

9th TTnet Annual Conference

Thessaloniki, 7-8 December 2006

Enhanced European Cooperation in VET

From Copenhagen to Helsinki

7 December 2006

by

Christian Lettmayr

Deputy Director, Cedefop

Copenhagen – Maastricht – Helsinki Enhanced cooperation in VET

Copenhagen Declaration 2002	Strengthen the European dimension
	Improve transparency, information & guidance systems
	Recognise competences & qualifications
	Promote quality assurance
Maastricht Communiqué 2004: national priorities	Improve public/private investments, training incentives
	Address the needs of groups at risk
	Develop flexible pathways, progression
	Strengthen VET planning, partnerships, identify skill needs
	Develop pedagogical approaches & learning environments
	Expand VET teachers' & trainers' competence development
Helsinki Communiqué 5/12/2006	Investments in VET
	Reforms for a European VET area
	Reviewed priorities

The Helsinki Communiqué 2006

to review the priorities and strategies of the Copenhagen Process

European and national VET policies should ensure

- **young people** acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary for further learning and employability
 - ☛ to reduce drop-outs and facilitate school-to-work transition
- **skills and competences for adults**
 - ☛ recognition of prior learning
 - ☛ provision of training and learning opportunities, including for disadvantaged people
- **investments in skills** and shared funding
 - ☛ training should be more efficient and demand-driven

Conclusions

Helsinki 2006

Four years to go until 2010 Stay focused

Reinforce efforts, consolidate and build on achievements

Continue at national level to ...

- **establish NQF related to learning outcomes and linking to EQF** through cooperation with all players and mutual learning
- **develop Europass certificate supplements** which inform on learning outcomes and make EQF mapping easier
- **develop validation of non-formal learning central to lifelong learning**
- **improve quality assurance and encourage implementing the CQAF**

Conclusions

Helsinki 2006

Maastricht priorities still valid

- Support VET teacher & trainer development, value them as change agents
- Develop in-company learning pathways & improve older workers' lifelong learning
- Adequately invest in VET, make benefits visible & encourage cost-sharing
- Develop shared policies with other ministries, social partners & other actors

To make the right decisions we need

- joint efforts to collate more, more accurate & more reliable statistical data
- comprehensive initiatives to identify and anticipate skill needs
- research to evaluate policy impact & prepare VET for future challenges

Cedefop: A key role in monitoring the Helsinki follow-up

**Cedefop's AGORA event
26 – 27 April 2007:**

'Building a European VET area'

Conference to present and discuss:

- analyses on progress in VET policies
- findings from research and statistics
- future challenges

www.cedefop.europa.eu

www.trainingvillage.gr/policyanalysis

Thank you for your attention