

# Procedure file

Basic information			
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision		2002/0303(COD)	
Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies		Procedure completed	
Subject 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning			
Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		21/01/2003
		PPE-DE MAURO Mario	
	Former committee responsible		
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		21/01/2003
		PPE-DE MAURO Mario	
	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets		11/02/2003
		PSE WYNN Terence	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		23/01/2003	
	PSE GRÖNER Lissy		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	24/11/2003
	General Affairs	2518	16/06/2003
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2503	05/05/2003
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2484	06/02/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture		

Key events			
19/12/2002	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2002)0751</a>	Summary
13/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
	Debate in Council		

06/02/2003		<a href="#">2484</a>	
17/03/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
17/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A5-0080/2003</a>	
07/04/2003	Debate in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T5-0146/2003</a>	Summary
29/04/2003	Modified legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2003)0245</a>	Summary
16/06/2003	Council position published	<a href="#">08642/1/2003</a>	Summary
03/07/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
29/09/2003	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
29/09/2003	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A5-0314/2003</a>	
20/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		
21/10/2003	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	<a href="#">T5-0441/2003</a>	Summary
24/11/2003	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
05/12/2003	Final act signed		
05/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

#### Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0303(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150-p4; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/19455

#### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(2002)0751</a>	19/12/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A5-0080/2003</a>	17/03/2003	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES0115/2003</a> <a href="#">OJ C 133 06.06.2003, p. 0033-0037</a>	26/03/2003	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T5-0146/2003</a> OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0025-0169 E	08/04/2003	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		<a href="#">CDR0073/2003</a>	09/04/2003	CofR	

		<a href="#">OJ C 244 10.10.2003, p. 0042-0046</a>			
Modified legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(2003)0245</a>	29/04/2003	EC	Summary
Council statement on its position		<a href="#">10221/2003</a>	06/06/2003	CSL	
Council position		<a href="#">08642/1/2003</a> <a href="#">OJ C 233 30.09.2003, p. 0024-0034 E</a>	16/06/2003	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		<a href="#">SEC(2003)0753</a>	27/06/2003	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		<a href="#">A5-0314/2003</a>	29/09/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		<a href="#">T5-0441/2003</a> OJ C 082 01.04.2004, p. 0026-0104 E	21/10/2003	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		<a href="#">COM(2003)0699</a>	11/11/2003	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2009)0159	06/04/2009	EC	Summary

#### Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

#### Final act

[Decision 2003/2318](#)  
[OJ L 345 31.12.2003, p. 0009-0016](#) Summary

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

**PURPOSE** : to establish the eLearning Programme, a multi-annual programme for the effective integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education and training systems in Europe. **CONTENT** : this proposal concerns the adoption of a financial support programme. The overall objective is to improve the quality and accessibility of European education and training systems through the effective integration of new technologies (e-learning), supporting and complementing the actions of Member States in this field. The specific objectives of the programme are: - to explore and to promote ways and means of using e-learning for strengthening social cohesion and personal development, fostering intercultural dialogue, and fighting the digital divide; - to promote and develop the use of e-learning as an enabling factor for the implementation of the lifelong learning paradigm in Europe; - to exploit the potential of e-learning for enhancing the European dimension in education; - to facilitate a more structured co-operation in the field of e-learning between the diverse Community programmes and instruments and Member States actions; - to provide mechanisms for encouraging improvement of quality of products and services as well as for their effective dissemination and for exchange of good practice. There are four areas of intervention: - fighting the digital divide. Actions in this area will address the contribution of ICT for learning, in particular for those who -due to their geographical location, social situation or special needs- are not able to benefit from traditional educational and training provisions. The objective is to foster awareness and understanding of how ICT can aid these less privileged groups to acquire basic educational skills that are needed for the knowledge society. It will identify good examples and build synergies between the many projects which address these target groups. The budget available is around 25% of the total budget. - universities and higher education institutions. The priority here is better integration of the virtual dimension in physical mobility, quality assurance and the mutual recognition schemes of the Bologna Process. The objective is to encourage the development of new organisational models for European universities (virtual campus) and for European exchange and sharing schemes (virtual mobility), building on existing European co-operation frameworks (Erasmus programme, Bologna process), and providing an "e-learning dimension" to their operational tools (ECTS, European Masters; quality assurance; mobility). 30% of the total budget is available for this area. - school twinning via the Internet. The objective is to strengthen and develop schools networking, in particular via an European-wide school-twinning scheme which should make it possible for all European schools to build pedagogical partnerships with a school elsewhere in Europe, fostering language learning and intercultural dialogue. 25% of the total budget is available. - Transversal actions for the promotion of e-learning in Europe, building on the monitoring of the eLearning Action Plan. The objectives are the dissemination and promotion of good practice from the many projects which have been funded at the European level or by Member States and to reinforce co-operation between the various actors involved, in particular by fostering public-private partnerships. 10% of the total budget is available for this. In order to achieve its objectives, the programme will finance the following types of actions: - support for strategic pilot projects, with potential for significant impact, and clear prospects for long-term sustainability; - support for the development of research, analysis and monitoring of methods, tools, practice and trends in the design and use of 'e-learning' models for education and training; - support for strategic actions by European networks and partnerships designed to foster innovation, quality in the design and use of products and services, based on the relevant use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for education and training; - support for European platforms for

dissemination, co-operation and exchange of good practice and technical and administrative assistance. The programme will be implemented over a period starting on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2006. ?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The committee adopted the report by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, I) amending the proposal under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure. The key amendments were as follows: - given the ambitious scale of this multiannual programme and the fact that e-learning counts as one of the EU's political priorities, its budget should be increased from EUR 36 million to EUR 54 million. The committee pointed out that current spending on preparatory measures was already EUR 17 million a year and that the programme should be implemented at least on the same financial basis; - the balance of expenditure amongst the five areas of the programme should be altered: for example, fighting the digital divide should account for no more than 10% of the total budget, (rather than 25% as proposed by the Commission), while e-twinning should account for around 40% rather than 25% as originally proposed; - e-twinning projects should also apply to primary schools, and the funding for such action should be divided "approximately equally" between primary and secondary schools; - there should be two levels of twinning: (1) the basic and further training of teachers, involving exchanges of 'good practice' between teachers in various Member States or setting up 'virtual training rooms' for updating professional skills; (2) exchanges of experience between schools as regards specific learning targets with a view to disseminating 'good practice', creating a database of educational material, etc.; - greater emphasis should be placed in general on training teachers, for example by ensuring that the programme also includes the development of European teacher training programmes under the Action Line 'European Virtual Campuses'; - one of the aims of the programme should also be to promote the development of high-quality multimedia European software, content and services, in order to lessen dependence on US-manufactured software; - projects aimed at combating the "digital divide" should focus especially on the gender dimension and on the needs of immigrants, people living in rural areas and the disabled; - particular attention should be paid to the experience gained in Australia, New Zealand and Canada with regard to e-learning networks and, following on from this, the funds allocated to travel expenses for experts from non-EU countries should be increased. ?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the draft by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, Italy) and made several amendments to the Commission's proposal. (Please refer to the summary dated 17/03/03.) Other amendments emphasised support for European networks that straighten the pedagogical and education use of the Internet and ICT and also for the exchange of good practice. These activities are designed to ensure that teachers and pupils are not only technically proficient at using the Internet and ICT but also use them in a critical and educationally responsible manner. On the question of experts, Parliament raised the level of funds allocated for the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses to 0.5%, from the original ceiling of 0.2%.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The Commission can accept fully or in the essence 24 of the 27 amendments adopted by the Parliament; Concerning the amendments fully accepted by the Commission, they deals with the following issues: - as regards the scope of the programme, there is a series of amendments stressing the importance of teacher training for the overall objectives of the eLearning programme, and of the e-twinning action area as a tool for "in-service" teacher training in the use of ICT and in European cooperation; - a second series of amendments introduce references to specific target groups, such as the disabled, rural areas, or immigrants, and to gender issues; - as regards financing, several amendments call for keeping the programme's budget at the same level as preparatory actions and can be accepted. A compromise amendment changes the Commission proposal, allocating a higher share of funding to the etwinning schools in Europe action line and reducing consequently the percentage for action line 1 "e-learning for fighting the digital divide"; - adding to the programme's objectives the promotion of the development of high quality multimedia European software, contents and services, can also be accepted. The same can be said for the amendments calling for simplification of the programme's management and those which develop the concept of international cooperation, calling for attention to known good e-learning practice, namely to that of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. As regards the amendments accepted in part or in principle by the Commission, these are as follows: - again on the scope of the programme, one amendment develops the teacher training aspects of the schools twinning action, with a particular emphasis in the exchange of good practice and the development of cooperation at teacher level. While there is agreement in the essence, the proposed wording of the amendment is very long and has a repetitive sentence on good practice. It is proposed to shorten it and to eliminate this repetition. It is also proposed to take away the reference to "virtual training rooms", a concept that would present a problem for some Member States. Lastly, concerning the amendments not accepted by the Commission, these concern those which state the importance of digital television, and calls for guaranteeing interoperability in accordance with Article 18 of the Directive on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive). While fully agreeing with the essence of the amendment, the actions called for are beyond the competences of education and training programmes. This amendment is therefore rejected. Another amendment proposes an augmentation of the total budget from EUR 36 million to EUR 54 million. However, at this stage, the Commission must stay with its original proposal. The amendment asking for "European teacher training programmes" cannot be accepted. Teacher training is an exclusive competence of Member States.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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In its common position the Council has approved (the German delegation voting against) the Commission's proposal in principle, while making certain amendments which it thought desirable, and which in the majority of cases are in line with the European Parliament's opinion as well as

the Commission's amended proposal. The Council considers that its common position reflects a good balance between the various actions envisaged in the context of the contribution of eLearning to enhancing the European dimension of education and promoting cooperation between Community programmes and instruments as well as Member State actions. It will moreover complement existing programmes and contribute to the preparation of future instruments in the field of education and training. Concerning the amendments made by the Council to the Commission's proposal, these are follows: - role of eLearning : the Council has introduced a new recital which stresses the significance of the programme both in complementing existing programmes and in helping to prepare the new generation of education and training programmes; - co-operation, complementarity and synergy : with a view to greater clarity and concision with respect to the above considerations, the former articles 4, 7 and 8 have been merged into two: Article 4 (Implementation of the programme and co-operation with the Member States) and Article 7 (consistency and complementarity); - funding : the Council is of the opinion that a financial framework of EUR 33 million would enable the programme to meet its objectives, while bearing in mind the need to exercise budgetary restraint; - budget distribution : in relation to distribution, a greater proportion of the budget (45%) has been allocated to eTwinning and teacher training, while "promotion of digital literacy" (initially designated "fighting the digital divide" ) has been allocated 10% as this action is considered as essentially exemplary; - promoting digital literacy : this action line has been clarified and simplified in accordance with the new budget distribution; - European Virtual Campuses - this Action Line has been consolidated into 3 actions. The concept of developing existing instruments has been preferred to referring to the "Bologna Process" as such since this is an ongoing process and susceptible to change; - eTwinning for primary and secondary schools in Europe and promotion of teachers' training: the Council has introduced a series of amendments to reinforce the aspect of eTwinning between schools. It has also underlined the importance of e-learning in the context of teacher training; - transversal actions and monitoring of eLearning : this Action Line has been redrafted in the interests of clarity. For example, the organisation of an annual conference was not considered necessary, in view of the relatively short duration of the programme. The role of international projects can be considered as of general relevance in the context of the programme. As regards the amendments not accepted by the Council, these refer to : - the establishment of a link between the financial and administrative basis of the programme and the preparatory actions; - references to gender equality, disability and geographical location; - the specification of rural areas; - the promotion of high quality software; - long-term sustainability of strategic pilot projects; - the design of projects related to translating and interpreting languages; - participation in international projects.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The Commission is of the opinion that the text of the common position is broadly acceptable as it largely respects the substance of the Commission's original proposal. Concerning in particular the budget, the Commission's proposal was carefully costed, within a spirit of budgetary restraint. The amount proposed was judged as a minimum threshold for impact on the three main action areas. However, the Commission accepts the common position adopted by qualified majority, reducing the budget to EUR 33 million, in order to allow the continuation of the procedure. The Commission considers that the text of the common position is a good basis for a European Parliament and Council decision.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The committee adopted the report by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, I) approving the Council's common position under the 2nd reading of the codecision procedure, subject to just one amendment. Whereas the Council was proposing the figure of EUR 33 m for the programme's budget (which was lower than the Commission's original proposal of EUR 36m), the committee wanted to see it increased to EUR 44m. This amounted to a compromise with regard to Parliament's 1st reading report, which had suggested a figure of EUR 54m. Following constructive meetings with the Council, MEPs hoped that this new figure would be acceptable and that the codecision procedure could thus be concluded at 2nd reading without going to conciliation.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Mario MAURO (EPP-ED, Italy) and adjusted the figure for the programme's budget. (Please see the document dated 29/09/03.)?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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The Commission accepts the Parliament's amendment setting the financial framework for the implementation of this Programme at EUR 44 million.?

## Education and training systems: eLearning programme 2004-2006 for integration of information technologies

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PURPOSE : to set up the eLearning Programme. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2318/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual programme (2004 to 2006) for the effective integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education and training systems in Europe (eLearning Programme). CONTENT : this Decision establishes the eLearning Programme, a

multiannual programme for the improvement of the quality and accessibility of European education and training systems through the effective use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The programme will be implemented over a period starting on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2006. The overall objective of the programme is to develop further the effective use of ICT in European education and training systems, as a contribution to a quality education and an essential element of their adaptation to the needs of the knowledge society in a lifelong learning context. The specific objectives of the programme are: - to identify the actors concerned and inform them of ways and means of using e-learning for promoting digital literacy and thereby contribute to strengthening social cohesion and personal development and fostering intercultural dialogue; - to exploit the potential of e-learning for enhancing the European dimension in education; - to provide mechanisms for supporting development of European quality products and services, and for exchange and transfer of good practice; - to exploit the potential of e-learning in the context of innovation in teaching methods with a view to improving the quality of the learning process and fostering the autonomy of learners. The objectives of the programme will be pursued in the following areas of intervention, in accordance with the action lines described in the Annex: - Promoting digital literacy: actions in this area will address the contribution of ICT in school and more broadly in a lifelong learning context, in particular for those who, owing to their geographical location, social situation or special needs, do not have easy access to those technologies. The objective is to identify good examples and build synergies between the many national and European activities, which address these target groups. Around 10 % of total budget is available for this. -European virtual campuses: actions in this area will pursue a better integration of the virtual dimension in higher education. The objective is to encourage the development of new organisational models for providing higher education in Europe (virtual campuses) and for European exchange and sharing schemes (virtual mobility), building on existing European cooperation frameworks (Erasmus programme, Bologna process), and providing an "e-learning dimension" to their operational tools (European credit transfer system (ECTS), European Masters, quality assurance, mobility). Around 30 % of total budget is available for this. - E-twinning of schools in Europe and promotion of teachers' training: actions in this area will support and further develop networking in schools, to make it possible for all schools in Europe to build pedagogical partnerships with schools elsewhere in Europe, to promote innovative cooperation methods and transfer quality educational approaches and reinforce language learning and intercultural dialogue; actions in this area will also address the updating of teachers' and trainers' professional skills in the pedagogical and collaborative use of ICT through an exchange and dissemination of good practices and the setting up of transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation projects. Around 45% of the total budget is available for this action. - Transversal actions: actions in this area will address the promotion of e-learning in Europe, building on the monitoring of the eLearning Action Plan. The objectives are the dissemination, promotion and transfer of good and innovative practices and results from the projects and programmes and to reinforce cooperation between the various actors involved, in particular by fostering public-private partnerships. A maximum 7.5 % of total budget will be spent. Furthermore, a maximum 7.5 % of total budget is available for technical and administrative assistance. The financial framework for the entire period is EUR 44 million.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 20/01/04.?