



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 22 February 2017
(OR. en)

6431/17

SOC 102
EMPL 70
EDUC 55
ECOFIN 108
JEUN 25

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Follow-up to the Communication from the Commission on Investing in
Europe's Youth
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the European Commission on the above subject, with a view to the EPSCO Council on 3 March 2017 (AOB item).

Presentation of the follow up to the Communication Investing in Europe's Youth Information from the Commission

On 7th December, the European Commission presented several key actions to support young people in Europe. This includes the launch of the European Solidarity Corps, the reiteration of its September proposal to increase funding to implementation of the Youth Guarantee by a total of €2 billion, but also the future launch of the "ErasmusPro", a new dedicated activity within the Erasmus+ programme to support long-duration (6-12 months) placements of apprentices abroad. The Youth Initiative also includes education-related actions which were presented in detail at the Education Council in mid-February.

The European Solidarity Corps allows young people to participate in a wide range of solidarity activities, either by volunteering or by gaining occupational experience (job, traineeship, apprenticeship). It will offer young people new opportunities to engage in a meaningful activity that could prove a stepping stone to the labour market.

The European Solidarity Corps will be set up gradually, in close cooperation with stakeholders at all levels. The current first phase of its development will include the use of existing financing programmes and resources to support placements of participants in the European Solidarity Corps. Over 20,000 young people have registered and the bulk of placements will take place as from the end of spring.

To consolidate the European Solidarity Corps for the longer term, a legislative proposal, which is one of the priorities in the Joint declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2017, is planned for adoption by the Commission this spring.

As for "ErasmusPro", in addition to the current 650.000 apprentices that will benefit from mobility under Erasmus+, this activity will open up significantly more possibilities for young people to spend at least 6 months of their learning experience in another Member State in the period 2018-2020. Long duration mobility has proven its advantages to boosting skills for the youth, but also the internationalisation strategy and overall performance of the institutions involved in such mobilities.

Building up on a tripartite opinion adopted unanimously by the Advisory Committee on Vocational Education and Training, the Commission will propose in 2017 a Quality Framework for Apprenticeships which will set out key principles for the design and delivery of apprenticeships at all levels. This framework could underpin the quality of apprenticeships supported through EU programmes (Youth Guarantee, YEI, European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus+, and European Social Fund).

The success of all these initiatives is dependent on a strong political support at national level hence the need to timely inform Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs on the recent and upcoming developments.
