



Thessaloniki 15 February 2012
For immediate release

How learning professionals benefit from study visits – and why you should apply

After participating in a study visit, education and vocational training professionals come back to work with new ideas and new connections.

Your chance to take part in the [130 study visits](#) scheduled for the next round (September 2012-February 2013) is coming up on 30 March.



*'Schools in enterprises, enterprises in schools: how to bring them closer'.
A study visit held in Zlin, Czech Republic, in 2011.*

'[The study visit] has been an unforgettable experience that offers incentives at different levels: professional development, understanding the European educational reality, learning languages. It gives a new meaning to the knowledge we have about our own educational system and helps to predict educational trends in the coming years' (Director of a public school from Spain).

Almost 60 % of participants in the Study visits programme for education and vocational training professionals 'find solutions to work problems during the visit', according to the programme's impact assessment ⁽¹⁾. They also come back to work with new ideas: 55 % percent suggested changes to the work of their institution, and 34 % suggested policy changes.

⁽¹⁾ Conducted for the study visits that took place in 2008-9.

'What was valuable to me was not only to learn the host country's strategy but to see it in action. To meet "soldiers" not "generals".' (Representative of national authority from the Czech Republic).

Most of the changes they suggested involved new ways of managing their work or a wider philosophy of management; new ways of working within their teams, partnerships with business; and new teaching methods and learner-centred classrooms. In policy, they suggested improvements to, among other issues, investing in ICT and manager training. About a third of participants developed and submitted cooperation projects after finding partners as a result of the visit.

'Of greatest value was the opportunity to identify contacts in the host country who became partners in transnational EU funded projects after the study visit'. (Programme and training director from Romania).

A study visit is a short stay of three to five days in a host country for a group of 10 to 15 European education and vocational training specialists and decision-makers. It includes presentations and on-site visits to ministries, educational and training institutions, training sites, etc.

All education and vocational training specialists and decision-makers can apply for a European [study visit grant](#).

The visits provide a forum for discussion, exchange and learning on [themes](#) of common interest and on European and national priorities.

The Study visits programme, which is coordinated for the European Commission by Cedefop, is part of the EU's [Lifelong Learning Programme](#) 2007-2013.

The deadline for applying for the next round is 30 March 2012.

Browse upcoming study visits:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/19373.aspx>

Find out how to apply and how to contact your national agency:

<http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?cid=2&artid=7194&scid=74&lang=EN>

###

Contact

Press Officer

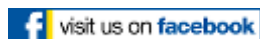
Ioánná Nezi, tel. +30 2310 490186, E-Mail: ioanna.nezi@cedefop.europa.eu

Head of Communication, Information and Dissemination

Gerd Oskar Bausewein, tel. +30 2310 490288, E-Mail: gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu

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



Stay connected to Cedefop via social media