

A bridge to the future –
educational ecosystems for
regional innovation and youth
#TransitionToWork

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Policy Recommendations

Reinforcing project based learning

Reinforcement of continuous career guidance

Creating a favourable environment
for entrepreneurial ideasPost crisis support for young people,
including social and mental health supportEnhancing public-private educational
partnershipsCombining formal, non-formal and peer-
education and facilitating cooperation
between respective stakeholders

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Policy recommendations

The EU Regions Week session brought together policy makers and practitioners from all across Europe. Various policy recommendations came out of the session, as the work in ecosystems is highly effective, but also challenging to put in place and coordinate. They address policy makers from local to European level, but also formal and non-formal education stakeholders, civil society or non-governmental initiatives.

- **Reinforcing project based learning** – which is the way to go to boost skills and personal growth across topics and disciplines. Such projects can be local initiatives that result not only in a learning but also a positive impact for the community.
- **Creating a favourable environment for entrepreneurial ideas** – in such an environment, young people should be encouraged to be creative, entrepreneurial, to try out and realise their ideas and dreams triggering a growth mind-set from early age. Such environment result in more vivid, dynamic and cohesive communities, as social entrepreneurship should be particularly encouraged.
- **Reinforcement of continuous career guidance** – is crucial for (young) people to find their educational and professional pathway is a quickly changing environment. It increases the purpose and commitment of students, prevents drop-out and contributes to fulfilled (professional) development.
- **Post crisis support for young people, including social and mental health support** – is essential as young people have been hit particularly hard. Not all long-term consequences are yet visible, but it is clear that the economic, social and mental outlook of young people has suffered a lot and will need strong investment and dedicated support.
- **Combining formal, non-formal and peer-education and facilitating cooperation between respective stakeholders** – is essential for most effective learning and personal development. Essential life skills are best acquired in non-formal environments and therefore schools should be encouraged and supported to engage with external educational stakeholders.
- **Enhancing public-private educational partnerships** – with coordination at a local or regional level. They are able to achieve educational ecosystems, to close system gaps and effectively support young people transition from education to employment. Bureaucratic barriers to such cross-sectoral partnerships need to be closed, dedicated funding and targeted strategies should be put in place.