# European policy on teaching and learning in higher education

**1ˢᵗ European Learning & Teaching Forum**

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# Wider political context

- *Commission White paper on the future of Europe*
- *Rome Declaration (March 2017)*
- *Bologna process*
- *Estonian presidency priorities*
- *Teaching and learning in ET2020*

# Renewed EU agenda for HE

1. **Excellence in skills development**

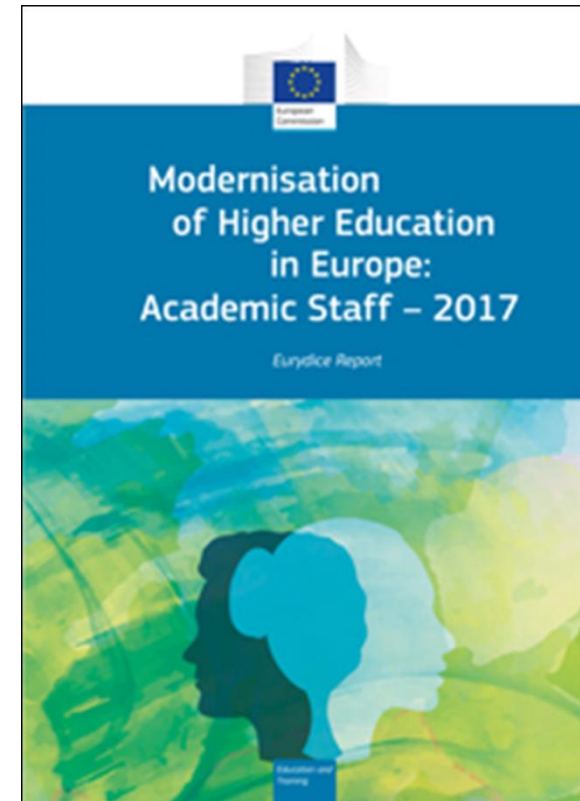2. **Inclusive, connected systems**

3. **Higher education & innovation**

4. **Effective, efficient HE systems**

# Eurydice report on Academic Staff

- *Continuing professional development:*
  - **Very few large-scale national initiatives**
  - **Left in the hands of HEIs**
- *Culture of under-valuing teaching*
  - **More teaching demanded from junior and middle rank staff, and less from senior staff**
- *Careers*
  - **Research output valued over teaching**
- *PhD candidates:*
  - **often receive no or little teacher training**
  - **rarely required to teach during PhD**
  - **either teach (too) many hours, or none**
  - **dissatisfied with teaching skills at the end**

Modernisation
of Higher Education
in Europe:
Academic Staff – 2017

*Eurydice Report*

# Major challenges/opportunities facing teaching & learning

- *Technological innovation*

- *Diversity in terms of age and background*

- *Different learning styles as a result of the digital age (shorter attention span, motivational issues and lack of receptiveness to "sage on the stage" teaching)*

- *More demand for 21$^{st}$ century skills including ability to learn on top of sector-specific skills and knowledge*

- *More need for citizenship/civic education at tertiary level*

*Source: PLA on teaching Generation Y and Z, Paris July 2017*

# Key recommendations for ways forward

- *Ensuring flexibility in curricula to enable innovation*
- *Encourage open learning and innovation ecosystems to develop 21st century skills*
- *Building evidence about the characteristics of the student populations*
- *Offer incentives for institutions to enhance teaching and learning, as opposed to just research*
- *Develop dialogue and knowledge sharing*
- *Support pedagogical skills development*
- *Reward high-quality innovative teaching*
- *Align student trends with human resource management in HEIs*

# Concrete actions in new agenda

| What people study | • **Graduate tracking**<br>• **EU STE(A)M coalition** |
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| Effective teaching | • **Erasmus+ staff mobility**<br>• **Pedagogical training projects** |
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| Well-designed curricula | • **Work placements**<br>• **Support for digitalisation** |
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| Work with OECD | • **Review of HE resources**<br>• **Teaching creativity and critical thinking** |
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# *Thank you!*

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