening speech, Madam Iliana Ivanova, European Commission, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth, acknowledged, "You are tackling one of the most fundamental and pressing challenges faced by our young people: mental health and the fast-changing world of work." Her remarks found further support in the presentation by Madam Anna Partyka-Opiela of UNICEF Poland during the Forum's first panel. Emphasis was placed on the critical importance of preventive actions in addressing mental health crises.

The discussions also featured insights from Madam Isabelle Verwilghen, Deputy Director of the European School Brussels II, and Linnéa Lindfors, a student in S7 – Finnish section, European School Brussels II. Beyond helplines and antibullying procedures, the school's emphasis on dialogue within the entire school community, particularly between students and teachers, was highlighted.

Mr. Tomasz Kobylański, Main Expert of the Education Department of the City of Cracow, shared cross-sectorial solutions implemented in Poland, known as "Sunny Spaces of Support." These include eight locations in Krakow with psychological and pedagogical clinics providing support to children and young people from Ukraine, their parents, and their Polish peers.



The second panel focused on changes in the labor market and their implications for Generation Z. Mr. Markus Beyrer, Director General of BusinessEurope, emphasized the urgency of addressing job mismatching and the challenges posed by an aging European society. This sentiment was echoed by speakers like Mr. Jorge Gimeno Pawlowski and Mr. Jakub Boratyński of the European Commission, who highlighted the need for inclusive transition pathways and the sharing of training resources for upskilling and reskilling.

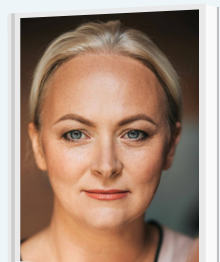
Maxime Cerutti, Director of the Social Affairs Department of BusinessEurope, underscored the impact of the rapid aging of European societies on employers and proposed internal and external responses. Miriam Lanzetta, Director of the EU Projects Unit at Lascò, discussed the need for addressing talent gaps in formal education and preparing teachers to embrace change and technology.

Dimitris Tsitsopoulos, a student at École européenne de Bruxelles III, expressed uncertainty about the future and emphasized the importance of preparing for it through various activities. Mr. Daniel Wiśniewski, Secretary General of the European Federation of Education Employers, highlighted the need for greater cooperation between business, schools, and other stakeholders to address inactivity rather than just unemployment.

In conclusion, the sentiments expressed at the forum aligned with the vision outlined by Iliana Ivanova in her opening speech, emphasizing the importance of providing a strong foundation for young people through avenues of reskilling and upskilling to navigate societal and economic changes confidently.

Our Center for Innovative Education is now working with European youth present at NEF Brussels 2023 on the joint Recommendations, which we will share with you at the beginning of 2024. Further we will disseminate them among the European Parliament Members and representatives of the European Commission with whom we have established network.

JOANNA BOCHNIARZ,
CIE GENERAL DIRECTOR





3. Iliana IVANOVA - Commissionaire for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, NEF Brussels welcoming statement.

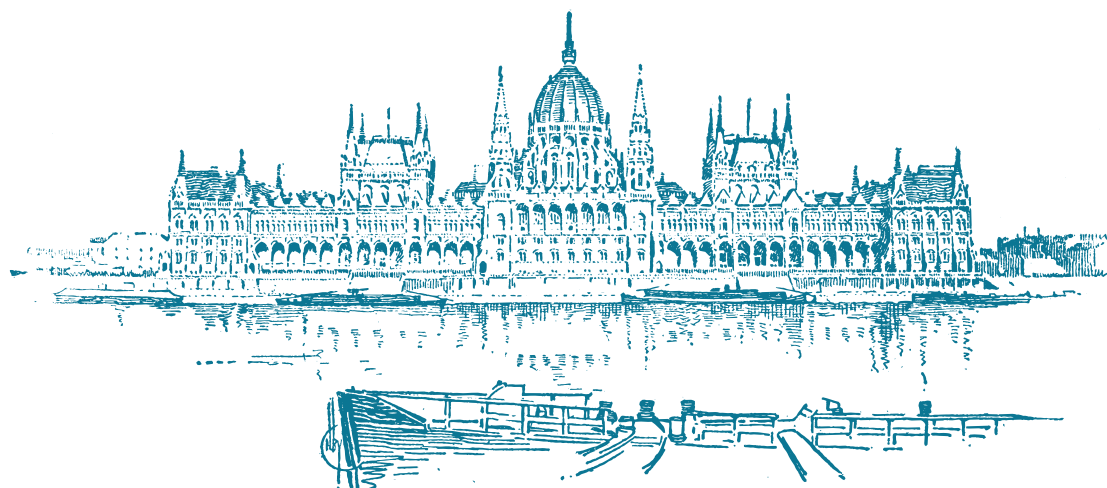
Dear friends,

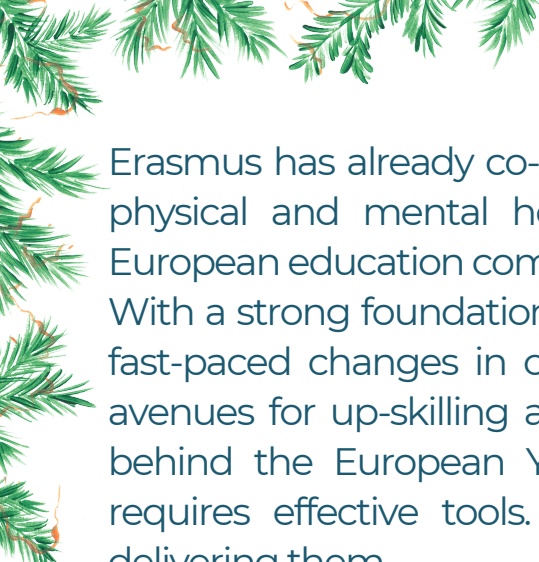
I am grateful for this chance to send a message of support to the New Education Forum. You are tackling one of the most pressing and fundamental challenges faced by our young people: mental health and the fast-changing world of work. Young people all across the EU are trying to get 'a foot on the ladder'. Our education systems, schools and universities are doing a great job to prepare them for their future. They provide skills and foster attitudes that empower.

Yet the challenges we face are evolving fast. Skills needs are constantly changing. The green and digital transformation of our economy is progressing rapidly and have a major impact on the future of work. We need to make sure that young people are prepared to seize the opportunities stemming from this process. We also need to protect mental health by improving young people's support systems. This echoes the comprehensive approach to mental health adopted last June by the Commission. We must look at health in context – at school, at work, at home and in society.

Schools play a key role. They are spaces where young people develop emotionally and socially. They must be safe, inclusive spaces for exploration and growth. A place where students feel they belong. This is key to fostering trust, building confidence to take risks and being entrepreneurial. We must leave no learner behind.

That is the rationale of Pathways to School Success, a Council Recommendation adopted last November. From early prevention to intervention and compensation, this Recommendation supports education institutions as they adopt a whole-of-school approach for positive systemic change. And schools can benefit from the support of our flagship programme - Erasmus+.





Erasmus has already co-financed nearly 10,000 projects focused on wellbeing, physical and mental health. These provide examples and results for the European education community to draw on.

With a strong foundation, young people can stand more confidently amid the fast-paced changes in our societies and economies. It is important to build avenues for up-skilling and re-skilling, building resilience. This is the thinking behind the European Year of Skills. Because adapting to new challenges requires effective tools. And our education providers are fundamental in delivering them.

Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans support investments that will build more avenues for young people to feel supported.

Another important point of focus is Vocational Education and Training, also supported by Erasmus+.

There is also an important role for Youth work. And we must not forget the opportunities created by the Horizon Europe programme, providing fundamental skills, especially in fields linked to Deep Tech, at the forefront of labour market change.

All of these opportunities are meant to provide the head start young people need to succeed. But they all require a firm foundation, at our learning institutions, providing solid knowledge, the right skills and attitudes, and a healthy, happy environment to grow in.

Thank you for your commitment, dedication and enthusiasm as you support our young people tackling this challenge.

I look forward to our continued collaboration!



ILIANA IVANOVA,
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

Happy Holidays!



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