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European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme



Summary of the findings of study visits 2009/10

Angela Musca, Cedefop
Katerina Tsinari, Cedefop
George Kostakis, Cedefop

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Supporting flexible learning pathways

➤ *“Flexible learning pathways aim to provide people with opportunities to **access** the education and/or training necessary for learning, training or employment related activity, as well as personal development, in a way that is **different** from more formal arrangements.”*

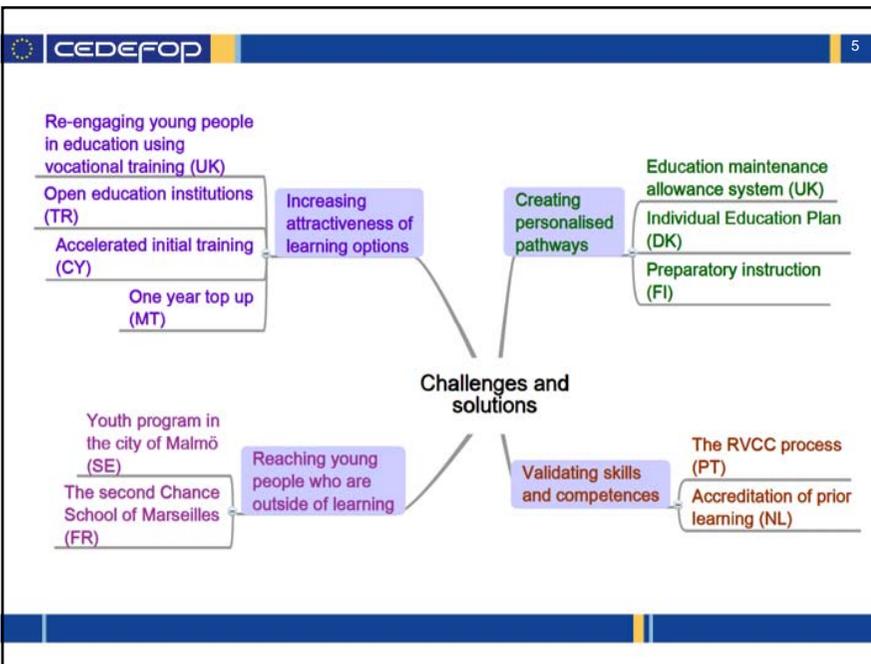
➤ What is it about in our seminar?



Key issues



- Measures supporting young people with difficulties acquiring competences
- Measures preventing learners from dropping out of learning
- Measures encouraging people to get back to learning
- Measures supporting young people to overcome barriers to learning



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Empowering young people for education -to- work transitions



The transition from education or training to the world of work

'the move from education or training to employment, covering the period between leaving education and entering the labour market' (Cedefop, 2008).



Key issues



- Improving the image of vocational studies;
- learning provision responsive to employers' needs;
- information, advice and career guidance;
- collaboration between stakeholders.

Challenges



- Lack of funds to invest in training;
- lack of opportunities for combined school and workplace training;
- difficulties associated with involving employers.

Potential solutions and examples of good practice (1)

- Promoting apprenticeships and work-based learning
 - *Les maisons familiales et rurales* - fostering the professional integration of young apprentices, FR;
 - a mentorship project *How to recruit more trainees in the construction sector?*, BE;
 - Youth - a vocational programme to encourage young disadvantaged people back in learning and working, UK;
 - *Alternanza Scuola Lavoro*: transition from school to work, IT;
 - the system of part-time vocational education, BE.



Potential solutions and examples of good practice (2)

- **Lifelong guidance and counselling**
 - Orientation: a holistic approach to student guidance in school, ES;
 - Guidance for young people on parallel pathways, SI;
 - Career guidance to support students in their transitions, FI;
 - Online career and vocational information programme, AU.
- **Wider and flexible cooperation and partnerships**
 - JOBSTARTER: a funding programme for more traineeships, DE;
 - METGEM: the Centre for the development of vocational and technical education, TR.



Developing Entrepreneurial Skills and Competences

Young people's pathways to entrepreneurial thinking

- *Entrepreneurship* refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and risk taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. This supports everyone in day-to-day life at home and in society, makes employees more aware of the context of their work and better able to seize opportunities, and provides a foundation for entrepreneurs establishing a social or commercial activity.



Key Issues

- Measures to support entrepreneurship in curricula
- Measures to support teachers and trainers
- Measures to support young entrepreneurs
- The role of business and enterprises in developing young people's entrepreneurial skills and competences



Challenges

- Lack of strategy and integrated approach across all levels of education, training and business.
- Reliance on short-term project funding
- Lack of buy-in amongst educators
- Lack of appropriate funding for newly founded and start-up ventures
- Lack of business buy-in



Potential solutions & examples of good practice (1)

- Clearly defining objectives and identifying expected gains (economic / social / environmental)
 - Entrepreneurship in national curriculum frameworks in Spain;
 - Guidelines in Swedish National Curriculum;
 - Entrepreneurship at all levels in Norway's national curriculum;
- Integration within the curriculum across all levels of education: allocated time within school timetables, training for all teachers, dissemination of resources
 - Turning Point, Finland;
 - Integrated entrepreneurship curriculum in Spain;
 - Network for teaching entrepreneurship, Ireland;



Potential solutions & examples of good practice (2)

- Cooperation between the education and commercial sectors to demonstrate the benefits to students and businesses
 - Young Enterprise, Norway;
 - A Technology program, Sweden;
 - Young successful entrepreneurs, Portugal;
 - Start-Up Cafe, Belgium;
 - Junior achievement in Sweden;
 - EU network of female entrepreneurship ambassadors



Further reading

- Cedefop Study visits reports:
http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?cid=3&artid=7456&scid=77&artlang=EN&per_id=2549
- Cedefop's electronic data base on VET and its reports on European VET policies:
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Information-services/vet-in-europe-country-reports.aspx>