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## An agenda for change in Education and Lifelong learning beyond 2010 proposed in Brussels

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*The Learnovation Open Forum entitled "Removing the barriers to creativity and innovation? Listening to stakeholders' voice", was held on 27 May 2009 in Brussels, gathering the main European networks in the field of innovation and ICT for Education and Training. This event was organised by the Learnovation Roundtable with the support of the European Commission as a contribution to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, and resulted in the launch of the "10 imperatives for change" to make European education and lifelong learning a lever for innovation.*

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More and more observers are claiming that, despite the attention given by EU policy makers to creativity and innovation, as testified by the fact that the year 2009 has been dedicated to these issues, education and training systems are not facilitating enough the emergence of creative skills and attitudes but rather are often hindering their potential.

Given the importance of this issue for the Lisbon Agenda and for a new citizens-centred development of the European Union, the Learnovation Roundtable ([www.learnovation.eu](http://www.learnovation.eu)) has organised a conference aimed to explore what are the expectations and concerns of the different stakeholders in relation to barriers to creativity and innovation for learning, with a special attention to ICT use.

The conference counted with the participation of prestigious speakers, such as **Ms. Odile Quintin**, Director General for Education, Training, Culture, Youth (European Commission), **Mr. Roberto Carneiro**, former Minister of Education of Portugal (Universidade Católica Portuguesa) and **Mr. Karlheinz Brandenburg** (Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology), ambassador of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation and one of the fathers of mp3 technology.

During the event, a list of priorities for action was discussed by more than 90 participants and "**10 imperatives for change**" were produced, that will be proposed to relevant EU and national policy makers and will represent the starting point of a broad societal consultation on the desired future of European education and lifelong learning.

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### Contact info

Learnovation website: [www.elearningeuropa.info/learnovation](http://www.elearningeuropa.info/learnovation)

Communication: Fabio Nascimbeni, MENON, [fabio.nascimbei@menon.org](mailto:fabio.nascimbei@menon.org)

### About Learnovation project

The Learnovation project aims to stimulate a process at the EU level, as well as at the level of the Member States, leading to a collective and consensus-based definition of a new vision of eLearning (or technology-enhanced learning) in Europe, able to inspire the full exploitation of its potential to implement lifelong learning strategies and to support innovation in Europe. The Learnovation project started in November 2007 and will conclude at the end of 2009. The project is financed as part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning programme.

# The Learnovation ten imperatives for change, to face the challenge of relevance for European education beyond 2010

## 1. Rescue research on education and Lifelong Learning from a marginal position

The role of educational research should not be underestimated in producing the necessary change in learning systems and their governance models, although education and lifelong learning research needs a refreshed agenda and a better capacity to dialogue with all its stakeholders.

## 2. Provide more evidence to policy making, but choose indicators that are able to push creativity and innovation, not only conformance

Developing indicators and benchmarks for policy makers is an important achievement of the Lisbon strategy, but the risk should be avoided to focus only on those aspects that are easier to be measured, and more attention should be paid to innovation aspects.

## 3. Face openly the issue of relevance of current learning provision: change is urgent

There are many good reasons why change in institutional education may not be too quick, and stakeholders' concerns is one of them. However, the generalised perception of decreasing relevance of education should leave nobody indifferent: Europe needs learning systems which are closer to societal needs and encourage creativity and innovation, and it needs them now.

## 4. Establish more connections among the different areas of Lifelong Learning

From a learner's perspective the institutional separation among school, VET, higher Education, adult learning makes little sense: a really integrated system of Lifelong Learning should be a common policy aim across Europe.

## 5. Celebrate and recognise learning achievements

Recognising the value of prior learning achievements in the workplace is fundamental to encourage further learning, EQF has a potential to support this at EU and world level.

## 6. Bring informal learning into the policy spectrum

LLL for all citizens may become a reality earlier than foreseen thanks to new ways of ICT-supported and socially-networked informal learning: policies at all levels should acknowledge this potential and act consequently.

## 7. Enhance the innovation capacity of teacher training systems

Teachers training should include creative and innovative approaches to teaching/learning able to develop the motivation to learn and the joy of learning in future lifelong learners.

## 8. Help teachers and trainers to recognise and respect the value of informal learning

Teachers and trainers should be supported in using the potential of informal learning to complement and enrich the "institutional" teaching and learning process and in recommending learners ways to do so autonomously.

## 9. Encourage all forms of learning at workplace

Working and learning tend to overlap in the knowledge society, but the development of a climate supportive to open ways of learning does not happen in all organisational contexts.

## 10. Remember that not all workers are stereotypical knowledge workers

Non-knowledge workers should not be forgotten when optimistic positions are expressed on the potential of new Web 2.0 forms of learning to make Lifelong Learning a reality for all.