



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
19 MAY 2008**

**INVESTING IN TRAINING
CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS PUBLIC / PRIVATE COST SHARING**

To meet the challenges of global competition, European countries will have to raise participation in lifelong learning and look for innovative funding solutions. This is the main issue at stake for the participants of the conference *Investing in people: Strategies for financing VET* which is taking place at Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Thessaloniki on 19-20 May 2008.

Cost sharing schemes differ throughout the European Union. The most successful are those combining private and public investment, often supplemented by EU funding, in particular through the European Social Fund. There is a trend towards a more demand-led approach to better respond to learners' training needs. Cost-sharing policies have improved the flexibility and quality of training arrangements and seem to positively influence attitudes towards learning.

However, investment in VET needs to increase and cost sharing policies and instruments to be further developed. To ensure equity, schemes should target more specifically small and medium sized enterprises and low-skilled and older workers. There is a need for more guidance.

Cedefop will continue its work on this theme with its forthcoming publication on sectoral training funds, studies on tax incentives and cofinancing mechanisms in Europe and an analysis of the schemes used by Europe's competitors.

For more information: <http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/vetfinancing2008/>

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.

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