

The conference
**„Mobility as a tool to acquire and develop competences from
childhood to seniority”**
17-19 October 2011, Sopot

The final declaration

1. The conference on „Mobility as a tool to acquire and develop competences from childhood to seniority”, organised by the Polish presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission was held in Sopot on 17 - 19 October 2011. The conference was dedicated to the mobility in the EU programmes in the field of education and training as well as the youth and role of the mobility in the process of acquiring and developing competences.
2. The conference was attended by the representatives of the European Parliament, European Commission, members of the Committees of the Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action Programmes, CEDEFOP experts, representatives of: the national agencies of educational and youth EU programmes, non - governmental organisations, national and foreign educational institutions operating in the field of education and training and youth, higher education institutions, school directors and teachers, adult education providers, as well as the representatives of the employers and social partners.
3. Participants of the conference:
 - a) Have expressed their satisfaction that the conference created an unique opportunity to the exchange of views on the mobility supporting tools, which exist within the common EU programmes, both at the European and the national level and that it was the forum to discuss the future perspectives, including better methods of using the mobility outcomes for the social development and establishing institutional base.
 - b) Have appreciated hitherto attainments and the potential of the Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action Programmes for acquiring competences, supporting mobility and the development of the civic society at the same time stressing the necessity of continuing these programmes.
 - c) Have expressed confidence that, considering the influence of the educational mobility on the personal and professional development of its participants, it is necessary to emphasise not only the dissemination of the mobility but also its quality.

- d) Have emphasised that the next generation programmes shall include beneficiaries and target groups of every age - from childhood to seniority - both within the formal, informal and non-formal education.
 - e) Have underlined the importance of organising the networks supporting the development of the educational mobility through establishing partnerships at the European, regional and local level.
 - f) Have appealed for promoting and effective use of available tools and solutions, which support the process of validation and recognition of achievements acquired through the educational mobility, also out of formal education activities.
 - g) Have considered essential to promote and extend the cooperation between the education and training systems and the labour market in the next generation programmes, which would result in the increase of opportunities on the labour market for the beneficiaries, especially young people who make their first steps on the labour market.
 - h) Have recognized the need to develop educational and youth mobility between Member States and the countries neighbouring the European Union
 - i) Have appealed for assuring for teaching and learning languages the appropriate place in the next generation of European educational and youth programmes.
4. The conference has confirmed the necessity and the importance of organising such forums for discussion, exchange of good practices, experiences and wider dissemination of the EU programmes results.

Sopot, 19 October 2011.