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For immediate release

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Study Visits Programme launches second round of 2011-12 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 and cooperating with other education and training institutions in Europe? Do you wish to learn more about education and training policy and practice across Europe? You can do all this if you apply by 14 October for an EU grant to participate in study visits.

The study visits, coordinated by Cedefop on behalf and in cooperation with 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. A [survey](#) of 2008/09 study visits shows that 96 % of participants are very satisfied with their experience in the programme.

The next application round, to run until 12:00 noon Central European Time on 14 October 2011 concerns study visits scheduled between March and June 2012. A total of 106 visits hosted by 26 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) 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](#) 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.

Three study visits (Groups 159, 162, 183) specifically address high level decision-makers who are responsible for education and training policies at national, regional and local level. The visits examine such topics as the development of entrepreneurial culture through university-enterprise cooperation, and good practice in leadership and management of vocational education and training.

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;
- encourage 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, 93 % 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; 52 % found solutions to the problems they had been working on and 30 % already developed and submitted a cooperation project proposal.

More information

1. [Study visits catalogue 2011/12](#)
2. [Study visits application page](#)

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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. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>