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Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education

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Overview

Further and Higher Education
Strategy 2020 proposed by the
former National Commission for
Higher Education, 2009

Strategic direction and priorities
for the European Union's
programming period, 2014-2020

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Targets

- Increase higher education attainment
- Reduce early school leaving in Malta
- Focus in particular on underrepresented groups, but also more specifically on males, who are consistently outpaced by females
- A more balanced gender distribution in different areas of studies
- A robust quality assurance system in Malta

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Priority Areas for Action

- Increase participation and attainment
- Reduce gender differences
- Encourage innovative content and programme design
- Increase employability and entrepreneurship

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Increase Participation & Attainment

Recommendations:

- Increasing the number of young people attaining the entry qualification into higher education;
- Facilitating the transition between vocational and academic oriented further and higher education programmes;
- Supporting and encouraging individuals to return to education alongside employment, including through distance learning and e-learning;
- Widen the provision of higher education and attract foreign education providers to Malta to cater for a diverse student body and attract foreign students to Malta;
- Ensuring sustainable funding mechanisms to support higher education institutions and students.

Proposed Measures

- Ensure strong support, sufficient and sustainable funding
- Strengthen student-centred learning
- Strengthen career education services
- Further develop the Validation of Informal and Non-formal Learning
- Ensure that programmes allow for an adequate balance of work, study and family life

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Proposed Measures

- Promote the development of e-learning as a means of widening participation in higher education
- Increase information on available programmes and diversify the offer
- Sustain regular data collection on participation, attainment and the social dimension
- Improve participation of students with special needs
- Improve the permeability between different educational pathways

Reduce Gender Differences

Proposed Measures:

- Research on gender differences in subject choices and higher education attainment
- Improve career education
- Incentivise females to take up careers in STEM-related subject matters
- Undertake projects and initiatives aimed increasing aspirations and participation of underrepresented groups in higher education

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