



Scaling up EU impact on education post 2015

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EU policies on education

- Overall a strong supporter of education
- Education strategy 2002, staff document 2010, European Consensus 2005 and Agenda for Change 2011
- The EU Commissioner for Development has recently emphasised the importance of education
- Education is linked both to production and growth and to citizenship and equal opportunities
- Equal access and quality are emphasised



EU financing for education

- EU aid to education has grown in absolute numbers 2006-12, but remains around 6% of total EU aid
- Aid to basic education has been halved 2006-13 and already low contributions to secondary education has been cut
- Support to post-secondary education has doubled 2006-12. Of €4.2 billion spent on education 2007-12, 31% went to higher education
- Most aid goes to MICs in Asia and to EU's neighbourhood



EU practices on education

- Equal access is emphasised, but mostly for girls and not for other marginalised groups
- Quality in education is prioritised in new programming, but it is unclear how to achieve results
- EU increasingly supports citizen involvement to ensure provision and accountability of education
- Need to bridge humanitarian relief and aid in relation to education in fragile situations



EU capacity and coordination

- One of the greatest challenges hampering EU impact on education is lack of expertise
 - 4 persons in Brussels work on education
 - It seems that there is not an education expert in all delegations managing education sector support
- Increased alignment to national priorities, but focus on value for money may undermine risk willingness
- Examples of good coordination with member states and other actors



Diverse trends in member states (I)

- France: Second-largest donor within EU; declining support to education; 73% to post-secondary (students from dev. countries); active in GPE
- Germany: Largest donor within EU; increasing aid to education; 15% of total aid; 62% to students from dev. countries; GPE, but multilateral aid is restricted by regulation
- Denmark: Increasing aid to education; 43% to basic; strongly increasing post-secondary; SSA + Nepal, Afghanistan; almost only aid through GPE



Diverse trends in member states (2)

- The Netherlands: From second-largest world donor to basic education in 2008 to nothing in 2017; historically active in GPE
- Ireland: Decreasing aid to education; focus on basic education in SSA; engaged in GPE; access, quality and participation are priorities
- UK: Increasing aid to education; 12% of total aid; world-largest donor to basic education; focus on LICs and fragile countries; provides 25% of GPE funds



Recommendations (I)

1. Increase EU aid for education – 10% of total aid?
2. Significant EU contribution to GPE when hosting its replenishment in June 2014
3. Mobilise alternative sources of financing
4. Balance direct EU aid to education with support through GPE
5. Redirect aid for education towards low-income countries



Recommendations (2)

6. Hire education expertise!
7. Systematise coordination and use the strengths of member states at country level
8. Broaden equal access and specify quality
9. Simplify procedures for CSOs to apply for financial support
10. Strengthen information to the EU public about the importance of education