

The Bordeaux Communiqué

*on enhanced European cooperation
in vocational education and training
(VET)*



Method and main steps of the 2008 review

Method

- **Consultations of all the partners involved, all along the route**
- **Production of a preparatory document: basis for the writing of the Council Conclusions and the Communiqué**

Main steps

- **From end 2007:** Discussion with the EC, Cedefop, ETF, European social partners, Slovenian Presidency...
- **Nov 2007 – February 2008:** questionnaires from Cedefop and the French Presidency, sent to the DGVT and European social partners
- **July 2008:** presentation of a Preparatory document to the Education Committee
- **July-September 2008:** elaboration of the Council Conclusions and of the Communiqué
- **September-November 2008:** evolution of the texts, taking into account remarks from consultative bodies

Results

- Conclusions on **the future priorities for enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET)** – adoption November 21, 2008
- **Bordeaux Communiqué** - adoption November 26, 2008

The Bordeaux Communiqué

- **Was adopted by the countries involved, social partners and the EC**
- **Contains four parts with:**
 - **Assessment elements**
 - **Issues and challenges to face**
 - **Renewed priorities for the future**
 - **Implementation modalities**

I. Assessment elements

- **Ambitious priorities and key European instruments that support VET attractiveness**
- **Cooperation methods based on exchange and experimentation that support mutual trust**
- **Significant impacts on national policies and systems**

Particularly

- Implementation of national qualifications frameworks
- Consideration of learning outcomes in the development of qualifications and programmes
- Development of recognition and validation of learning outcomes acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning

II. Main issues for VET

- **Major challenges to face**

- Economical crisis, demographic changes, global competition, rapid technological progress, environment challenges
- Persistence of youth unemployment, early school leavers, Adults' low level of qualification
- Skills gaps for the period leading up to 2020...

- **VET should**

- Promote excellence and guarantee equal opportunities
- Permit to produce the skills Europe will need
- Support implementation of lifelong learning strategies

III. Four renewed priorities

1. Implementing the tools and schemes for promoting cooperation in the field of vocational education and training (VET) at national and European level

- support implementation with pilot projects and appropriate methods
- ensure coherence between the different tools

2. Heightening the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training systems

eg.

- support lifelong guidance,
- develop acquisition of key competences
- strengthen links between general education, VET, higher education and adult learning
- increase investment in the initial and continuing training of VET professionals

....

3. Improving the links between VET and the labour market

eg.

- develop forward-planning mechanisms, aimed at focusing on jobs and skills at national level and across Europe
- developing and implementing the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning outcomes

4. Strengthening European cooperation arrangements

- increase the efficiency of peer learning activities
- ensure a proper link between VET and general education, higher education and adult learning policies
- consolidate exchanges and cooperation with third countries and international organisations

IV. Implementation and reporting

- **Implementation of the priorities should be supported by :**
 - **Appropriate fundings**
 - **Works of the Agencies, Eurostat, OCDE...**
 - **Exchanges with third countries**
- **Next follow-up meeting: 2010, under the Belgium Presidency**

Thank you for your attention