



**Youth on  
the Move**

An initiative of the European Union



Education and Culture DG

# EU HIGHER EDUCATION MODERNISATION AGENDA – an update



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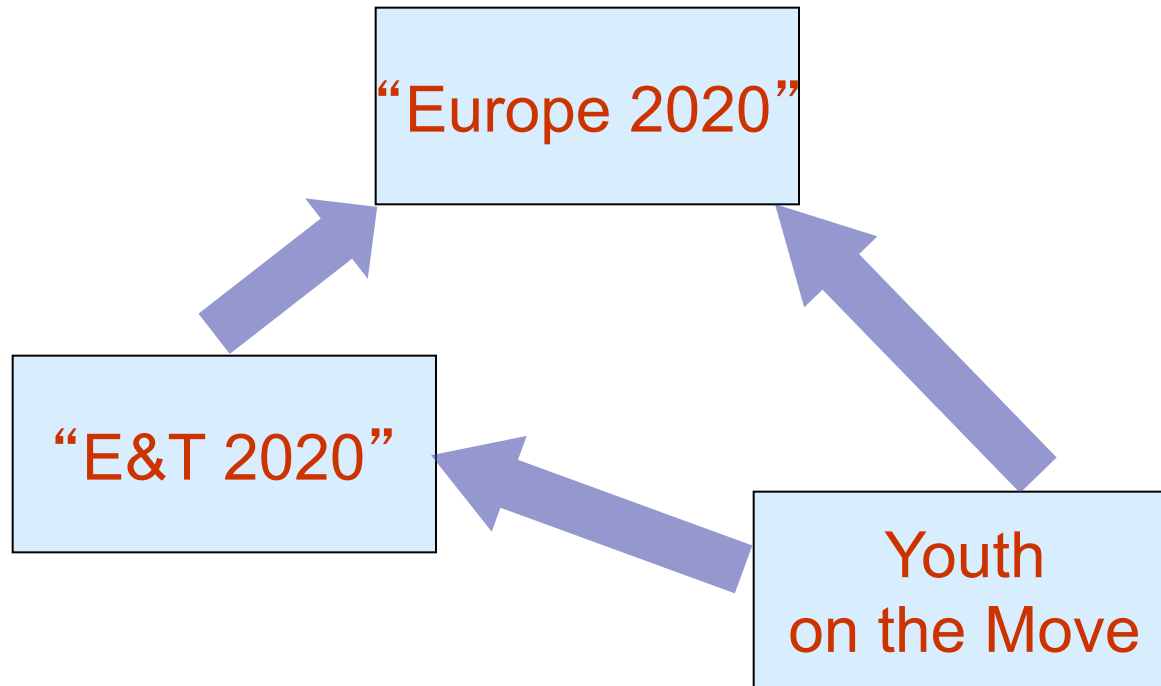


# Strategic policy context (1)

- **Education & Training 2020** (adopted May 2009) defines priorities for cooperation among EU Member States in education and training, with benchmarks to achieve by 2020.
- **Europe 2020** (adopted June 2010) defines the general political agenda for the EU to achieve “smart, sustainable and inclusive” growth in the next decade, including headline targets.
- **Youth on the Move** (adopted September 2010) - one of 7 Europe 2020 flagship initiatives - focused on education and training and youth employment.

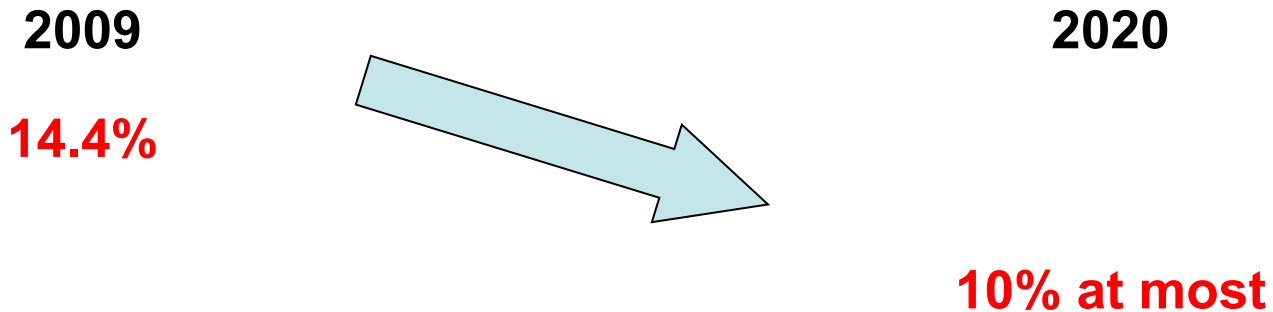


# Strategic policy context (2)

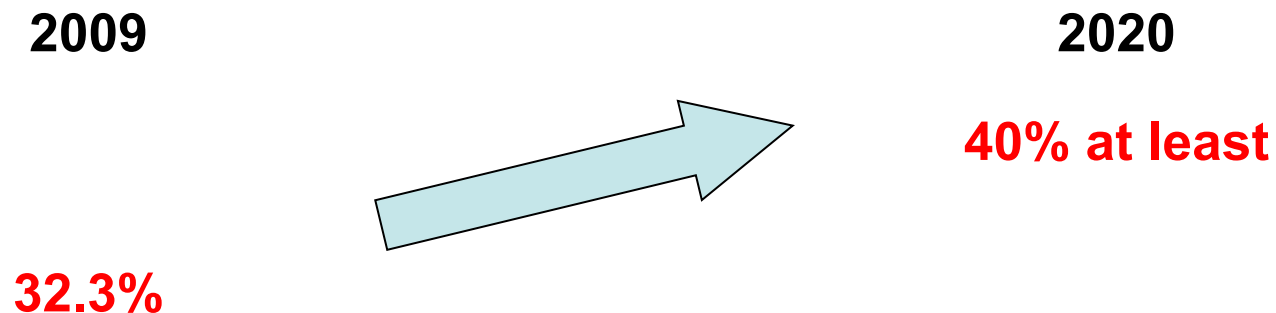


# Europe 2020 targets in Education and training

## Early School Leaving (Age 18-24 without upper secondary qualification)



## Higher Education Attainment (Age 30-34 with HE qualification)



# Why Youth on the Move?

- An EU “flagship initiative” to help achieve Europe 2020 targets by “responding to the **challenges young people face** and to help them succeed in the knowledge economy”
- **Youth unemployment in the EU = over 20%**
  - Partly **skills-related**: high school drop outs / low higher education attainment etc. affect employability
  - Partly **labour market-related**: need for reform of rules and better support to get started in a job



# Youth on the Move actions

- **Four lines of action:**
  1. **Lifelong learning** (schools, VET, non/informal)
  2. **Higher education**
  3. Learning and employment **mobility**
  4. A European **youth employment framework**
- All to be implemented through **Open Method of Coordination**, with support from **EU funding programmes**



# Higher education in Youth on the Move

- A new **Communication on modernisation of higher education** – to be adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2011
- Updates **2006 Modernisation Communication** – highlighting progress and new priority areas
- Supports **Bologna process** (intergovernmental), but more wide ranging
- **Consultation** and **preparatory work** beginning now
- Ongoing work on a global **multi-dimensional ranking** for higher education institutions





# Likely key issues for EU higher education reform agenda

- 1. Ongoing curriculum, governance and funding reform**
- 2. Employability of graduates**
- 3. Innovation**
- 4. Strengthening mobility**
- 5. Widening access / social dimension**
- 6. Reinforcing the global dimension**
- 7. Tools to improve transparency**



# 1. Ongoing curriculum, governance & funding reform

- Basic Bologna reforms (focusing on curriculum) have been implemented, **but progress needed** (notably NQFs and Quality Assurance)
- Staff and students need to be **involved more** in design and implementation of reform
- **Governance and funding reform** key part of 2006 modernisation agenda – progress to be made (diversity / autonomy / innovation), taking into account national traditions.



## 2. Employability

- **Key element** in Youth on the Move (September 2010) / New Skills and Jobs (November 2010)
- Labour markets increasingly rely on **higher skill** levels and “**transversal**” competences
- Raising **initial qualification levels** and maintaining and **renewing** a skilled workforce (LLL)
- Encourage **work placements** embedded in study programmes as well as on-the-job learning
- **Balance** between employability and other personal development goals



# 3. Mobility

- Mobility target: **20 by 2020**. 20% of graduates to have had study or training abroad
- COM asked by Council to propose **benchmark** by end of 2010, reflecting Bologna objective
- May 2009 **Green Paper on Learning Mobility**, July 2009
- September 2009 – **Council Recommendation on learning mobility** – part of Youth on the Move
- Feasibility study on **EU student lending facility** for mobility (with EIB)



# 4. R&D and Innovation

- Higher education will make an important contribution to **Europe 2020 targets** on R&D
- **“Innovation Union”** = main flagship initiative in this area
- Modernisation Communication with **DG RTD**
- **DG EAC**: people + institutional perspectives: **higher education-business cooperation** + European Institute of Technology (EIT)



# 5. Widening access

- Bologna countries have agreed to set **measurable targets for widening participation** in higher education and increasing participation of **underrepresented groups** by 2020
- Important theme under **Spanish presidency**
- **Principle**: no one should be excluded from higher education for economic reasons
- **Limited progress** to date: much to be done



# 6. Global dimension

- **International attractiveness** of European higher education is vital for quality and competitiveness
- **EU programmes** (Erasmus Mundus, bilateral agreements etc.) support this
- A new EU **internationalisation strategy** will form part of the modernisation Communication in 2011



# 7. Transparency

- **Transparency tools** = classifications / rankings = necessary in context of diversity
- Need to go **beyond research focus** of existing rankings to provide **better information** for students and employers
- Enables **institutions** to better benchmark and position themselves
- COM has supported a study on classification of European HEI and a feasibility study for a **multi-dimensional ranking** is ongoing – results expected in Spring 2011





# Next steps

- **Preparation of Communication now beginning**
- **Consultation with stakeholders later this year, early next**
- **Drafting Spring 2011**
- **Adoption Autumn 2011**
  
- **Your input welcome!**



**Thank you !**

**Questions?**

