



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE



20.03.2009

Cedefop's Policy Report (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)

The latest of Cedefop's biennial reports on policy developments in vocational education and training, **Continuity, Consolidation and Change: towards a European era of vocational education and training**, examines progress achieved and challenges that have still to be met across Europe (Copenhagen process of co-operation in vocational education and training).

The report is the object of a conference of the same title held at Cedefop on 16-17 March, in the presence of Commissioner Ján Figel'.

As the report details, the success of the open method of co-ordination means that national priorities are aligning with European ones. Closer co-operation has led to a greater focus on the quality of vocational education and training (VET), more adequate governance, and a quicker implementation of common European tools (such as the European Qualifications Framework - EQF)(see *MEUSAC'S fourth sectoral committee update for more information about the EQF*) - that will make mobility easier for citizens. Reforms of education and training systems are increasingly based on learning outcomes rather than teaching inputs. But managing the present economic turbulence will also require Europe to focus more on how VET can help to recover and to build the skills base needed in the future.

Towards the end of the report, one will find statistics about VET in Malta comparable to the other EU countries.



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One can access the full report by clicking [here...](#)



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European strategy and co-operation in Education and Training

The Lisbon Strategy, the EU's programme focusing on growth and jobs, underlines that knowledge and the innovation it sparks, are the EU's most valuable assets, particularly as global competition becomes more intense in all sectors.

Politicians at European level have recognised that education and training are essential to the development and success of today's knowledge society and economy. The EU's strategy emphasises that countries need to work together and learn from each other.

High quality pre-primary, primary, secondary, higher and vocational education and training remain as important as ever. But initial learning is not enough. People's skills must be constantly renewed to enable them to meet the challenges of ever-evolving technologies, increasing internationalisation and demographic changes.

Nowadays, it is a European-wide belief that life-long learning is key to jobs and growth, as well as to allow everyone the chance to participate fully in society.

EU member states and the European Commission have in recent years strengthened their political co-operation through the Education and Training 2010 work programme (*See COM (2008) 865 found in MEUSAC's Sectoral Committee updates – Update 1 – 27.02.2009*). The programme integrates previous actions in the fields of education and training at the European level, including vocational education and training under the Copenhagen Process, and links up to the Bologna Process, which is crucial in the development of the European Higher Education Area.

Objectives and targets

There are **three overall objectives**:

- improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems;
- facilitating access to education and training systems; and
- opening up of EU education and training systems to the wider world.

Five EU-level benchmarks for 2010:

- the average rate of early school leavers should be no more than 10%;



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- the total number of graduates in maths, science and technology should increase by at least 15%, while the gender imbalance in these subjects should be reduced;
- 85% of 22 year olds should complete upper secondary education;
- the number of low-achieving 15 year olds in reading, mathematical and science should half; and
- the average participation of working adults population in lifelong learning should rise by at least 12.5%.



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EU SPRING SUMMIT

**The economic and financial situation, energy and climate change and the Eastern Partnership are the main topics on the agenda of the
the
Spring European Council in Brussels on 19 and 20 March.**

Apart from the stability of financial markets, the heads of state and government of the 27 EU countries will discuss the EU's strategy for jobs and growth - a traditional subject of any spring summit but of particular importance in the present situation. They will also prepare the EU's stance for the G20 summit to be held in London at the beginning of April.

INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION 22 – 23rd MARCH 2009

This informal meeting will provide an opportunity for the exchange of views and experiences in respect to the current economic crisis and possible response from the field of education and training. The aim of this meeting should be to find concrete measures that reflect current requirements imposed on education systems and that can truly aid a return to economic prosperity and competitiveness on a global scale and to support employability and social cohesion.

At their informal meeting, the education ministers will have the Conclusions of the Spring European Council at their disposal, so they will have an opportunity to respond to them and seek specific measures to meet the set goals.

Within its priorities, the Czech Presidency has focused on the issue of education and training institutions' openness to the needs of employers and



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European Development Youth Prize 2008/2009

The Development Youth Prize competition for schools is organised by European Schoolnet and supported by the European Commission's DG Development.

The 2008 edition of the Prize focuses on human development. Young people from 16 to 18 years old, from all 27 EU member states, can submit posters or multimedia presentations on three themes: 'gender equality', 'children' and 'youth and cultural diversity'. All contributions must include two parts: a short message and artwork in the form of a photo, a poster or a video. All entries must be associated with a school.

The deadline for sending contributions is 31 May 2009.

Detailed information regarding the Development Youth Prize 2008/2009 (themes, rules, entries gallery, prizes) can be found on:

<http://www.dyp2008.org/ww/en/pub/dyp2008/index.htm>



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National Youth Day 2009

21st March

To celebrate the National Youth Day, Sedqa has teamed up with the Institute of Tourism Studies and Bay Street Complex. This event will have something for everyone, from beach games and a beach party at St. George's Bay, starting at 12.15pm, to a fashion show, hip hop shows, break dance competition and bands at Bay Street Complex from 3.30pm till 10.00pm. The highlight of this event will be a human chain in the sea, which will take place between 2.00pm and 2.30pm. Other activities will include a mocktail (non-alcoholic cocktail) bar, where members of the public will have the opportunity to create their own mocktail, martial arts demonstrations, a climbing wall and the Music Hit Song participants performing their songs. Attendance and participation in these events is free of charge. Everyone is