



*PATHWAYS TO SCHOOL SUCCESS*  
*SUB-GROUP TO THE INFORMAL COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP 'WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOLS'*

TERMS OF REFERENCE

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Commission's Communication of 30 September 2020 on Achieving the European Education Area by 2025<sup>1</sup> (hereafter 'EEA Communication') identifies the Pathways to School Success initiative as one of the key initiatives contributing to the inclusive dimension of education, with a special focus on groups that are more at risk of underachievement and early school leaving.

In this respect the Pathway to schools success subgroup shall cover issues concerning improving educational outcomes and achievement in basic skills, support the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the Pathways to School Success initiative by promoting mutual learning and exchange of practices. Within a whole-school, whole system approach and vision to tackling underachievement and early leaving from education and training, the topics to be considered shall include cross-sectoral cooperation and the roles of stakeholders; broad key competence development and outlining expectations for a baseline level of learner achievement; curriculum and assessment; supporting transitions (from early childhood education and care to schools and between educational levels); teacher and school capacity for support and inclusion (e.g. migrants, special educational needs); leadership of an inclusive school community; monitoring and quality assurance; strengthening proficiency in the language of schooling among pupils with diverse backgrounds.

This sub-group shall also address the learning climate, mental health, well-being, and fighting bullying through supporting a positive environment for teaching and learning, especially for groups at risk, and promoting students and teacher well-being at school. To this extent, the topics may include nurturing social and emotional development and building mental health resilience; promoting a sense of school community and listening to the learners' voice; combatting sources of teacher stress, anxiety and isolation; parental involvement and effective leadership; community and other stakeholder involvement. The sub-group should reflect particularly on strategies to effectively support disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, taking into account their specific needs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1601687240311&uri=CELEX:52020DC0625>

The sub-group shall start its activities in September 2021 and end the first working cycle by the end of 2025.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the informal Commission Expert Group ‘Working Group on Schools’ and the Commission’s horizontal rules on expert groups (‘the horizontal rules’)<sup>2</sup>. The sub-group shall report to the main group ‘Working Group on Schools’.

## 2. SUBJECT MATTER

The sub-group Pathways to School Success (‘the sub-group’) is set up.

## 3. TASKS

The sub-group’s tasks shall be:

- (a) to assist Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) in the preparation of policy initiatives in the field of education and training in relation to the Pathways to School Success initiative
- (b) to establish cooperation/coordination between the Commission and Member States or stakeholders on questions relating to the policies in the field of education and training in relation to the Pathways to School Success initiative
- (c) to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice in the field of education and training in relation to the Pathways to School Success initiative.

**Priority areas from the Council Resolution to be addressed:** 1. Quality, equity, inclusion and success in education and training, 2. Lifelong learning and mobility, 3. Teachers and Trainers 5. Green and digital transitions

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

1. The sub-group shall be composed of organisations, Member States' authorities, other public entities including public entities from acceding and candidate countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, Union bodies, offices or agencies and international organisations (Type C, D and E Members).
2. Member States' authorities, organisations and other public entities shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG EAC may refuse the nomination by an organisation of a representative if it considers this nomination inappropriate in the light of the requirements specified in the call for applications. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.
3. Organisations who are members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the to the sub-group’s deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG EAC do not comply with

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<sup>2</sup> C(2016) 3301.

the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the sub-group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office

## **5. SELECTION PROCESS**

1. The selection of of organisations as sub-group's members (Type C) shall be carried out *via* a public call for applications, to be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups'). In addition, the call for applications may be published through other means, including on dedicated websites. The call for applications shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and the interests to be represented in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.
2. Registration in the Transparency Register<sup>3</sup> is required in order for organisations to be appointed.
3. The members of the sub-group shall be appointed by the the Director-General of DG EAC from applicants with competence in the areas referred to in point 3 and who have responded to the call for applications.
4. Members shall be appointed for until 31 December 2025. They shall remain in office until replaced/until the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed.
5. DG EAC shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint members' replacements. DG EAC shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

Done in Brussels, on 23 July 2021.

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<sup>3</sup> [Transparency Register - Homepage \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/procure-to-buy)