R3 AM6: No Future Without Education: Facing Inequalities through Rights and Participation

Proposers Ostra Ziele?

Motion text

Delete from line 118 to 123:

- ~~**Remove grade-based barriers to scholarships and traineeships to ensure students' achievement of their full potential and professional aspirations. Use an alternative selection method such as applications based on motivation letters and an exam that doesn't require specific preparation to avoid punishing disadvantaged students who cannot exclusively dedicate to studying.**~~

Reason

Proposed selection methods, such as motivation letters, are reinforcing the inequalities more than grades and standardised testing (eg, D?ugosz 2014 on inequalities between rural and urban youth in Polish and Ukrainian schools, in western studies eg. Alvero et al. 2021). Essays and motivation letters are more susceptible to (paid) coaching and pre-existing cultural capital (Cho-Baker et al. 2025). Before introduction of standardised testing in some countries, admissions to higher education were heavily influenced by connections and bribery (eg, Osiplan 2009). Furthermore, weak comparability of essays or motivation makes the decision on admission less transparent, and inequalities harder to detect and fight.
Moreover, "an exam that doesn't require specific preparation" can mean anything, from European standardised testing instead of school-specific tests favoured by privileged groups, through testing of basic reasoning and communication skills (which, again, reinforce inequalities more than standardised testing), to something equalling the lottery. This sentence requires more precised wording.