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Cedefop reviews the fruits of European policy cooperation in vocational education and training

On Monday 16 March, Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, announced the publication of Cedefop's latest Policy Report, *Continuity, consolidation and change* at the Agora conference of the same title, held in Thessaloniki under the auspices of the Czech Presidency of the EU.

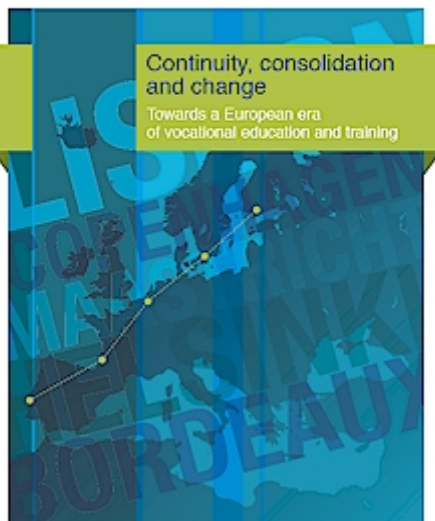
Cedefop's biennial policy report reviews progress achieved in the voluntary policy coordination known as the Copenhagen Process. This involves the Member States of the EU, European Economic Area countries, European social partners and the European Commission working together to modernise vocational education and training (VET), to the benefit of workers, employers and all citizens.

The complete report is available free online: (pdf link):

http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/vet_policy_2009innet/UsersFiles/sa/documents/Papers/Policy%20Report%203055_en.pdf

National reports with specific **data from 30 countries** on the progress of reforms in education and training can be downloaded from:

http://libserver.cedefop.europa.eu/F/?func=find-&request=vet+policy+report+2008&find_code=WTI



Some results of the report:

- In implementing the **European Qualifications Framework**, a ‘translation device’ for all levels of qualification, **most countries are working actively to meet the deadlines** of 2010 (referring their national qualifications systems to the EQF) and 2012, when **all certificates, diplomas and Europass documents will include a reference to the EQF level**. The blossoming of national qualifications frameworks shows that the process is now moving into practical implementation
- The first evaluation of **Europass** shows that it gives clear benefits to citizens, allowing them to gain access to opportunities for learning and employment across Europe (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>);
- Considerable progress is also reported in creating a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF), to help ensure **a high standard of training systems** and thus generate mutual trust between learners, social partners, teachers and trainers, and other stakeholders; and on setting up a European Credit Transfer system for VET.
- The **dominant trends in qualifications and skills** that Cedefop had forecast in its Medium-Term forecast in 2008 are still valid, despite the downturn. Research shows a potential mismatch between skills demanded and skills supplied. This will require the creation comprehensive lifelong guidance systems; but to really tackle the problem, social partners will also have to participate in establishing curricular and certification.

Agora conference link:

http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/vet_policy_2009/default.aspx?catid=77

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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training.

www.cedefop.europa.eu