

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**  
**DRAFT BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014**

**DRAFT AMENDMENT**

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**SECTION** (delete options not used):

III: Commission

Heading: Heading 1A								
Line n°: 150277XX								
Line Title: Pilot project Smart EU								
	Commission - DB 2014		Council - 2014		Amendment		New amounts	
	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.
Appropriations					1.500.000	750.000	1.500.000	750.000
Reserve								

**NOMENCLATURE** (delete options not used):

Create the following new line: 1603770X

**REMARKS** (delete options not used):

Add the following:

A quality education lies at the heart of each individual's personal development. At the same time high-quality education is also essential to boost European growth, innovation and competitiveness. Evidence gathered by the OECD shows that the quality of teaching and learning has a primary impact on the performance of students. This impact is reflected in various EU level initiatives to support the improvement of teacher quality. However Eurostat data shows that increased retirement rates as well as the increasing requirements of education will lead to an increased demand for qualified teachers at all levels throughout the European Union. More needs to be done to attract high-quality teachers in order to continue to provide excellent education to European students.

While demand for high-quality teachers is rising, youth unemployment rates throughout Europe remain unacceptably high. In January 2013 23 % of active young people were jobless, with youth unemployment rates ranging from 15 % or less in Austria, Germany Denmark and the Netherlands, to over 55 % in Greece and Spain. The EU and its member states need to combine both short term action and long-term structural reforms to avoid the emergence of a lost generation.

With the pilot project 'Smart EU', budget will be invested to establish a European program that selects, trains and guides committed recent college graduates to teach for one or two years in secondary schools in another EU Member State.

Participants are selected based on proven leadership skills, language skills and outstanding educational results. These young leaders serve both as educators and role models for students in schools that educate a disproportionate amount of disadvantaged students and generally have difficulty attracting qualified staff.

Under the pilot project training, placement assistance and career guidance is provided to help these young leaders provide the best possible education for Europe's most underserved kids. Participants are assisted in finding a placement in a selected school in a different member state from their own. This allows both the participants in 'Smart EU' and their students to come into contact with fellow Europeans from a different member state at an early age, thereby fostering inter-cultural dialogue and understanding.

To make efficient use of available resources under the pilot project, continued training of the teachers selected to participate in 'Smart EU' shall be based on open educational resources using innovative remote learning facilities and digital technologies as much as possible. Because teachers are hired directly by the participating schools, funding to cover salaries is not included in the budget of the pilot project, thereby freeing-up the entirety of the pilot project's budget for training and support measures.

As the responsibility for policy in the field of education lies with the Member States, the actions under the 'Smart EU' pilot project are limited to support measures at a European level. All responsibility for the hiring of the teachers and the substance of the curriculum that would be taught remains firmly within the realm of the Member States.

**- JUSTIFICATION -**

(This **must** be filled in)

**NB: Max. 500 characters .**

'Smart EU' contributes simultaneously to the improvement of teacher quality and the reduction of youth unemployment. Due to its cross-border character and focus on schools in disadvantaged areas the pilot project could improve intercultural dialogue and foster mutual understanding at an early age, while providing an excellent education to our most underserved kids. By using open educational resources and digital learning platforms, an efficient use of available resources can be guaranteed.