

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union  
Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies  
Policy Department  
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 20.09.2021

## To Whom It May Concern

**Subject:** *Study on “The system of European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives”*

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education (CULT Committee) has selected *Visionary Analytics, UAB* to carry out a study called: *The system of European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives*. This research project will be managed by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, a unit dedicated to providing expert input to the CULT Committee, which is the parliamentary Committee responsible for the European Union's education policy, including the European higher education area, the promotion of the system of European Schools and lifelong learning.

The main objective of the study is to provide an overall assessment of the European Schools system, covering both the ‘European Schools’ and the ‘Accredited European Schools’, and encompassing both operational and educational aspects. It should propose practical policy recommendations to tackle the main issues currently encountered by the European Schools system, to provide perspectives for its future development and to assess to what extent this system has the potential to become a ‘showcase’ and model for the European Education Area (e.g., in terms of language learning, mutual recognition of diplomas, or curricular and pedagogical innovations).

In particular, the study shall:

- Synthesize and analyse the stances taken by the office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools and the parents' associations on the current state of and the challenges faced by the European Schools system based on the information they have provided;
- Conduct further investigations with a view to identifying and analysing other remaining challenges to be addressed (through desk research, targeted interviews, etc.);

- Assess to what extent the recommendations included in the 2011 European Parliament Resolution on the European Schools system have been implemented and identify possible reasons why certain recommendations have not been followed up;
- Assess the European dimension of education in the European Schools system ('European Hours', teaching of European history, etc.), taking into account existing studies on the shaping of European citizenship and/or European identity and consider prospects for improvement;
- Assess the teaching of languages in the European Schools system and explore potential avenues for further improvement;
- Examine the new marking system as well as diploma recognition issues and assess to what extent the current schemes could be improved and promoted;
- Provide a synthesis of the main difficulties in the European Schools system relating to inclusion and propose possible recommendations for improvement;
- Provide an evaluation of the current accreditation processes for the Accredited European Schools and assess whether – and if so, how – these processes could be improved and the European Accredited Schools network expanded.

The research will last until February 2022 and includes among other things, interviews carried out with stakeholders, institutions and organisations involved in the European Schools system.

We would like to underline the importance of this study for the activities of the European Parliament's CULT Committee, notably to feed into the reflection of the CULT Committee with regard to a possible future own-initiative report and/or a resolution on the subject. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could offer the above-mentioned contractors in charge of the research project all the necessary assistance for the execution of this study, in particular considering the short timeframe available.

Yours faithfully,



Johannes LITZELMANN