



CEDEFOP

European Centre  
for the Development  
of Vocational Training

AGORAconference

# INVESTING IN PEOPLE: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCING VET



● 19-20.MAY.2008  
● THESSALONIKI.GREECE

programme

# INVESTING IN PEOPLE: STRATEGIES FOR FINANCING VET

Europe needs higher skills - but its workforce is ageing. This makes lifelong learning crucial if Europe is to keep up with globalisation, technological progress and sectoral change. But the number of Europeans in continuing training is low and falls as workers get older. Even if Member States increase their efforts over the next two years, only one in every eight to nine adults will be participating in lifelong learning by 2010.

Vocational education and training (VET) is fundamental for human capital accumulation. It provides citizens with the skills that the labour market and knowledge society needs. Yet investment in VET - especially for adults - is not always seen as a priority.

How can this situation be changed? What investment mechanisms are already in place? How efficient, effective and equitable are different financing policies and instruments? What ways of cofinancing have been developed and how are costs and responsibilities shared?

Cedefop's Agora 'Investing in people: strategies for financing VET' will reexamine countries' efforts to improve public and private investment in VET. It will assess progress and consider future steps. The conference will provide forum for policy makers, researchers and practitioners to discuss current levels and patterns of VET expenditure, identify challenges and seek solutions.

The conference will look at strategies to use available resources better. It will address ways to stimulate additional private sector investment and ensure balanced and shared funding. The Agora will examine tax incentives, vouchers, learning accounts, training funds, saving schemes and loans. It will also analyse the use of EU funds.

Improving public and private investment in VET must remain high on the political agenda. Securing adequate financial resources and ensuring their efficient allocation, equitable distribution and sustainability is a prerequisite for successful implementation of VET strategies.

At the conference representatives of Member States' governments, industry, social partners, financial institutions and EU institutions will reflect together on ways to improve current financing arrangements. To strengthen mutual learning, participants from non-EU countries, including candidate and potential candidate countries and EU global partners, will contribute to the event.

Outcomes of recent European Commission and Cedefop activities, including a study on sectoral training funds in Europe, a seminar on individual learning accounts will feed the debate.

## Sunday, 18 May

20.00 WELCOME DINNER

## Monday, 19 May

09.00-09.30 REGISTRATION

**CHAIR** Manfred Tessaring *Cedefop*

09.30-10.00 **Welcome and introductory speech**

**Aviana Bulgarelli** *Director, Cedefop*

**Patrycja Lipińska** *Cedefop*

**Alex Stimpson** *Cedefop*

10.00-10.30 **European challenges in vocational education and training**

**João Delgado** *Head of Unit, DG Education and Culture, European Commission*

DISCUSSION

10.30-11.00 **Contribution of the ESF to vocational education and training**

**Lenia Samuel** *Deputy Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*

DISCUSSION

11.00-11.30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

**CHAIR** Patrycja Lipińska *Cedefop*

11.30-12.00 **Financing VET in EU candidate and potential candidate countries**

**Jean-Raymond Masson** *European Training Foundation (ETF)*

DISCUSSION

12.00-12.30 **Financing VET in Australia: present and future**

**Gerald Burke** *Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET), Australia*  
*and*

**Peter Noonan** *Peter Noonan Consulting, Australia*

DISCUSSION

12.30-14.00 "FAMILY PHOTO" AND LUNCH

**CHAIR** Christian Lettmayr *Deputy Director, Cedefop*

14.00-14.30 **Ensuring efficiency and equity in the provision of continuing vocational training**

**Emmanuel Hassan** *DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*

DISCUSSION

14.30-15.00 **Workplace training in Europe**

**Giorgio Brunello** *University of Padua, Italy*

DISCUSSION

15.00-15.30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

15.30-17.30 PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS

Working group I

TAX INCENTIVES

CHAIR **Jean-Raymond Masson** *ETF*

RAPPORTEUR **Jasper van Loo** *Cedefop*

**Tax incentives to foster education and training - an international overview with special reference to Germany**

**Dieter Dohmen** *Institute for Education and Socio-Economic Research and Consulting (FiBS), Germany*

**An overview of tax incentives to promote VET in EU-12 with special reference to Lithuania**

**Rimantas Dumčius** *Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania*

**Incentives for continuing vocational training: Estonian case**

**Lea Orro** *Innove, Estonia*

DISCUSSION

Working group II

TRAINING FUNDS

CHAIR **Peter Szovics** *Cedefop*

RAPPORTEUR **Kasia Jurczak** *Eurofound*

**Sectoral training funds in Europe**

**Peter Szovics** *Cedefop* and **Iñigo Isusi** *IKEI, Spain*

**Overview of training funds in Italy: a new approach to lifelong learning**

**Bruno Scazzocchio** *Confindustria, Italy*

**Financing vocational training in French companies: a sophisticated but controversial scheme**

**Jean-Louis Dayan** *Centre d'analyse stratégique, France*

**Contribution and control by companies for successful vocational training**

**Tamás Köpeczi Bócz** *National Development Agency, Hungary*

20.00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Tuesday, 20 May

9.00-11.00 PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS

Working group III

SAVING SCHEMES AND LOANS

CHAIR **Patrycja Lipińska** *Cedefop*

RAPPORTEUR **Dieter Dohmen** *FiBS*

**Lessons from loans for learning**

**Nicholas Fox** *Individual Learning Company, UK*

**Austria: saving scheme for education compared to ILAs**

**Michael Tölle** *Chamber of Labour, Austria*

**"Bildungsprämie": the German model = saving scheme + voucher + loans**

**Eckart Lilienthal** *Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany*

Working group IV

SUBSIDIES, VOUCHERS, LEARNING ACCOUNTS

CHAIR **Peter Szovics** *Cedefop*

RAPPORTEUR **Sarah Elson-Rogers** *Cedefop*

**ESF cofinancing for disadvantaged groups in Cyprus**

**Xenakis Michaelides** *Human Resource Development Authority, Cyprus*

**Training vouchers: a simple recipe for success or major dead weight loss**

**Lieven Van Wichelen** *Employment Administration, Belgium (FI)*

**Italy: the individual learning account and voucher experience**

**Valentina Violi** *Ministry of Labour and Welfare, Italy*

## Tuesday, 20 May

11.00-11.30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11.30-12.00 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

12.00-13.15 PANEL DISCUSSION

**CHAIR** Aviana Bulgarelli *Director, Cedefop*

### **Towards efficient, sustainable and shared financing of VET – challenges and future actions**

**João Delgado** *Head of Unit, DG Education and Culture, European Commission*

**Albert Tuijnman** *European Investment Bank*

**Elido Bandelj** *Director-in-office of the Directorate for secondary and higher education and adult education of the Ministry of Education and Sport, Slovenian Presidency*

**Kostas Dimoulas** *The Labour Institute of the General Confederation of Greek Workers (INE / GSEE)*

**Antonis Tortopidis** *VET expert, former Head and Coordinator of the Research and Analysis Unit of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEB)*

13.15-13.30 CONCLUSIONS

### **The way forward**

**Manfred Tessaring** *Cedefop*

**Patrycja Lipińska** *Cedefop*

13.30 END OF THE CONFERENCE AND LUNCH





**CEDEFOP**

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