

# Draft resolution 022

**Title:** Educating Europe

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1 The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in  
2 Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 to 3 December 2017:

3 **Notes that:**

- 4 • education is the foundation of a progressive society.  
5 • diversity of education within the European Union should be seen as a  
6 strength. Harmonisation of some standards and reinforcing common values  
7 may further develop the union and cooperation between the EU countries.  
8 • including technology through different levels of education and enabling  
9 flexibility for entrepreneurial students makes for greater resilience in future  
10 generations that face a rapidly developing society and labour market.

11 **Considering:**

12 Vocational education

- 13 • in most EU countries, vocational education is still considered as less  
14 important than academic studies, however the skills learned in vocational  
15 training are vital to everyday life in the European Union;  
16 • the EU has taken a right step with the Copenhagen Process, but yet most  
17 of the points of this process have not been put into practice.

18 Higher education

- 19 • that the European Commission ought to use technology to interconnect  
20 and interlink educational structures throughout the EU, in order to enhance  
21 students' mobility and improve exchanges across the EU;  
22 • the Erasmus+ programme is mainly based on bilateral agreements. The  
23 programme costs some 2 billion euros yearly. Year 2020 is approaching  
24 and a new budgetary path will be discussed regarding how Erasmus+ is to  
25 be modified and funded;  
26 • a joint degree programme is much more valuable in the labour market than  
27 an exchange programme. When Erasmus+ is to be continued after 2020,  
28 our final objective should be transforming our current "exchange program"  
29 into a more ambitious European academic framework;  
30 • more entrepreneurs are needed across Europe, therefore the European  
31 Union needs to promote both the achievement of higher studies and the  
32 setting up of new businesses. Furthermore, young people need advice in

33 setting up their own business as well as a clear legal status to be able to  
34 achieve their studies and working as an entrepreneur simultaneously.

35 **Calls for European Member States to:**

- 36 • create a European sense of unity among young Europeans, and help all  
37 students realise the need, historical and current, for European unity across  
38 national borders through the implementation of a mandatory course on the  
39 European History, Institutions and main policy areas.
- 40 • introduce more focus on critical thinking, either as a separate subject or  
41 through the curriculum and extracurricular activities offered by educational  
42 institutions.
- 43 • harmonise the standards of the vocational training in order to minimise the  
44 differences between the EU Member States and recognise all the  
45 vocational training from European countries within the EU.
- 46 • allow high school and university students to combine a student status with  
47 a professional activity as an entrepreneur, albeit adapt the limit of turnover  
48 and benefits so that a student entrepreneur does not have fewer rights  
49 than a student doing a summer job. Further officially recognise the  
50 "student-entrepreneur" status and inscribe this system in State Youth and  
51 Job Strategies;
- 52 • promote that the following infrastructure is set up in at least one high  
53 school and/or university of each country, depending on the overall student  
54 population and proportion of young entrepreneurs: young entrepreneurship  
55 incubator, with business angels and advisers, so that candidates to young  
56 entrepreneurship can receive the best advice possible in terms of business  
57 plan and contacts.

58 **Calls for European policy to:**

- 59 • assure students who apply for the student-entrepreneur status to  
60 automatically receive an EU VAT number to facilitate their business  
61 dealings with customers in other EU Member States;
- 62 • guarantee that the student-entrepreneur be given the opportunity to gain  
63 an assigned number of ECTS for setting up and running a  
64 student-business, especially in education programmes where it is relevant  
65 to the course content, and to guarantee that the student-entrepreneur  
66 maintain the right to earn a set amount dependent per country, without any  
67 taxation (first threshold) or with a reduced taxation (second threshold). Only  
68 beyond a certain threshold, to be determined by each country, will the  
69 student-entrepreneur be taxed as a regular self-employed person;
- 70 • guarantee strong competition for hardware and software purchases by  
71 schools and universities.

72 **Calls for the European Commission to:**

- 73 • promote distance learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs) via  
74 the cooperation between regional educational stakeholders, especially in

- 75 higher education;
- 76 a non-degree exchange option;
- 77 • establish two options within the Erasmus+ framework for following courses
- 78 an institution established in another Member State:
- 79 a degree-pursuing option as part of a joint degree programme.
- 80 •

## **Arguments:**