



## **Working group III: Saving schemes and loans**

Chair: Patrycja Lipinska, Cedefop

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

Presentations:

### **Lessons from loans for learning**

Nicholas Fox, Individual Learning Company, UK

### **Austria: saving scheme for education in comparison 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

Training funds and tax incentives are commonly used to stimulate investment in learning. However, they may not benefit those who need assistance the most such as people with low levels of qualification and those with low or no income. Experience also shows that these measures may not reach all enterprises, in particular SMEs. To ensure equal distribution of training, support can be provided through, for example, low-cost loans. Saving schemes can also be offered for those lacking financial resources for learning. Saving schemes involve setting money aside over a period of time. Individual savings may be matched by contributions from government, employers or both. Experience of loans and saving schemes to support adult learning is rather limited as they have been implemented only in a few European countries. This calls for a more careful examination of the financial instruments used and the factors that determine their relatively low use, as well as how they can promote (vocational) education and training.

This working session will address the following questions:

1. What is the impact of loans and savings schemes on training participation? Which specific groups do they target most effectively? How effective are they compared to other financial measures, such as learning accounts or vouchers?
2. Why are loans and saving schemes not used more to support adult learning?
3. How can loans for adults and saving schemes be expanded to support (vocational) education and training? How can their use be increased? How to increase the role of financial institutions in investing in learning?
4. How to help those who can not access government support or mainstream financial services to fund learning?