



European Centre for the
Development of Vocational Training

Director

Thessaloniki, 20 December 2006

MB/LZAH

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European Social Partner Conference on ECVET

Dear Sir/ Madam,

In the recently published Helsinki Communiqué, Ministers responsible for education and training, the European Social Partners and the European Commission confirmed the necessity to further develop a European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) as a tool to facilitate credit accumulation and transfer as well as recognition of competences and qualifications achieved by an individual.

In November 2006, the European Commission launched the consultation process on the ECVET¹. The European Social Partner Organisations were - as important stakeholders in the system - invited to take an active part in this consultation.

The "European Social Partner Conference on ECVET" will provide a platform for European social partners to discuss this proposal. The Conference is organised by Cedefop in cooperation with the German (BDA and DGB²) and European (ETUC and UNICE) Social Partners and will take place in Thessaloniki on 12-13 February 2007. The main objectives of the Conference are:

- to inform the European Social Partners about the ECVET system, its technical specifications and the role they play within the ECVET system;
- to enable European Social Partners to contribute actively to the ECVET consultation process recently launched by the European Commission;
- to discuss ECVET implications on vocational education and training policies and Lifelong Learning strategies;
- to examine ways of practical implementation for the ECVET, including pilot projects;
- to exchange experiences of existing credit practices in VET.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

² BDA - Confederation of German Employers' Associations DGB – Confederation of German Trade Unions

The Conference will be an excellent opportunity for the main VET stakeholders from all over Europe to discuss the objectives and structure of the ECVET, and the key role it plays in the achievement of the Lisbon agenda.

The Conference agenda and documentation, the invitation letters including information on administrative issues, will follow early January 2007.

We take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all in Thessaloniki.

With kind regards,


Aviana Bulgarelli