

## POLICY CHALLENGE 3: EDUCATING SOCIETIES

- Shift from classic education model to life-long learning can prevent structural unemployment
- Refocusing education from concrete knowledge to learning skills gives students the capacity to learn new skills independently and at a later stage

### Educational reform requires a new mindset

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### The political challenge: educate citizens to be fit for unknown future challenges

The main political challenge for member states seems to be in the design of education systems that can **train citizens for unknown future problems and jobs**. It was noted that a more systemic approach to education, teaching critical and holistic thinking among other things, might need to be at the core of reform efforts. While MPs agreed that educational reform is among the most pressing issues facing members states at the moment, they raised concerns regarding the implementability given the transformative nature of those reforms and strong opposition from unions in some parts of Europe.

Yet there is a window of opportunity – **studies show extremely high citizen support for education reform**.

### Rethink the role of teachers

It was agreed that education systems need to become more flexible e.g. by teaching teachers to become coaches and **facilitators of learning**.

### Involve wider parts of society

Looking at the design of education and life-long learning, MPs identified the need to involve wider parts of society, for example through **inter-generational learning**. In some member states, though, the involvement of non-public actors is regarded as influencing education as a public service provision.

### Can we incentivize people to share knowledge?

One MP suggested **tax cuts for citizens who share job-specific experience in schools**.

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*A classroom from my childhood and a classroom of today look exactly the same. We have had a lot of reforms but not the right ones.*

*The jobs and problems of the future do not even exist but we need to train our people for them.*



Hans van der Loo is the initiator and EU Ambassador for the EU STEM Coalition (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). He has been invited as speaker at Bilderberg, COP21, European Business Summit, World Economic Forum and other conferences. From 2004 till 2012 he was Shell's Chief Lobbyist in Europe. He was member of the Advisory Council of BusinessEurope and sherpa to two Shell CEOs in the European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERT). In 2012 he joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). He was adviser to the European Commission for the review of the European Key Competence Framework. Since 2014, Hans van der Loo has been the Chairman of the Advisory Board of IIER. Hans van der Loo, holds an MBA. Following Nyenrode University he attended ESCP in Paris, Oxford and Düsseldorf and graduated in 1981.



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