

The [European Children's Rights Unit](#), School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool.

## Did You Know...?

- [Overall the European Investment Bank has donated £4 billion toward Britain's education sector over the past ten years.](#)
- Over [200,000 UK students](#) and [20,000 UK University staff](#) have spent time abroad through the [Erasmus+ exchange programme](#). The initiative [dramatically enhances UK young person's employability](#).
- [EU membership makes already outstanding UK Universities even stronger](#). As the EU helps aids the execution of cutting-edge research and opting to remain in the EU will mean that UK Universities continue to attract the world's most talented people to the UK, [which will offer life changing opportunities for British people](#).

*'Free movement of people makes it easier for our universities to attract the best talent, and for British students to spread their wings across the Continent.'*

Check out ECRU's other [Brexit Briefing Papers](#):

- [EU Migrant Children](#)
- [Forced Migrant Children](#)
- [Child Protection](#)
- [Children's Employment](#)
- [Children's Health](#)
- [Children's Family Life](#)
- [Children's Leisure and Football](#)

## The Impact of Brexit on the Education



### What EU Law addresses education and training?

[Article 14 \(2\) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) guarantees a UK child the right to an education and provides them with many educational rights, such as the 'the freedom to found educational establishments with due respect for democratic principles'. This is particularly beneficial to [the 1/3 of UK school children, who represent non-white and minorities groups](#). Remaining in the EU gives UK children an extra layer of legal protection, besides domestic law.

[Article 165 of TFEU](#) states that the EU shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States.

### Brexit will have a major impact on education in the UK:

The EU aids the UK's national curricula, by funding and implementing initiatives, such as

['Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage'](#). The initiative is designed to tackle child poverty by 2020. It shall do this by using [£6.174 billion in EU funding](#), which UK children shall benefit from hugely, by improving their basic living conditions and thereafter maintaining their wellbeing. Exiting the EU would mean losing these large grants, as recently the UK government has consistently shown their unwillingness to spend large proportions of the UK budget on improving children's education.

[The European Agency for Special Needs](#) maintains each Member State's obligation to uphold the right to an education for all children, including those with special needs. Overall, it is estimated that in the EU there are [15 million children, with special needs, in mainstream education](#). Whilst recognising that there are differences in countries policies and practices, the Agency facilitates the exchange of knowledge of professional and clinicians and helps

from other EU Member States. This magnitude of expert knowledge greatly benefits the education of children with special needs. Exiting the EU will disallow policy makers and teachers in benefiting from the scheme.

### What will happen if the UK stays in the EU?

Under the guidance of the EU and the funding available, the UK remains under obligation to protect the right to education of all children. By remaining in the EU, this right will continue to be upheld and enforced so that all children are able to access education.

### And if the UK leaves the EU?

If the UK leaves the EU, there will no longer be access to funding which will put pressure on local governments to maintain the support for children and parents in the education sector. This could then lead to an imbalance in the protection of the right to education as there will be less funding for maintaining the quality of educational needs and support.