

European Citizens' Panel on Learning Mobility

Session 1 – Summary Report

03/03 – 05/03/2023



European Citizens Panel
**learning
mobility**
Have Your Say

#LearningMobilityEU



1. Overview

The European Citizens' Panel on Learning Mobility consists of 150 randomly selected citizens and meets for three sessions. The first session took place from 3–5 March 2023 in Brussels and introduced the topic as well as the context of the panel. Citizens got to know each other and learned about the rules for constructive discussions. They then dived deeper into understanding the target groups for increased learning mobility in Europe, and the challenges towards reaching this goal. European Commission representatives and external speakers helped citizens to better understand the programmes and some of the challenges to make learning mobility opportunities a reality for everyone. The aim of the first session was to share and map personal experiences with learning mobility, to define target groups and to identify obstacles for learning mobility activities, which citizens find relevant for further discussions in the upcoming sessions.

Before the session a survey was conducted to get an overview of the prior experiences with and without learning mobility among the citizens of the panel. The survey was taken by 97 respondents, among which 47 citizens (48.5%) had made experiences with learning mobility and 50 citizens (51.5%) had not engaged in learning mobility activities so far.

Day 1 (Friday)

On Friday, citizens were welcomed by the main moderators and two European Commission representatives: Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General for Communication. They highlighted the importance of the Citizens' Panel and the EU visions for the education and training sector. The main moderation walked citizens through the agenda of session 1 as well as the next sessions. After some ice-breaker games, Jutta König-Georgiades, Directorate-General for Communication, European Commission, shortly introduced the EU bodies, as well as the decision-making and legislative process to further prepare the citizens for the following discussions. Then, Ute Haller-Block, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission, introduced the panel topic in detail. Learning mobility was further explored from the perspective of citizens' own experiences with learning and training at home and abroad, as well as their "missed opportunities" of learning mobility and any opportunities they chose to forgo. Citizens were asked to place post-its in three colors on a map of Europe in order to produce a visual image of their learning experiences at home and abroad, and these post-its/experiences were subsequently the basis for the input of the knowledge committee members and resource persons, who were asked to comment and expand on individual experiences from stage, while giving their own, more general inputs on the different types of learning mobility: school mobility, youth mobility, vocational education and training abroad, adult mobility, and student mobility.

Day 2 (Saturday)

On Saturday, citizens worked in 12 parallel working groups that were simultaneously interpreted and facilitated by experienced facilitators. The groups produced their content in multilingual spreadsheets that were interlinked with other groups. Citizens first shared past and current experiences of learning mobility and reflected on the definition and different types of learning mobility. Hereafter, groups discussed target groups for learning mobility and developed personas with a focus on characters that could benefit more from increased learning mobility. Each group developed 2-6 personas representing these target groups. The personas were used to define challenges and obstacles for key target groups. The groups focussed on discussing challenges and obstacles, but also talked about future trends and societal developments and innovations that might have impact on learning mobility, and furthermore started the discussions on possible solutions and corresponding enablers. Throughout the day, citizens

could ask questions to experts in the “Knowledge and Information Centre” (KIC). After citizens finished their work on Saturday, members of the Knowledge Committee and other experts onsite, together with members of the Deliberation Team, clustered the total of 54 personas developed in the working groups, which resulted in the emergence of 12 separate clusters of personas

Day 3 (Sunday)

On Sunday morning, participants received one cluster of personas (there were 2-7 personas per cluster). Each persona had a profile picture generated by the AI program DALL-E, which was based on the demographic descriptions made by the groups. The last step in the working groups was to summarize and identify cross-cutting challenges and obstacles for the respective group of personas under observation. Citizens also prepared themselves for session 2 and gathered questions and input needs for the next session. On the closing plenary session, spokespersons from the 12 working groups presented key obstacles for learning mobility, and they were clustered on a board by the spokesperson and the main moderation. Following the presentations, experts gave reactions and remarks to the work of the panel and the presentations. Final remarks and a farewell were given by Richard Kühnel, Director, Representation & Communication in Member States, European Commission.

2. Results of the session

On Sunday, citizens identified 2-3 challenges and obstacles to learning mobility per Working Group. This resulted in overall 35 challenges and obstacles, albeit with significant overlap. In general, the challenges relate to a lack of access and information, financial and economic issues, language barriers, social and cultural factors, as well as personal and psychological obstacles.

3. List of speakers and experts involved

Throughout the first session, the following experts participated as speakers in the plenary and as members of the Knowledge and Information Center (KIC), in which they answered citizens’ questions:

European Commission experts (speakers):

- **Jutta König-Georgiades**, Directorate-General for Communication
- **Ute Haller-Block**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

European Commission experts (KIC members):

- **Fabienne Metayer**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Giedrius Sudikas**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Marta Guitierrez Benet**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Svava B. Finsen**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Johannes Gehringer**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Jacqueline Pacaud**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Christian Mackeprang Bruhn**, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- **Kinga Szebeni**, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

External experts (speakers and KIC members):

- **Beatriz Tourón Torrado**, Education Advisor, Ministry of Universities, Spanish National Agency for Erasmus+ (SEPIE)

- **Mika Saarinen**, Director, Finnish National Agency for Erasmus+ (EDUFI)
- **Juan Rayón González**, President, Erasmus Student Network
- **Gina Ebner**, Secretary General, European Association for the Education of Adults
- **Ismael Pérez Civico**, European Youth Forum

4. Short agenda

Friday, 03/03	Plenary
14:30 – 15:00	Welcoming words and introductory speeches by: • Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel • Director General for Communication, Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen
15:00 – 15:40	Introduction to the Citizens Panel: why are we here?
15:40 – 15:55	<i>Family Photo</i>
15:55 – 16:15	Introduction to the Panel's topic I (reflecting on your own experiences)
16:15 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:45 – 18:30	Introduction to the Panel's topic II (sharing experiences & panel discussion)
Saturday, 04/03	Working Groups
9:30 – 11:00	Getting to know each other: values and experiences of learning mobility
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Learning mobility for everyone: identifying target groups
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 16:15	Identifying current challenges and obstacles
16:15 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:45 – 18:00	Exploring future trends
Sunday, 05/03	Working Groups and Plenary
9:30 – 11:00	Working groups: preparing for plenary & gathering questions
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Coffee Break and transfer of the groups to Charlemagne</i>
12:00 – 13:20	Plenary: Presentations from the groups, reactions and Q&A discussions
13:20 – 13:40	Wrap up and information about next sessions

5. Recordings of the plenary sessions

03.03.2023, 14:30-18:30 CET, Plenary: <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/european-citizens-panel-on-learning-mobility-session-1-20230303>

05.03.2023, 12:00-13:40 CET, Plenary: <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/european-citizens-panel-on-learning-mobility-session-1-20230305>