



Common statement from **EARLALL** on the  
“**Proposal for a**

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
establishing an integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning”  
(14 July 2004)

1. Earlall welcomes the Commission’s Proposal about the New integrated action programme. In particular, we would like to stress three strategic components that we wish the European Parliament and the Council to confirm:
  - a) The **amount of investments** -13600 million euro over seven years- is needed to give an impact corresponding to the goals to the action plan, taking into account the Lisbon strategy, the enlarged Europe and especially the fact that the main target is to increase individual mobility among European citizens.
  - b) **Individual mobility** as the main goal of the programme has to be encouraged and the quantitative target proposed has to be considered as minimal so that more private and public resources can be attracted.
  - c) The **transversal programme** has to be considered as a strategic part because its role is to support **policy development**, as we hope, at all institutional levels (European, national, regional and local level), to support the development of **innovative ICT** in lifelong learning, to promote **language learning**, and especially to ensure that the **dissemination and exploitation** on a wide scale of the results of the Integrated Programme will take place appropriately to legitimate the whole institutional commitment and the same Programme.
  - d) Given that one of the goals of the EU is to **promote and safeguard linguistic diversity**, EARLALL calls for an explicit reference that projects with a regional or indigenous minority language dimension are eligible for all strands of the new lifelong learning programme, in line with Article 3 of the draft EU Constitutional Treaty and the European Commission Action Plan for language learning and linguistic diversity.
2. At the same time, Earlall has to stress some key points included in the *Common statement from EARLALL on the future of European Programmes on Education, Vocational training, Youth and Lifelong Learning*, approved by the General Assembly held in Palma (27 February 2003) where EARLALL likes to emphasise the crucial role that regional authorities play when it comes to implementing EU educational policies. In the spirit of true subsidiarity it is important that decisions affecting specific regions are made as close to the citizens as possible.



The regional authorities should have a greater degree of ownership over the EU education programmes both with regards to decision making and implementation.

This principle has been applied with the management and implementation of the European Social Fund in many countries. We believe that the regions would greatly benefit if the educational programmes were better synchronised with the overall goals and needs of the specific region. Existing regional authorities could take over many of the responsibilities which are now under national agencies.

Taking into account the Proposal of the Commission EARLALL would like to stress three crucial points justifying our next requests:

- a. the extension of the new programme will have a potential impact at regional level, especially in the field of individual mobility
- b. to be inclusive for all social strata the measures in favour of individual mobility needs more resources and services that can be delivered especially by regional and local governments
- c. the impact of the results of the programme on the educational and training systems can be reinforced and transformed in a real implementation process only if Regional and Local Governments are more directly involved

3. Considering the previous statements, EARLALL wishes that:

- a. the European Parliament and the Council approves the Proposal of the Commission
- b. article 6 be amended stating that Member State shall:
  - elaborate a National Plan in a dialogue with Regional and Local Governments in a framework of vertical subsidiarity
  - associate regional and local governments in monitoring and evaluating the action of National Agencies
  - Member States shall ensure coherence and complementarity between the Programme and the action of the European Social Fund, through appropriate co-ordination mechanisms, to optimise the use of Community resources in support of education and life-long learning.
- c. article 37 be included among the operational objectives of the transversal programme on supporting the Open Method of Coordination among national, regional and local governments aiming to build new policy approaches in the elaboration and implementation of lifelong learning policies

**EARLALL General Assembly  
Gothenburg – 8 – 9 September 2004**