## **European Parliament**

2014-2019



## Committee on Culture and Education

2018/2034(INI)

15.5.2018

## **DRAFT OPINION**

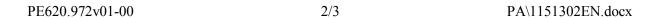
of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on employment and social policies of the euro area (2018/2034(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Nikolaos Chountis

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- 1. Notes with concern the persistent socio-economic disparities in the euro area; believes that equal access to inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for everyone is a precondition for socio-economic convergence; points, in this regard, to the persistent disparities across Member States and social groups with respect to the EU's headline education indicators;
- 2. Is deeply concerned that, in the EU28, the average rate of general government expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP fell year-on-year from 2009 to 2016<sup>1</sup>; regrets that the education sector has been severely hit by austerity and stresses that well-resourced public education systems are vital for equality and social inclusion; calls, therefore, for a shift in the euro area's macroeconomic policy mix towards increased public spending on education and training;
- 3. Stresses that social disadvantage is frequently a predictor of poor educational outcomes and vice versa; insists that a properly funded, quality education and lifelong learning system can help break this vicious circle and promote social inclusion and equal opportunities;
- 4. Supports student and worker mobility in the EU and the euro area; is concerned, however, that substantial differences in living and working standards in the euro area trigger involuntary migration, further exacerbating the effects of the so-called brain drain; calls for future education and employment policies to reverse this phenomenon;
- 5. Calls for a genuine revision of EU and Member States' education, training and skills policies to deliver education and lifelong learning for inclusion; highlights that these policies should promote personal and societal development in a holistic manner and not simply be designed to meet labour market demands.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Eurostat data.