

30 CEDEFOP
YEARS

Cedefop's products and services: report 2005

EN



Cedefop's products and services: report 2005

Cedefop

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005

ISBN 92-896-0404-2

© European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, 2005

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Designed by Colibri Ltd. – Greece

Printed in Greece

The **European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training** (Cedefop) is the European Union's reference Centre for vocational education and training.

We provide information on and analyses of vocational education and training systems, policies, research and practice.

Cedefop was established in 1975 by Council Regulation (EEC) No 337/75.

Europe 123
GR-570 01 Thessaloniki (Pylea)

Postal address: PO Box 22427
GR-551 02 Thessaloniki

Tel. (30) 23 10 49 01 11, Fax (30) 23 10 49 00 20

E-mail: info@cedefop.eu.int

Homepage: www.cedefop.eu.int

Interactive website: www.trainingvillage.gr

Communities: <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr>

Message from the Director

This year Cedefop celebrates its 30th anniversary. The services Cedefop provides have changed in that time. However, its central role to provide and disseminate information on vocational education and training has remained constant and ever more important.

This brochure updates figures on the use of Cedefop's products and services during 2004. It shows a steady increase in the use of Cedefop's electronic media services, publications and activities bringing people together to exchange information and experience.

Following agreements at Brugges, Copenhagen and Maastricht, the EU is working ever more closely to modernise vocational education and training. This process is a major part of the strategy to realise the Lisbon goal of making Europe the most dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010. The essence of this cooperation is information and its exchange. Through the structured and thematic information and analyses it provides and by supporting their exchange across borders through electronic and face-to-face contact, Cedefop is making a valuable contribution to strengthening this cooperation and supporting the process of reform.

Providing opportunities for people to come together is one of Cedefop's key roles. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Community study visits programme, which long before the Brugges-Copenhagen-Maastricht processes was contributing to stronger European cooperation in vocational education and training by bringing new perspectives to policy-makers from different countries. The programme played, and continues to play, a valuable role in integrating candidate countries into the EU.

In addition, Cedefop brings people together through its virtual communities, which have proved a valuable forum for debate and discussion overcoming barriers of time and place.

In constantly seeking to improve its services and consolidate its position as the European reference centre on vocational education, Cedefop is working to bring about the stronger European cooperation so necessary to fulfilling the Lisbon agenda. In its 30 year history, Cedefop's role has never been more important.

Johan van Rens
Director

1. The European training village (ETV)



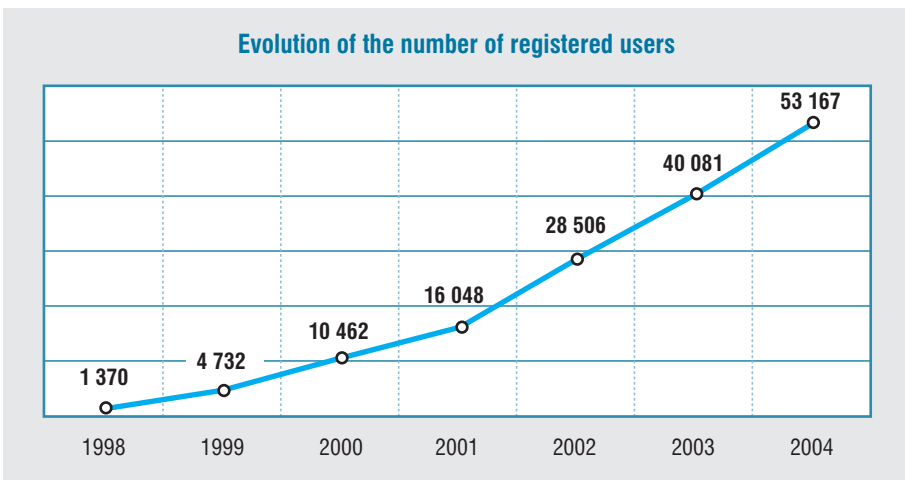
The European training village, (ETV) www.trainingvillage.gr is an interactive platform, bringing into contact policy-makers, social-partners, practitioners, researchers and others with an interest in vocational education and training. ETV users are required to register. Registration is free and information provided is strictly confidential. By knowing our users and what information interests them, we serve their needs better.

Navigation is easy on the ETV and information simple to find. The site is divided into five information neighbourhoods, ETV news, information resources, projects and networks, youth at ETV and exchange of views. The user has a choice of four languages for navigation, English, French, German or Spanish. A new monthly opinion poll feature lets users express their opinions and see those of others.

The ETV has areas for collaborative working for researchers. Discussion areas like Speaker's Corner and the Community Centre (Who's who), are widely used to make contacts and seek specific information.

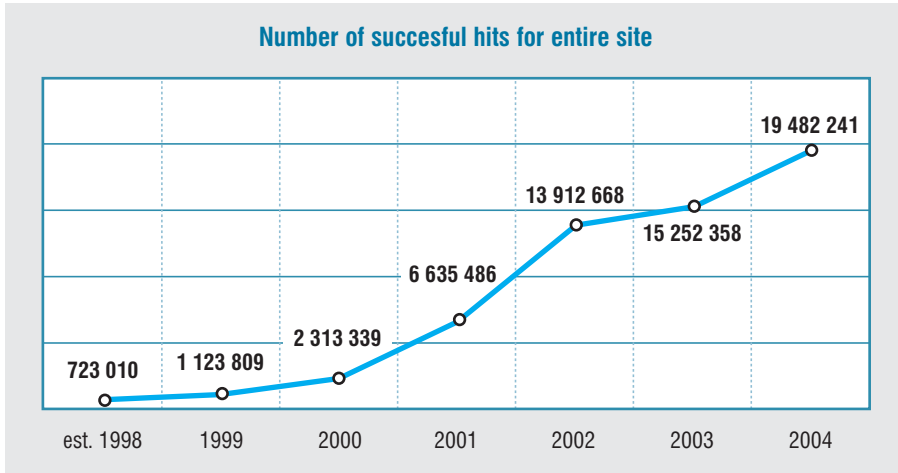
ETV usage increased by some 25 % in 2004, rising from 40 081 in 2003 to 53 167 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. **Number of registered ETV users**



The number of hits on the ETV has also increased by just over 25 % from 15 252 358 in 2003 to 19 482 241 in 2004 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of successful hits on the ETV website



Hits only count the number of times a user views a page or downloads a file. Better indicators of ETV use are the number of sessions or visits, namely the number of times a user visits the site for at least 30 minutes and the number of visitors using the site more than once. During 2004, sessions rose by nearly 30 % to 650 251 from 502 943 in 2003 (Figure 3). Those using the site more than once rose by almost two-thirds to 52 716, up from 32 652 in 2003 (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Number of user sessions (visits)

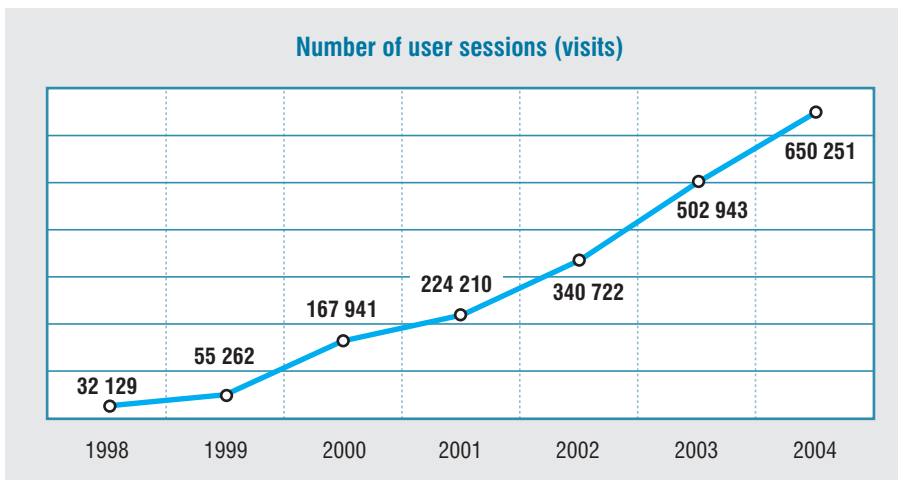
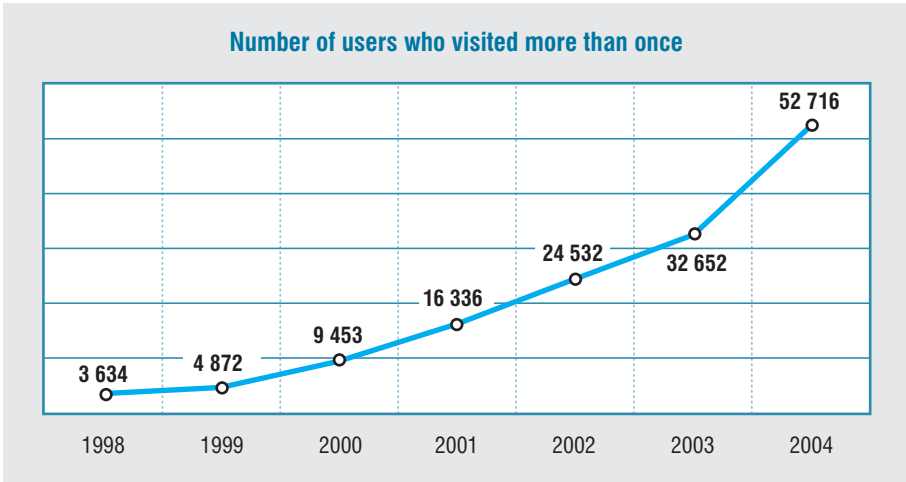


Figure 4. Number of users visiting the site more than once



ETV registered users in the new Member States and the candidate countries have increased significantly, around 79 % from 2 898 in 2003 to 5 191 in 2004 (Figure 5). The number of ETV users in the pre-enlarged EU and European Economic Area (EEA) increased from 28 992 in 2003 to 38 444 in 2004 (Figure 6). An increase of around a third.

Figure 5. ETV registered users in the new Member States and the candidate countries

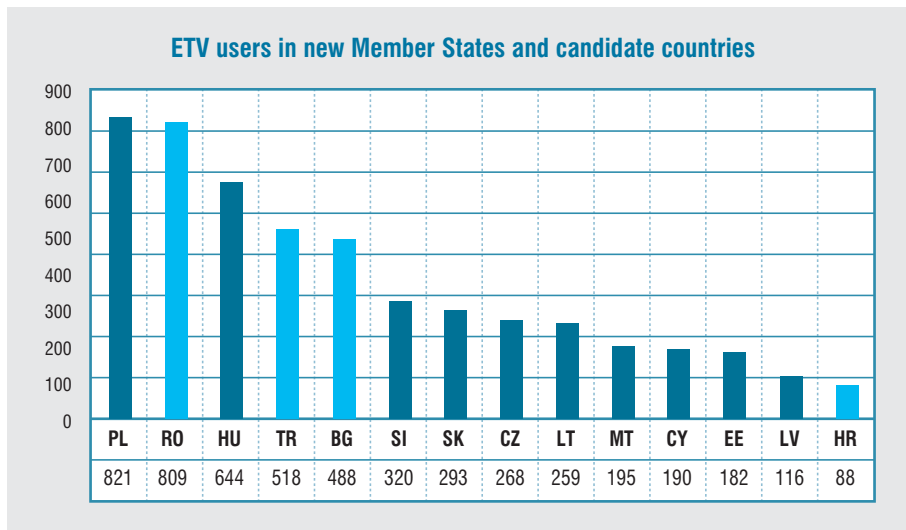
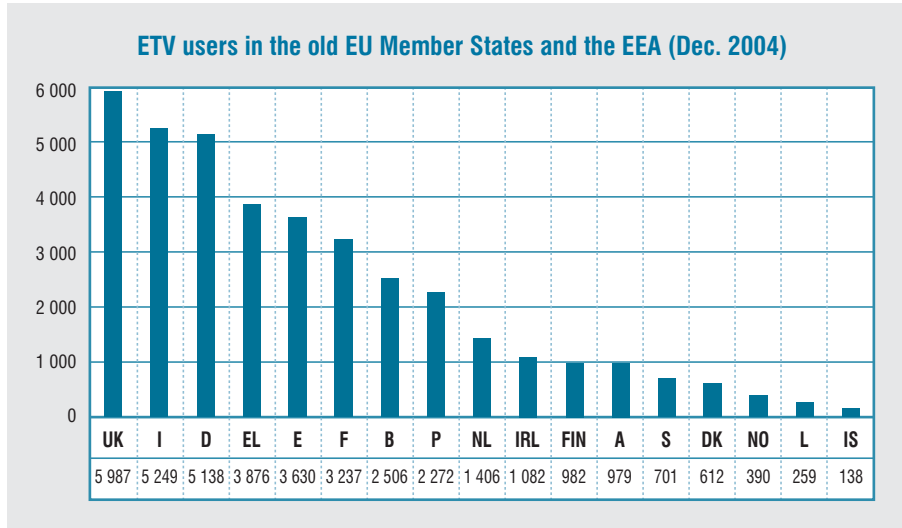


Figure 6. **ETV registered users in the pre-enlarged EU and European Economic Area (EEA)**



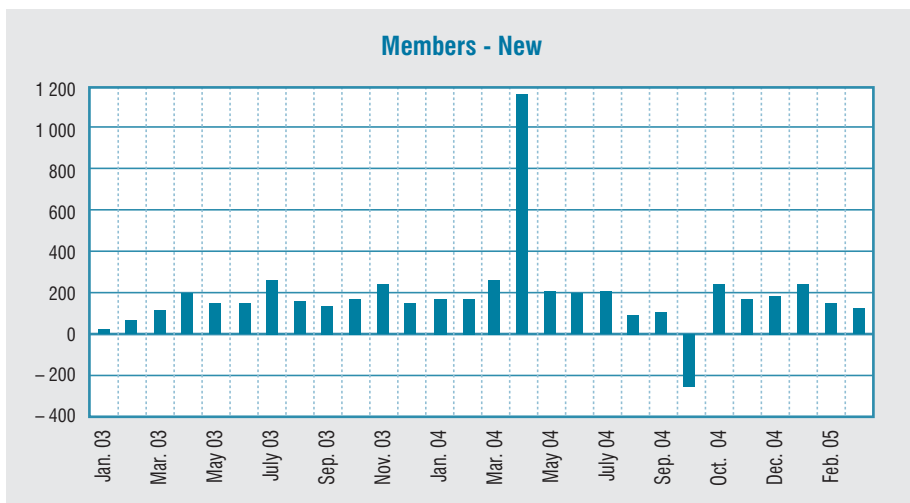
2. Cedefop's virtual communities

Cedefop's virtual communities <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr>, offer a range of tools to publish documents, share bookmarks, engage in discussions, access news feeds, chat in real-time, conduct polls, send group e-mails and more.

The virtual communities were set up, in agreement with the European Commission, to support the technical working groups working on the priorities in the Copenhagen Declaration of November 2002. They have become indispensable working tools promoting dialogue and exchanges of information, not only for the working groups, but also for others on a wide range of issues. The virtual communities also offer real time collaboration through 'Elluminate Live!', delivering online learning, training, coaching, mentoring and meeting services. Participants can also converse over the Internet, chat online, share whiteboards and graphic applications.

Currently, there are 25 virtual communities, with 8 207 members. New members are joining at an average of 190 every month (Figure 7). Virtual communities can be accessed directly from the ETV using the same login name and password.

Figure 7. **New members each month**



The average number of page views (the number of times member visits a new page in a community) per month (Figure 8) peaked in April 2004 at

around 82 000. Over the last few months activity has stabilised to around 45 000 page views per month.

Figure 8. **Number of page views**

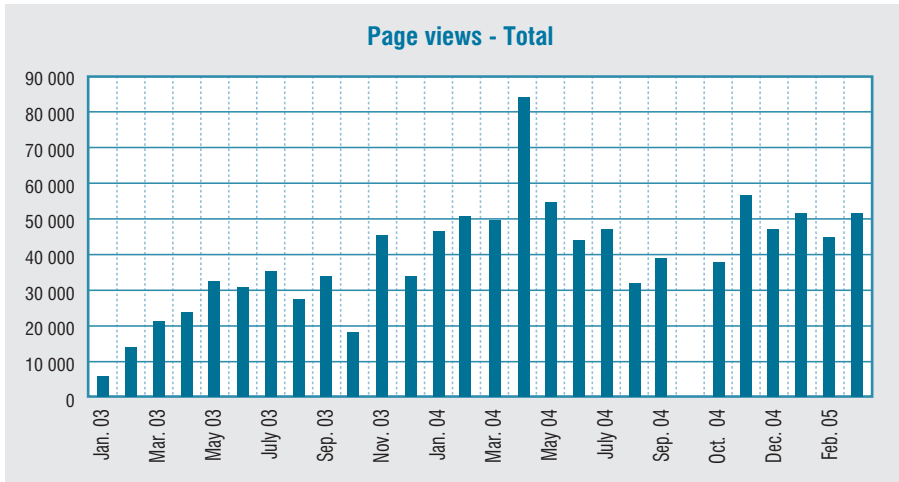
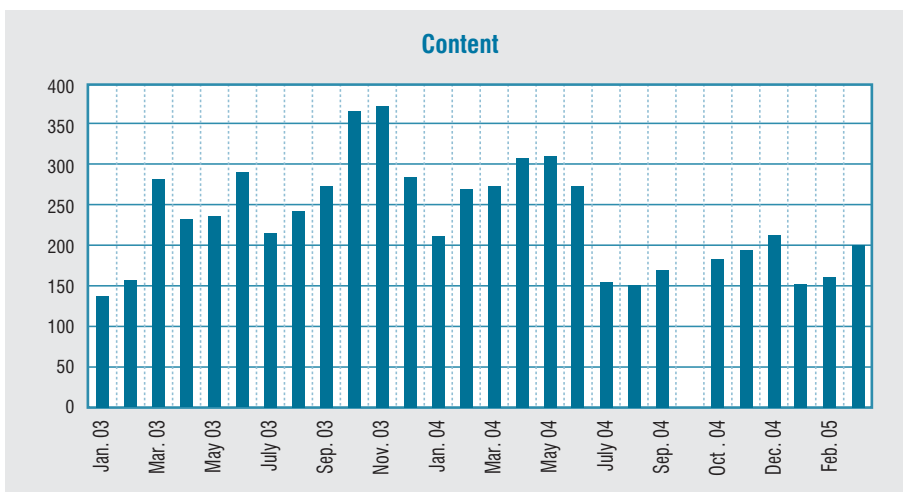


Figure 9 shows that new information is regularly uploaded onto the virtual communities at an average of 150 items a month. The peaks and troughs reflecting different times of year and the amount of new information available on the subjects the virtual community covers.

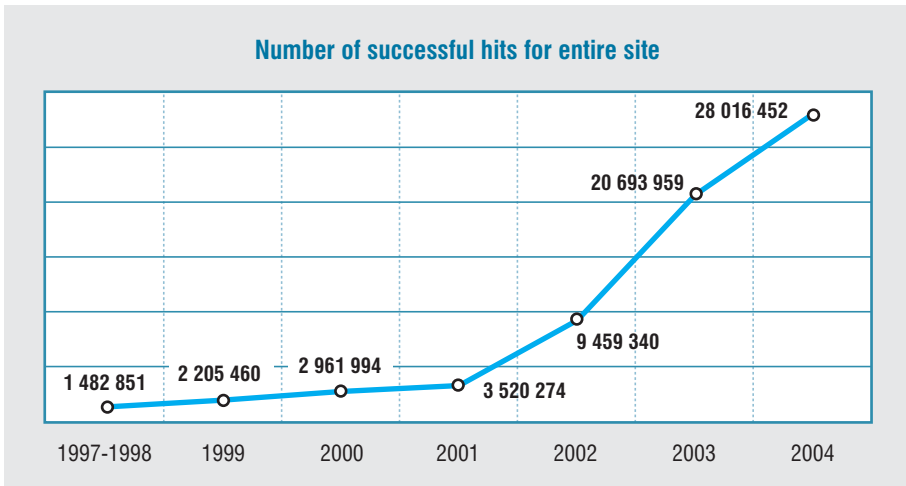
Figure 9. **New content on the virtual communities**



3. The Cedefop website

Cedefop's corporate website its role, tasks, activities, priorities and target audiences. Use of the Cedefop website has increased dramatically in the past two years, 28 016 452 successful hits for the entire site in 2004, a daily average of 54 396 compared to a total of 20 693 959 in 2003 and 9 459 340 in 2002 (Figure 10). Part of the increase is explained by the considerable interest in the European curriculum vitae, which can be downloaded from the site and information on developments in the Europass project. In 2005, the Cedefop website will be redesigned to present information about Cedefop and its activities more clearly. Information on Cedefop will be also be provided in languages of the new Member States.

Figure 10. **Number of successful hits for the entire website**



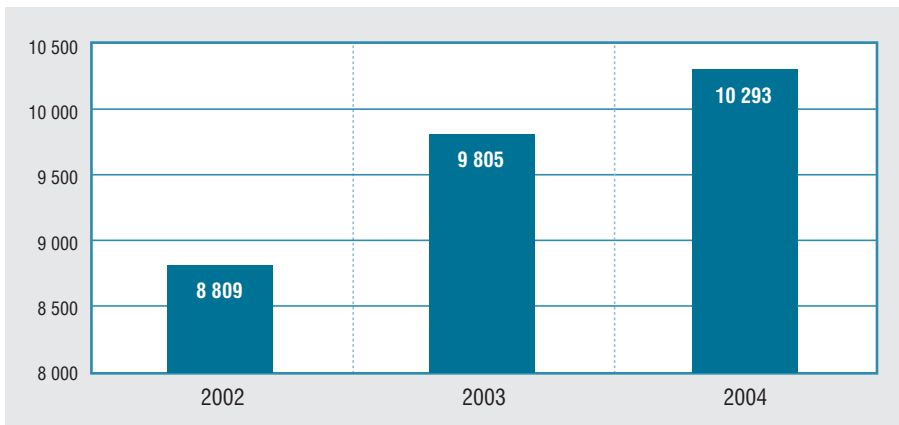
4. Publications

Cedefop publishes priced (reference series) and free publications (panorama series) as well as the 'European journal vocational training' and Cedefop info periodicals. All of Cedefop's free publications are accessible online.

In 2004, Cedefop published 31 new titles in a total of 62 publications taking account of different language versions. Among the new titles published were 'Learning for employment: vocational education and training policy in Europe', 'Learning through work experience for the knowledge economy', 'E-learning for teachers and trainers: Innovative practices, skills and competences' and 'Vocational education and training - key to the future', prepared for the Dutch presidency meeting in Maastricht on European cooperation in vocational education and training.

Over 10 000 copies of Cedefop's free publications were distributed in response to specific requests. Many more copies were downloaded from the Cedefop bookshop on the ETV (Figure 11).

Figure 11. **Distribution of free Cedefop publications**



4.1. European journal vocational training

The European journal is a professional periodical recognised Europe-wide. It is an independently peer-reviewed publication for researchers, policy makers, practitioners and social partners reaching a wide European audience. It contains quality articles on research, practice, policies and innovation in this field and is published three times a year in German, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

The 'European journal vocational training' currently had 2 034 subscriptions (free and paid) in 2004 (980 in German; 682 in English; 251 in Spanish; 376 in French).

4.2. Cedefop info

Cedefop info is published in both hard copy (broad-sheet form) and electronic form, three times a year in English, French and German. It provides short pieces of information about important developments in vocational education and training at European level and in the Member States. Emphasis is on projects and activities in both policy and practice, with a European or international character, and those with a social partner involvement. The target group is broad, including decision-makers, researchers and practitioners.

Cedefop info subscriptions stood at around 8 500 in 2004.

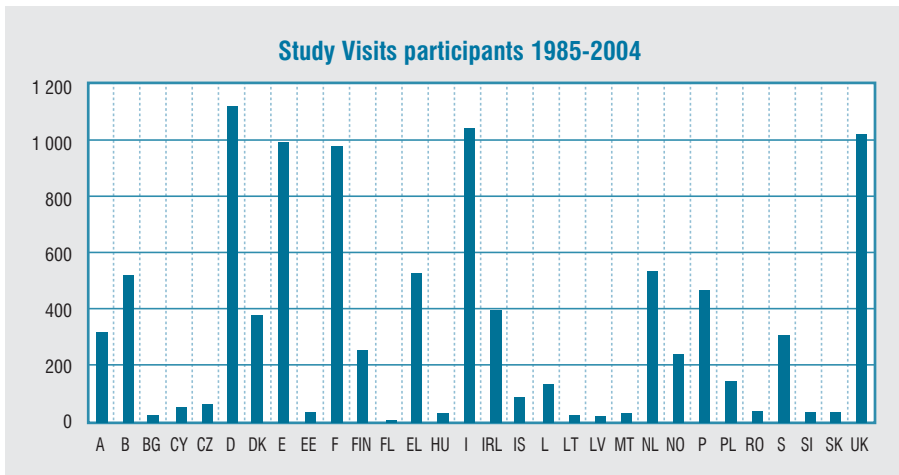
5. Community study visits programme



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Community study visits programme. As part of the Leonardo da Vinci programme since 1999, and managed by Cedefop, since it began in 1985, it has given policy-makers opportunity to exchange information and discuss issues of common interest with others from different backgrounds from other Member States.

Today, the common themes discussed are defined by the Bruges-Copenhagen-Maastricht processes. Yet the study visits programme has been important to strengthening European cooperation in vocational education and training for much longer. In the past 20 years the EU has grown from 10 to 25 Member States. In that time the study visits programme has grown to accommodate 31 countries and by bringing people together (Figure 12) played, and continues to play, an important role in the integration of candidate countries on the road to accession. In 2004, over 60 study visits for more than 700 participants were arranged in more than 20 European countries.

Figure 12. **Community study visits programme participants**



6. Library and documentation service



Cedefop's Library and documentation service collects and disseminates information about vocational education and training in the EU. Various methods and tools are used, including bibliographical databases, databases of institutions, documentary dossiers, selected dissemination of information and online information retrieval. Most of the library's information services are available electronically.

The library's main source of information is the VET-Bib database. Updated daily it contains more than 45 000 references to published and electronic material (monographs, reports, legislation, journal articles, websites, databases, etc.).

One of the library's most popular services is the monthly Eurodoc Newsletter. It contains a selection of documents on vocational education and training, extracted from the Official journal of the European Communities, COM documents, Economic and Social Committee opinions, European Parliament reports, European websites and other EU sources. The library's New acquisitions list, is also published monthly to announcing the publications and documents added to the library collection.

In response to expert needs, the Library and documentation service developed 'Profiles'. These are online bibliographies on key issues drawn from the annual Cedefop work programme. Profiles currently exist on lifelong learning, quality in vocational education and training, early identification of skill needs, e-learning, vocational education and training and enlargement, and sectoral qualifications.

Cedefop's library accepts queries by e-mail through its reference service. Although more and more information has been made readily available online over the last three years, use of this service has remained consistent at around 2 000 queries per year.

The ReferNet network is managed by the Library and documentation service. ReferNet comprises national consortia and collects and updates online databases and information services, provides overviews of vocational education and training systems and policy developments, and contributes towards the development of a concerted approach to research in this field. Since 2004 the Library and documentation service has ISO 9001 certification.

Cedefop (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)

Cedefop's products and services: report 2005

Cedefop

Luxembourg:
Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2005 – VI, 12 pp. – 17 x 24 cm

ISBN 92-896-0404-2

Cat. No: TI-67-05-646-EN-C

Free of charge – 4044 EN –

Cedefop's products and services: report 2005

04
05
16
11-67-05-646-EN-C

EN



European Centre for the
Development of Vocational Training

Europe 123, GR-570 01 Thessaloniki (Pylea)
Postal address: PO Box 22427, GR-551 02 Thessaloniki
Tel. (30) 23 10 49 01 11, Fax (30) 23 10 49 00 20
E-mail: info@cedefop.eu.int
Homepage: www.cedefop.eu.int
Interactive website: www.trainingvillage.gr

Free of charge – On request from Cedefop

4044 EN



Publications Office

Publications.eu.int

ISBN 92-896-0404-2



9 789289 604048 >