



EU perspective for policy recommendations: Priorities, alignment, and support

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How does the EU approach education?

Our reference frameworks are the European Education Area and the Union of Skills

1. Shared policy objectives (not binding acquis) and no one size fits all
2. A system-wide approach covering the full continuum
3. Common targets and indicators used to guide reforms and measure convergence
4. Policy coordination tools through peer learning and voluntary alignment

The Seven EEA targets for the EU:

By 2025

- at least 60% of recent VET graduates should benefit from exposure to work-based learning
- at least 47% of adults should have participated in learning during the last 12 months

By 2030

- Less than 15% of 15-year-olds should be low-achievers in reading, mathematics and science
- Less than 15% of 8th graders should be low-achievers in computer and information literacy
- At least 96% of children between 3 years old should participate in ECEC
- Less than 9% of pupils should leave education and training early
- At least 45% of 25-34 year-olds should have a higher education qualification

What this means in practice for education systems

1. From reforms to results

- Policies expected to translate into measurable improvements in outcomes
- Increasing focus on basic skills, inclusion, and transitions

2. Strong system enablers

- Coherent policy frameworks across sub-sectors
- Strategic and sustained financing
- Reliable data systems tracking outcomes

3. Evidence-driven policymaking

- Use of international and EU data (PISA, UOE, LFS, etc.)
- Monitoring progress against shared indicators

4. Integration into the European policy space

- Alignment with EEA priorities
- Participation in cooperation structures and data systems
- Gradual convergence in approaches and performance



Ukraine's progress in education

Good progress in education was made with the entry into force of the laws on the adoption of the **law on vocational education and training (VET)**, joining the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EafA)**, and the entry into force of the laws on **preschool education** as well as on the **national qualifications system**.
(Enlargement Report 2025)

This year, Ukraine should in particular:

- continue implementing the reformed legislation on preschool education;
- implement the legislation on vocational education and training, and activate national, regional and local stakeholders to join the European Alliance for Apprenticeship to support VET and apprenticeships through pledges.

In addition, earlier recommendations still remain valid:

- Network optimisation of education institution and; Education and training statistics (2023)



Ukraine's EU accession & education

- An "**Explanatory meeting**" between the Commission and UA took place yesterday, introducing the **Closing Benchmark on Chapter 26** (education, culture, youth and sports).
- Closing benchmark defines changes that Ukraine needs to demonstrate to meet the requirements for the EU accession.
- The changes relate to the institutional and policy framework especially in connection with the European Education Area and building a reliable monitoring system that tracks outcomes across all education sub-sectors. In the meeting, the Commission also introduced the criteria and methods to be used to assess Ukraine's performance.
- EU's support focuses in areas that help Ukraine to reach the set goals. All support, even non-EU, should take EU accession requirements into consideration to help Ukraine reach its target to become a full member of the EU.



Overall EU Support in Education

Since the grand-scale invasion of 2022

- Over EUR 250 million has been allocated to projects supporting Ukrainian children and the education sector
- EUR 650 million earmarked for investments Under the Ukraine Plan (2024–2027)
- Key Projects (with EU support):
 - *Skills4Recovery*
 - *EU4Skills*
 - *Technical Assistance to EIB VET Project*
 - *Emergency Education Support (UNICEF)
- Reform and Support Team (Ministry of Education)
- Education in Emergencies (EiE) through ECHO EU provides substantial humanitarian support to ensure learning continuity for children affected by the war EUR 63 million
- Erasmus+



Upcoming EU Support

- Team Europe initiative supporting the VET sector
- Support to pre-school (ECEC) reform
- LEARN (Lifting Education Access and Resilience in Need in Ukraine) – EUR 29 million

