



GINCO Conference , Thessaloniki 7-11 December 2011

Resolution on the EUROPEAN Commission's proposal "Erasmus for all"

Resolution voted on the annual conference of the Grundtvig International Network of Course Organisers in Thessaloniki.

The GINCO network members want to stress the importance of informal and non-formal learning in general and of adult education and learning in particular in today's Europe. The numerous challenges offered by our multicultural and ageing society cannot be met by a narrow focus on vocational training and higher education only. Professional development, cultural development and social cohesion can only be outcomes of a broad view on lifelong learning.

The GINCO network expresses its deepest concern about the fact that

- the well established, successful and meaningful name "Grundtvig" is abandoned in favour of "Erasmus", which has been exclusively linked to higher education
- vocational education and training and general adult learning are united in one action "Erasmus Training" despite very clear messages from the field insisting on two separate funding lines
- While teachers and trainers of all other education sectors are specifically mentioned in the proposed mobility action, there is no explicit reference to adult education staff and their professional development
- Continuing professional development will be 'organisational based' and therefore leave out individual initiatives
- the overall funding level for adult learning, despite an absolute increase, still amounts to no more than 2 % of the total programme budget

Therefore, The GINCO network strongly recommends to the European Parliament and the European Council that they insist on

- the continuation of a separate funding line for adult education and learning
- maintaining the well established name “Grundtvig” or at least have a reference ‘ ... for adults’ to any other proposed programme name
- a substantial increase of the relative share of the programme budget for adult learning
- the continuation of the formal and non-formal in-service training actions for adult education staff similar to the existing ones
- establishing an expert group that puts in place adequate funding mechanisms for such in-service training actions taking into account the experiences gained in the present and previous programmes
- developing and implementing a validation and quality assurance system for staff mobility

This text was unanimously approved by the conference participants on 10 December 2011.
70 participants.

On behalf of the GINCO network
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GINCO coordinator