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## Study Visits Programme launches 2011 call for applications

**Would you like to explore education and training issues with your peers in other European countries? Are you interested in expanding your professional network? Do you wish to learn more about education and training policy and practice across Europe? Then perhaps it's time to participate in the EU's Study Visits Programme.**

The study visits, coordinated by Cedefop on behalf of the European Commission, are addressed to those **who are responsible for the development of education and vocational training policies at local, regional or national levels**. They welcome, among others, directors of education and vocational training establishments, guidance centres and validation and accreditation centres; teacher trainers; education and training inspectors; and representatives of employers associations and trade unions. 97 % of participants are very satisfied with their experience in the programme.

**The next application round, to run between 8 February and 31 March 2011 concerns study visits scheduled between September 2011 and February 2012. 140 visits hosted by 27 countries will take place during this period.**

The programme is open to nationals and residents of any of the 27 EU Member States, as well as the EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland<sup>1</sup>) and candidate countries (Turkey and Croatia).

All relevant information, including application forms and the catalogue detailing the study visits, is available at: <http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu>.

Candidates are selected by the **National Agencies** (listed in the website) responsible for managing the programme in participating countries. **Successful participants will receive a grant** from the Lifelong learning programme to contribute to travel and subsistence expenses.

The themes of the study visits mirror the priorities of European and national education and training policy:

1. to encourage cooperation between the worlds of education, training and work;
2. to support initial and continuous training of teachers, trainers and education and training institutions' managers;
3. to promote the acquisition of key competences throughout the education and training system;
4. to promote social inclusion and gender equality in education and training, including the integration of migrants;
5. to develop strategies for lifelong learning and mobility.

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<sup>1</sup> For Switzerland, for the academic year 2011-2012 in terms of participating in study visits and provided that the formal steps for participation are completed in due time.

## Background information

In 2006, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision 1720/2006/EC, establishing the Lifelong Learning Programme. **Study visits for education and vocational training specialists** are one of the key actions of this programme, aiming to foster European policy development, cooperation and exchange.

The programme provides a forum for discussion, exchange and mutual learning on themes of common interest at EU level in order to:

- enable those exercising important responsibilities at local, regional, sectoral or national levels **to better understand specific aspects** of education and vocational training policies, and explore themes of common interest in other countries;
- further the **exchange of advice, ideas and information** between all those participating in the programme, both visitors and hosts;
- enrich the **flow of information** between participating countries and at European level, including the policy-making level.

According to a survey of 2008/09 participants, 94 % reported that they learned more about education and training systems in other European countries and 91 % learned about examples of good practice on the themes of professional interest; 30 % already developed and submitted a cooperation project proposal.

## More information

1. **Study visits catalogue 2011/12**  
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/17622.aspx>
2. **Study visits application page**  
<http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?cid=2&artid=7194&scid=74&artlang=EN>

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## About Cedefop

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