

Synthesis seminar
Thessaloniki, 24 – 25 June 2010



THE POLICY RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY VISITS PROGRAMME



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Today, over 50.000 education and training specialists participated in the study visits programmes:

- New professional experience in a European context;
- Information flows to peers;
- Information flows to policy makers.



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TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Growing interest in fostering links with European and national policy development
- All topics at study today have their roots in European or national topics of interest.



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UP TO WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

- As from the early eighties: new topics
 - ➔ **Closer link with policy development**

- Since merger of the 2 former programmes:
 - looking for the right balance between general education and VET
 - Lifelong Learning approach



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AS FROM 2001: new developments

- ❑ Barcelona summit: solid framework for European cooperation in education and training
- ❑ Including the Copenhagen and Bologna processes
- ❑ **Since 2009: New strategic framework E & T 2020**
- ❑ European summit June 2010 reconfirmed the pivotal role of education and training



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Since 2009: New strategic framework:

- Crucial role of education and training;
- Need for investment in human capital to deliver sustainable knowledge-based growth and jobs;
- While valuing diversity, the strategic framework could provide continuing benefits and support for E&T systems in MS.
- E&T should remain firmly anchored in the broader European strategy.



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The 4 strategic objectives:

1. Making lifelong learning a reality
2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
4. Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training



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New programme priorities for 2011-2013

- Encourage cooperation between the worlds of education, training and work
- Support initial and continuous training of teachers, trainers and education and training institutions' managers
- Promote the acquisition of key competences throughout the education and training system
- Promote social inclusion and gender equality in education and training, including the integration of migrants
- Develop strategies for lifelong learning and mobility



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**How can the study visits programme
contribute policy development?**

- The thematic approach;
- The quality of the programmes;
- The quality of the reporting;
- The peer learning visits = involvement of policy makers



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CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

THE THEMATIC APPROACH

- The existing topics will continue to find their place in the selected priorities;
- For programme purposes:

Priorities = categories of themes

- In practice, we will continue to have some 32 themes



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CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMMES

- Growing awareness need for top quality programmes
- Knowledge sharing seminars
- Enhanced interest of Member States
- Good documentation
- Handbooks
- Development of quality tools



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CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:
THE PEER LEARNING VISITS

66. Germany: internal and external evaluation in autonomous schools
November 2010

78. Estonia: Novice teachers at school – improving professional
development
- January 2011

62: Lithuania – Internal and external evaluation – prerequisite for schools
evaluation
September 2010

214: Ireland – Continuous professional development of teachers and
trainers - March 2011



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CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

THE QUALITY OF THE REPORTING

- Template for group reporting
- Good reporting = good information flows
- Need for good individual reporting;



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CONCLUSION

- Belief that study visits could actively contribute to the « ET 2020 » strategy
- Barcelona
- LLP – II working groups



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- The importance of the work you will be undertaking these two days

= VALORISATION + MULTIPLICATION

- This is how you can contribute to policy development



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- ***Influencing policies***

But the Lifelong Learning Programme is not just about benefits for mobile individuals. It also has an influence on the education and training systems of the participating countries and regions by working with key decision-makers and supporting the priorities agreed by Ministers in the Open Method of Coordination on Education and Training. Let me just mention the over 700 study visits that have allowed thousands of practitioners and policy-makers to learn directly from the experience of others. I believe that without the support of the programme many recent positive policy developments in the field of education and training would probably have been impossible. This will become all the more important with the central role of knowledge and skills in the Europe 2020 strategy.



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**Thank you very much
for your attention !!!**

