



***EDUCATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY***  
***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’) and the Council Resolution of 18 February 2021 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030)<sup>2</sup> (hereafter ‘Council Resolution’) call for supporting the green transition in and through education and training.

Education and training are key for achieving the green transition and schools and school education have a particular role to play in educating and empowering future decision-makers and leaders. In this respect, the Education for Environmental Sustainability sub-group will support the follow-up to the Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability, foreseen in the EEA Communication as well as in the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy.

Priority topics of the sub-group may include innovative and transformative pedagogies for environmental sustainability; curriculum and assessment; sustainability related competences; teacher professional development; whole school approaches to environmental sustainability; partnerships (including with higher education and non-formal education); digital technologies supporting green education; green infrastructure in education (including sustainable buildings management and green spaces) and supporting policies for environmental sustainability and monitoring progress.

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>3</sup>. The sub-group shall report to the main group ‘Working Group on Schools’.

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

<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32021G0226\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32021G0226(01))

<sup>3</sup> C(2016) 3301.

## 2. SUBJECT MATTER

The sub-group Education for Environmental Sustainability ('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 education for environmental sustainability
- (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 education for environmental sustainability
- (c) to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice in the field of education and training in relation to education for environmental sustainability.

**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 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>4</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>4</sup> [Transparency Register - Homepage \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency-register/)