

Synthesis seminar
Thessaloniki, 1 – 2 February 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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Back in time:
how did we get where we are right now ?

- 1978 – ARION study visits
- 1 single topic
- Simple objectives
- The basic idea was there: sharing experience amongst peers.



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Back in time:

how did we get where we are right now ?

1983 – Cedefop study visits

- Start as a small programme
- Almost tailor made study visits
- Taking account of specific needs of partners
- Exchange of information between the two programmes was there at all times.



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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**
- Total number of topics in the merged programmes: + 40
- Merger of the programme:
 - looking for the right balance
 - Lifelong Learning approach
 - pilot phase.



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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
- ❑ Lot of progress made, but substantial challenge remains the European ambition « to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world ».



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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, a 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.



Substantial challenge:

- « To achieve Europe's ambition to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. »
- Reminder: in the Lisbon declaration the heads of state and government stressed the substantial role of education and training policies in this process

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

How can the study visits programme contribute to the process of the new strategic framework?

- The thematic approach;
- The quality of the programmes;
- The quality of the reporting;
- The pilot action

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CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

THE THEMATIC APPROACH

- Key competences for all.
- Improving access, equity, quality and efficiency in education and training.
- Keeping teaching and training attractive and improving leadership.
- Education and training for employability.
- Implementation of common European tools, principles and frameworks for lifelong learning.
- Trends and developments in lifelong learning strategies.
- Development of learning communities, involving all actors in education and training.
- Promoting mobility in lifelong learning.
- Other measures.



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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 (GHK)



**CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:
THE PILOT ACTIONS**

- ❑ Study visit 190 in the Netherlands on "Regional cooperation of IVET and CVET and the labour market" from 25 to 27 November 2009
- ❑ Study visit 245 in Poland on "New trends in training and developing civil servants" from 19 to 21 October 2009

**CLOSER LINK TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT:
THE PILOT ACTIONS**

The principle: enclosed in the catalogue:

- enhancing mutual awareness between
- * normal stakeholders in current study visits
 - * policy makers in pilot action visits

P.S. Call for new pilot actions for 2010 – 2011

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
- ❑ What are the elements:
 - Work cycles – (first work cycle 2009 – 2011)
 - Priority areas
 - Mutual learning
 - Dissemination of results
 - Progress reporting
 - Monitoring of the process
 - Take a look at the specific priorities of the first work cycle



THE TOPICS OF THIS SEMINAR

- * Development of key competences
(languages / social and civic competences)
- * Quality of teaching and training
- * Leadership and management.

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

= VALORISATION + MULTIPLICATION

- How you can contribute to policy development



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

