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EIN-A4

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EIN Seminar on: "Investing in Education and youth"

Chair:

Maria Spyraiki MEP, Member of the Committee on Regional Development in the EP

Speakers:

Lidia Pereira, President, Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)

Javier Hurtado Mira, Chairman, Democrat Youth Community of Europe

Kleopatra Sidiropoulou, Executive and Public Affairs Assistant, Biobased Industries Joint Under-Taking

Hubert Tadych, Vice Chairman, European Democrat Students (EDS)

- Education is a national competence within the European spectrum.
- The three axis of Education are values, Democracy spread and students.
- Investing in Education is an investment in the future.
- The investment in exact sciences as mathematics is very important. Nevertheless, we should understand Education, as a whole, as an investment in culture.
- Institutions must assure equality of opportunity, which embodies in free competition.
- The investment on various skills and competences, which implies an investment on human capital, is the key for the European growth.
- Skills are a promoter of jobs creation. However, skills gaps and mismatches are a problem all over Europe.
- A fifth of Europeans adults struggles with literacy and numeracy skills and many have jobs that do not fit their talents.
- Europe is facing a very diverse number of challenges that are possible to overcome if we start looking at Education.
- One of the challenges is the adaptation to the new demographic trends. We live in an aging society, while we are, at the same time, dazed with the rapid technological developments. Thus, it is important to tackle this struggle on being able to keep track of these progresses on innovation by investing on youth.
- Universities and schools should adapt their syllabus in accordance with the needs of the labour market, so that neither employers nor employees find it hard to fill the available positions. .
- One of the most important freedoms in Europe is the freedom of mobility, enabling workers to be mobile and fill the job gaps.
- Education training systems are national oriented. How can we address Education and skills that are typically local in order to invest in a broader group of competences that would full fill the European needs?
- Erasmus is a very important programme when it comes to the investment on youth, not only in an educational level, but also in a social one. Nevertheless, not every youngsters can benefit from it, due to the lack of financing.
- The European Union should focus on addressing issues in the Erasmus programme, such as the transfer of credits between universities and the allowances given to the students.
- If we want a strong and capable generation of young European citizens, it is essential to invest in technical and soft skills.
- Educational institutions must be open to new ideas and should not inflict a compulsory indoctrination, promoting the importance of critical thinking as one of the main competences.
- The ability to discuss ideas dictates the ability to become a leader of the coming societies and only trough leadership of young people we will change EU for better.
- Values, Education and culture, along with technical and professional training, should be topics even more addressed in the European level.

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