



Thessaloniki 10 March 2011
For immediate release
www.cedefop.europa.eu

Vocational education and training: how to plan for the next ten years

In the coming decade the European labour market must deal successfully with several challenges: the legacy of the financial crisis, the need for sustainable growth, the trend toward skill-intensive jobs and the ageing of the population. Cedefop's conference on 17 March 2011 – hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels – focuses on how vocational education and training (VET) policy can best respond to these challenges.

Speakers at the event will include László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, social affairs and inclusion; Sándor Czomba, State Secretary representing the Hungarian presidency of the EU; Pervenche Berès, Chair of the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee, and Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee. Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth will address the audience by video message.

Discussions will focus on the **governance and benefits** of continued European cooperation in developing VET policy, and on the **conditions and challenges** we must meet to make VET more attractive to students and more relevant to Europe's economy and society. Participants will also consider the **implications of the new policy framework** set by the *Europe 2020* strategy.

The conference, which is open for registration, is a follow-up to the Bruges communiqué adopted by the informal ministerial meeting in Bruges on 7 December 2010, and is based on the findings of Cedefop's 2010 policy report *A bridge to the future: European policy for vocational education and training 2002-10*.

More information

1. **Conference website**
<http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/VET-policy2011>
2. **Publication: A bridge to the future**
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/17297.aspx>

Contact:

Press Office

Ioánná Nezi, tel. +30 2310 490186, E-Mail: ioanna.nezi@cedefop.europa.eu

Head of Area Communication, Information and Dissemination

Gerd Oskar Bausewein, tel. +30 2310 490288, E-Mail: gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu

About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. www.cedefop.europa.eu