

European Challenges in Vocational Education and Training Opening Speech

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Member States are in charge of their education and training systems...

How does the EU get involved?

Education and Training 2020 work programme

Synergies between the different education and training sectors

Effective use of open method of coordination (OMC)

- **four strategic objectives**
- **common reference tools and approaches**
- **peer learning, exchange of good practice, dissemination of results**
- **monitoring and reporting**
- **evidence and data**
- **full use of the Community programmes (LLP)**



Education & Training 2020

Strategic objectives:

- 1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality**
- 2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training**
- 3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship**
- 4. Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.**



European benchmarks



Benchmark	2020 Target
Participation in early childhood education	95%
Low-achievers in reading, math, science	<15%
Early leavers from E&T	<10%
Tertiary educational attainment (30-34 year olds)	40%
Participation of adults in LLL	15%



Copenhagen process on enhanced cooperation in VET

- **Strengthen the European dimension**
- **Improve transparency, information and guidance systems**
- **Recognise competences and qualifications**
- **Promote quality assurance**
- **Process based on agreed European and national priorities and developing common tools**
- **Reviewed every two years (Communiqués)**



Bordeaux Communiqué (Nov 2008)

4 priority areas:

- 1) Implementing the tools and schemes for promoting cooperation in the field of VET**
- 2) Heightening the quality and attractiveness of VET systems**
- 3) Improving the links between VET and the labour market**
- 4) Strengthening European cooperation arrangements**



Conclusions of the study „Investing in and financing VET in an efficient and sustainable way” (May 2008)

- **Need for better data and analysis for VET (according to the type of education; IVET, CVET, public, private, etc)**
- **Need for a common measurement framework applied to divergent national VET systems**
- **Need to increase private investment (through various measures, such as tax exemption)**
- **Need to increase individual incentives to train (e.g. vouchers, learning accounts)**



Conclusions of the study „Investing in and financing VET in an efficient and sustainable way” (cont.)

- **Connections between training and work (e.g. alternance)**
- **Flexible learning (eg. recognition of non-formal and informal learning)**
- **Closer links between general education and VET**
- **Investment in tertiary VET in EU lags behind that of the USA and Asia**
- **Deeper insight into organisational and institutional processes of change is needed**



Leonardo da Vinci Programme

Community action programme to promote cooperation in vocational education and training.

Focuses in two main priorities:

- **Development of a well-functioning European labour market (Copenhagen process);**
- **Modernisation of the European Education and Training systems (Lisbon Agenda).**



Leonardo da Vinci Programme

- **Promotes mobility and innovation**
- **Traditionally strongest link to work and enterprises**
- **Pilot projects deliver innovative solutions for learning in companies, based on needs analysis**
- **Roughly 300 innovation projects annually all through Europe, all sectors**



Leonardo da Vinci Programme

LdV II (2000-2006)

350.000 mobile persons (EUR-12: 78.000)

2.000 multilateral projects (EUR-12: 400)

LLP – LdV (2007-2008)

150.000 mobile persons (EUR-12: 40.000)

650 Transfer of Innovation projects (EUR-12: 140)

800 funded partnerships (EUR-12: 180)



The way forward: Future challenges in LLL

- **Economic crisis**
- **Globalisation**
- **80 million Europeans formally low skilled**
- **Demographic change**
- **Maintaining human capital**
- **Increase participation in LLL**
- **Increase attractiveness of VET**



Thank you!

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/education>

