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Cedefop's contribution to EU initiatives highlighted during EuroSkills 2008

During the EuroSkills competition held in Rotterdam on 18-20 September, Cedefop experts contributed to an open workshop, organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture, to present the various EU tools and initiatives now being implemented in cooperation with Member States.

These tools – principally the **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** and **ECVET**, the **European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training** - aim to help improve the employment prospects of European citizens, and to provide the European economy with the skills it needs to face growing international competition.

Discussions focused on how these common tools can boost the employability and mobility of Europeans and make vocational training more attractive.

In addition, it was shown that the "New Skills for New Jobs" initiative has the potential of linking the results of work on **forecasting skill needs** (an important area of activity for Cedefop, as Commissioner Ján Figel' pointed out during the EuroSkills event) to the design of education and training systems, so the latter can better respond to the needs of labour markets.

The EuroSkills competition, organised in Rotterdam by the European Skills Promotion Organisation (ESPO), is a showcase for craftsmanship in Europe. Over four hundred young professionals, VET students and graduates from 30 European countries competed in demonstrating their skills in 49 trades.

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**

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