

# An Expert Network on Recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad in general secondary education for a European Education Area

*In 2025 all students in Europe will be able to spend a period of studies abroad, thanks to the initiative we launch today.*

**Learning mobility** is one of the **policy priorities promoted by the EU** to foster the development of key competences crucial for active participation in society and the labour market.

Mobility is shown to **positively impact students' confidence, independence, social integration and sense of European Identity**. One of the main barriers to mobility is **lack of recognition of its learning outcomes** and unfortunately, **in general secondary education**, procedures for the mutual recognition are often **underdeveloped or non-existent**. The EU and the Member States are **committed to work toward eliminating this barrier**.

In November 2018, EU Member States have agreed to put in action the [Council recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad](#), in view of the creation of an [European Education Area by 2025](#), which Member States will be called to report on in just a few years.

To better apply the recommendation in the field of recognition of the outcomes of [learning periods abroad during upper secondary education](#), the **European Commission entrusted a consortium composed by [EFIL](#), [EIESP](#) and [CESIE](#)** to work on the topic.

The consortium has **started a process of cooperation with a Network of Experts among relevant stakeholders to prepare the action** that will eventually lead to a real automatic recognition Europe-wide.

The **Network** will be composed by **25 stakeholders from 15 EU countries**, aiming at **designing together European guidelines for automatic recognition and sharing practices and knowledge** bringing together governmental and civil society representatives.

Through an **analysis of the EU Member States country policies and practices** for recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad in general secondary education, the consortium will **support a mapping of different approaches identifying common challenges and enablers**.

This action will lay the groundwork to **set out the general principles for a proposal of a European Framework to support the recognition** that will be the basis for **future European guidelines to be adopted by all Member States**.

The consortium will develop a session of the ***European School Education Gateway*** web site including information allowing schools, teachers and students to better understand different systems, **procedures and requirements for recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad**.

A **model training programme** will be produced in order to **support schools and teachers in assessing competences of pupils after a learning period abroad providing them with assessment protocols/tools to assess transversal competences**. The training model will be translated and adapted by potential users at national level.

The consortium implementing this initiative comprises:

- **EFIL**, European Federation for Intercultural Learning (Brussels, Belgium);
- **EIESP**, European Institute of Education and Social Policy (Paris, France);
- **CESIE**, European Centre for Studies and Initiatives (Palermo, Italy).

For further information:

**[Register to the newsletter](#)** (1<sup>st</sup> edition planned for September 2020)

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