

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
4 NOVEMBER 2009

New approaches to learning lead to fresh challenges in curriculum development

New ideas on teaching and learning, as well as recent European policy developments on qualifications are affecting the way in which curricula are drawn. At the same time, changes in curriculum organisation are affecting teaching and learning patterns at all educational levels. This dynamic is to be the main topic of discussion at the **Cedefop workshop on Curriculum innovation and reform: policies and practices**, to be held in Thessaloniki on 9-10 November.

Learning is no longer being judged only by inputs – venue, duration etc. – but also by outcomes: what the learner knows and is able to do. But this seemingly simple conceptual change is difficult to implement. As the workshop will show, a new way of evaluating knowledge, skills and competence affects everything from assessment methods to teacher training to educational content.

The workshop will open with a presentation and discussion of Cedefop's upcoming study, *Exploring the relationship between learning outcomes and VET curricula*. This will be followed by an in-depth examination of four related topics:

- How do countries understand the learning outcomes approach and what is the role of such approaches in reforming curricula?
- How are curricula developed and what role do stakeholders play? Has the outcomes approach affected curriculum development, and how?
- What institutional changes are needed to support curriculum change (including teacher training)?
- What are the implications for teaching methods and learners' assessment procedures?

In this workshop, experts from Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain and USA as well as from the European Commission, the World Bank, the OECD-CERI, and UNESCO-IBE will discuss the interaction between curricular reform and outcomes-oriented approaches, highlight innovative examples of this interaction, and identify new lines for research.

The outcomes of this workshop will support the work of the Member States to implement the European Qualifications Framework and other initiatives based on learning outcomes.

More information:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=4846>

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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