

General information

Dates and venue

The Cedefop's Agora conference

'Continuity, consolidation and change:

Towards a European era of vocational education and training'
will take place on

Monday 16 March 2009

Tuesday 17 March 2009

on Cedefop's premises in Thessaloniki

123 Europe str. | 57001 Pylea | Thessaloniki

Tel.: (+30) 2310 490 111

Postal address: PO Box 22427, Finikas, GR-55102 Thessaloniki

CONTINUITY, CONSOLIDATION AND CHANGE

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN ERA
OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING

Thessaloniki, Greece
16 and 17 March 2009
organised by
Cedefop
and Czech Presidency

Secretariat and information desk during the conference

The Secretariat desk will be located at the conference venue and will operate:

Monday 16 March 2009, 9.30 - 17.30

Tuesday 17 March 2009, 8.30 - 14.00

Tel.: (+30) 2310 490 068 | Fax: (+30) 2310 490 240

Interpretation

Interpretation will be available during the plenary sessions of the conference from English, German, French, Czech and Greek into English, German and French. The workshops will be held in English.

Internet facilities

Two workstations with internet/ e-mail access will be available for participants outside the conference room. WI-FI connection is also provided.

Conference registration

Registration to the conference is made by duly completing the online registration form or the pdf/word download to be sent by fax or e-mail to ARTION Conferences & Events: agora@artion.com.gr; +30 2310257807. A confirmation will be sent to every registered delegate.

Registered delegates will enjoy: conference material, welcome reception, 1 dinner, 3 coffee breaks a city tour and transportation to and from Cedefop and venues related to any social events from all the hotels listed on the registration form, from Sunday 15th till Tuesday 17th March 2009.

Please note that we have a limited number of places available which we will allocate on a first come, first served basis. We regret to inform you that once all places have been allocated, we will be unable to accept your request for participation. Therefore, you are kindly invited to register as soon as possible.

Accompanying persons

Accompanying persons are welcome to the social programme at their own expenses. To register accompanying persons, please complete the relevant sections of your registration form.

Hotel accommodation

Makedonia Palace ★★★★★

*Sea View / City View

Single BB 145 EURO Double BB 160 EURO

Ideally located by the sea with spectacular views of the White Tower and Thermaikos Gulf, within walking distance from the city's business and shopping district, Makedonia Palace is 20 minutes from Cedefop and 15 kilometres from Macedonia Airport.

**Upon availability*

2, M. Alexandrou Ave. | GR-54640 Thessaloniki | Greece

Tel.: (+30) 2310 897 197 | Fax: (+30) 2310 897 211

URL: www.makedoniapalace.com

Minerva Premier Hotel ★★★★★

Single BB 90 EURO Double BB 100 EURO

In the very heart of the business centre of Thessaloniki, this beautifully restored property, built in 1929, traces its own route in the field of quality hospitality. The hotel is 30 minutes from Cedefop and about 16 kilometres from Macedonia Airport.

44, Egnatia Str. and 12, Singrou Str. | GR-54625 Thessaloniki | Greece

Tel.: (+30) 2310 566 440-43 | Fax: (+30) 2310 566 436

URL: www.minervapremier.gr

Hotel A.D. Imperial Palace ☆☆☆**Single BB 85 EURO Double BB 100 EURO**

Right at the heart of the city's historical and commercial centre, the A.D. Imperial Palace Hotel welcomes you to Thessaloniki of yesterday and today. The A.D. Imperial Palace Hotel is 25 minutes from Cedefop and 12 km from Macedonia airport.

13, Antigonidon Str. | GR-54623 Thessaloniki | Greece

Tel.: (+30) 2310 508 300 | Fax: (+30) 2310 548 698

URL: www.ad-imperial-hotel.gr

Egnatia Hotel ☆☆☆**Single BB 80 EURO Double BB 85 EURO**

Situated right in the middle of the cultural and commercial centre of Thessaloniki, Egnatia Hotel is 25 minutes from Cedefop and 20 km from Macedonia airport.

16, Antigonidon Str. | GR-54631 Thessaloniki | Greece

Tel.: (+30) 2310 530 675 | Fax: (+30) 2310 531 761

URL: www.egnatia-hotel.gr

All hotel rates are in EURO, per person, per night and include taxes and buffet breakfast.

Hotel reservation procedure

To reserve a hotel, please complete the relevant section of the registration form. May we suggest you to register and make a reservation as soon as possible **no later than 2nd March 2009.**

Payment conditions

For the payment procedure and cancellation policy, please see the relevant sections of the registration form.

Cultural programme & social events

Sunday 15th March 2009**Welcome Reception, offered by Cedefop**

On Sunday evening, delegates are invited to a welcome reception, offered by CEDEFOP. The name of the place where the reception will take place will be announced at a later stage.

Monday 16th March 2009**Conference Dinner**

On Monday evening, delegates are invited to the conference official dinner offered by CEDEFOP. The official dinner venue will be announced at a later stage.

Tuesday 17th March 2009**Thessaloniki guided tour**

On Tuesday delegates will be able to attend a city tour, offered by CEDEFOP. The itinerary of the city tour will be announced at a later stage.

How to book for the social programme for an accompanying person

To book for the above social programme (welcome reception, conference dinner and Thessaloniki guided tour) for your accompanying person, please complete the relevant section of the registration form.

We look forward to meeting you soon



Thessaloniki

Set on the northern shores of the Thermaikos Gulf that opens into the Aegean Sea, Thessaloniki is approximately 550 kilometres north of Athens and in close proximity to Chalkidiki's beautiful beaches. It is the metropolis of Macedonia, one of Europe's oldest cities and the second largest city in Greece.

Founded in 316 BC by Cassander, King of Macedonia, the city was named after his wife, Thessaloniki, sister of Alexander the Great. It was here that Alexander the Great established the seat of his great Macedonian Empire, imparting a legacy that has left modern Thessaloniki dotted with the treasures, temples and monuments of one of history's greatest leaders.

Thessaloniki has the largest university in Greece, Aristotle University, which is one of the most established universities in the academic community in Europe.

The city of Thessaloniki today offers the visitor an exciting experience, as it possesses the second largest and most important port in Greece, the International Fair which attracts commercial interest from all over the world- offers cultural events, theatres, Modern Art galleries, libraries, some of the most exclusive spots in Greece, an immense variety of high standard recreational facilities and examples of modern architecture, art nouveau and eclecticism.

A few of the city's many attractions include the 16th century White Tower, Thessaloniki's many churches, in particular the 4th century Rotonda dedicated to St George, containing mosaics of the period, and the 8th century Agia Sofia, which was converted into a mosque during Ottoman rule.

Useful information just before you arrive

Airport welcome desk

Upon arrival at Macedonia Airport on **Sunday 15th March** look out for the "Agora Thessaloniki" welcome desk, where our staff will provide you with guidance and assistance. Please complete your flight details on the registration form to help us welcome you to the city.

"MACEDONIA" Airport (www.hcaa.gr)

The Airport is located 13 Km east from the city of Thessaloniki in the region "Micra" and in the Thermi Municipality.

Companies with direct flights at Thessaloniki's airport:

Aegean Airlines, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Cyprus Airways, Malev, Olympic Airlines, Swiss Airlines

Transfers

Airport-Hotel From the airport you may take a taxi to your hotel. The cost is around 20 EUR. Cedefop is not covering airport-hotel transfers.

Hotel - Cedefop From all the hotels listed above (see section: 'Hotel accommodation'), bus transfers from and to Cedefop as well as the social events will be provided in line with the conference programme. If you are late you can always take a taxi, as there is no public transport to Cedefop.

Find your way to Cedefop

Cedefop is easy to access by taxi within maximum 30 minutes from any part of the city, the city's suburbs or the airport. A taxi will cost around 10 Euro, depending on the distance. Should you wish to order a radio taxi, please call one of the following numbers: (+30) 2310525000, 2310866866 and make your appointment. In general, taxis are easy to find, at

the airport and all over the city; taxis are blue-white and easy to stop in the street. Please don't be surprised if other passengers are picked up along the way to your destination.

Time

Greece is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +2) throughout the year.

Language

Greek is the official language but English is widely spoken as well as German and French.

Currency

The Greek currency is EURO. Credit cards are widely used in most establishments. Most currencies and traveller's cheques can easily be changed either at banks, hotels or money-changers with some handling charges.

Weather in March

The climate in Thessaloniki is Mediterranean with a definite seasonal variation. In March the weather is usually cool to warm with temperatures ranging between 7,5°C and 17°C. Temperatures push into the pleasant range, rain is still frequent, but there is ample sunshine many days. Warm clothes as well as some spring clothes are recommended.

Power supply

The standard current in Greece is 220 volts. Plugs are European standard with two round pins.

People & Life

Thessaloniki is a popular destination. You will certainly enjoy a pleasant and interesting stay in the city. People are friendly and happy to help with any questions. The atmosphere is unique during the day in the commercial and shopping centre, but especially during the evening, in the wide variety of bars, restaurants and theatres for entertainment. Thessaloniki is renowned for its unique location, along the Thermaikos Gulf, its sunsets, its long history, its monuments and museums as well as its distinguished cuisine.

Liability

CEDEFOP & ARTION Conferences & Events act as an agent of the event only in securing hotels, transport and travel services and in no event shall be liable for acts or defaults in the event of injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind whatsoever during arrangements organised through contractors or the employees of such contractors in carrying out services. Hotel and transportation services are subject to the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public in general. The Host Committee reserves the right to make changes where deemed necessary, without prior notice to parties concerned. All disputes are subject to the Greek Law.

Useful Websites

Conference information

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>

Professional Conference Organiser

<http://www.artion.com.gr>

Information on Greece as a travel destination

<http://www.gnto.gr/?langID=2>

Thessaloniki

<http://www.saloniki.org>

<http://www.thessalonikicity.gr/>

<http://www.tcvb.gr>

Vergina

<http://whc.unesco.org/sites/780.htm>

We look forward to meeting you soon



Museums

http://www.macedonianmuseums.gr/Archaeological_and_Byzantine/Arx_Thessalonikhs.html
<http://www.mbp.gr/html/gr/index.htm>
<http://www.greekstatemuseum.com/>
<http://www.thmphoto.gr/>
<http://www.cinemuseum.gr/>

Weather in Thessaloniki

http://weather.yahoo.com/forecast/GRXX0019_c.html

Useful Phones

Police*	100
Tourist police station	(+30) 2310554870, (+30) 2310554871
Ambulance*	166
Fire*	199
Emergency phone**	112
Phone book information*	11888

**It refers to a local number and can be used only from a local phone.*

***It refers to a European number. After a recorded message in English and Greek, an operator receives the call in English, French or Greek, puts the caller through to the necessary service, and assists with interpretation, if necessary.*

Information

For any further information please contact the

Agora THESSALONIKI **Secretariat**

ARTION Conferences & Events

Thomas Building, 2nd Floor, 9th km Thessaloniki – Thessaloniki | 57001 Thessaloniki | Greece

Tel: (+30) 2310 257807 (conference line), 2310272275

Fax: (+30) 2310272276, 2310277964

E-mail: agora@artion.com.gr

URL: <http://www.artion.com.gr>

Please ask for:

- Ms. Valentini Amarantidou, Project Manager
- Ms. Despina Papanastasi, Project Manager Assistant
- Ms. Matina Katsarou, Head of Conference Secretariat
- Ms. Maria Kantziari, Publications Project Manager