



Hungarian EU Presidential conference on Talent Support and First European TalentDay 7-9 April 2011, Budapest

Budapest Declaration on Talent Support

Conclusions of the Hungarian EU Presidential Conference on Talent Support

On the occasion of the First European TalentDay organised as part of the Hungarian EU Presidency, policy makers, scientists, teachers, different other stakeholders and experts discussed the importance, flexible framework and further possibilities of talent support at an international conference held in Budapest on 7-9 April, 2011. The participants of the event agreed on the following.

Although we acknowledge there are different terminologies and definitions related to talent development, but we do seek a broader consensus. Everyone may be able – in something. A talented person is somebody, who has an excellent gift combined with extraordinary general skills, a high level of special skills, creativity and devotion to a certain field. Talented people are able to perform at a high level in any walk of life.

The concept of talent is understood in a broad sense, embracing all sorts of talents. Talent is a special kind of natural resource that is available in every country. Talent is a real value that should be discovered, explored and utilised for the benefit of talented individuals and the whole of society.

To find gifted people and develop their talents is in the direct interest of any nation and of Europe as a whole. There is no age limit to discovering talents and lifelong learning is an appropriate tool to develop talented people in any age group. Talent support is the common interest, common task and common responsibility of governments, local communities, businesses and non-governmental organisations.

Businesses with Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes, and non-governmental organisations should be encouraged to endorse talent support in order to help educators, parents, learners.

Properly helped talents contribute to the increase of competitiveness and help the realisation of the strategic goals of the European Union. For that reason talent support should be an important contribution to the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy that puts innovation and sustainable growth into the focus.

Talent support programmes may boost self-esteem and facilitate both social mobility and cohesion. They open up new employment options, and by discovering participants' inherent

values, they also promote perseverance in job-seeking efforts enhancing long-term job and social security. We thrive to balance excellence and the support of the underprivileged. We recognise that there are different underprivileged groups in different countries, support and opportunities for them creates personal, educational, social and economic benefits.

Talent support is becoming an important ingredient in the social-economic progress of the underprivileged including the Roma people, and can serve as the foundation for programmes enhancing social cohesion and increasing economic competitiveness.

The participants appreciate and honour the achievements of Hungary in creating the first network of TalentPoints consisting of closely cooperating organisations in order to achieve maximum synergy. They call all member states of the European Union to study this innovative Hungarian approach. It is vital to create an international network across the EU to support partnership and collaboration among the members.

To focus the attention of stakeholders and the European general public, the participants agree that it is necessary and worthwhile organising a TalentDay annually connected to 25th March, the birthday of Béla Bartók, the great composer, pianist and teacher. The participants join in supporting the Hungarian initiative and call the European Commission and the European Parliament to make every effort to officially declare the 25th of March the European Day of the Talented and Gifted. The participants encourage all member states to organise national TalentDays every spring to celebrate the European Day of the Talented and Gifted.

The participants stress the importance of the above benefits and best practices appearing in documents of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament. The people of Europe should make joint efforts to ensure that talented people and talent support schemes receive due public attention and recognition in all EU member states

To monitor and support that process and to coordinate joint European actions in the field the participants propose to establish a European Talent Resource and Support Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

Finally, the participants agree to invite stakeholders from every country of the European Union to convene annually to discuss the developments and current questions in talent support. Upon the invitation of the Government of Poland the next conference will take place in Warsaw in 2012.

Budapest, 8th April, 2011

References:

Talent support is connected with the 2nd and 4th objectives of the **Education and Training 2020 strategic framework**: 2: Improving quality of education and training, and 4: Development of innovation and creativity on all levels of education and training. Both are key elements of talent support.