

CONFERENCE INVITATION

Moving onwards

- developing transnational mobility in initial vocational education and training in Europe

In the 2005 and 2006 budgets, the European Parliament entered a new budget line to explore the possibilities of a mobility action specifically targeted at apprentices in initial vocational education and training. Part of these funds were used by the European Commission to launch a Call for Proposals for 12 pilot projects to develop and test innovative practices and tools to support these activities. The 12 projects are now close to completion and ready to present outcomes and results.

The conference will take place on Tuesday September 30, 2008 from 9.00 -17.30 at Le Chatelain All Suite Hotel, Rue du Chatelain 17, Brussels. Metro: Pl. Louise/ Louiza Pl.

Participation is free of charge but the number of participants is limited to 200. Therefore, please register as soon as possible but no later than August 20, 2008 by sending an e-mail to gitte.belbin@delud.dk.

Background info

Since 1992, the European Commission has grant-aided transnational mobility for young people in initial vocational education and training (IVET) - first through the Petra programme and later with the Leonardo da Vinci and the LifeLong Learning programme. Despite these persistent efforts, however, the overall percentage of this target group which actually engages in transnational mobility activities remains low: less than one percent cross borders in the course of their vocational training programme in order to benefit from learning opportunities abroad. Moreover, most of these stays are group stays of a limited duration (2-4 weeks), and hence also of a limited impact. This compares unfavourably with higher education, where a substantially larger share ventures abroad during their studies, and where this happens in the form of individual mobility and for longer periods. The Commission's Erasmus programme has been a major driver for mobility in higher education in Europe, and overall budgets for mobility are significantly larger than for the mobility programmes targeting IVET. It was in order to rectify this situation that the European Parliament in 2005, 2006 and again in 2008 voted a specific budget line to improve mobility in IVET in Europe. These funds were placed at the disposal of the European Commission, which in turn launched a 3-stage initiative:

Firstly, it commissioned three studies on mobility for apprentices and other young people in IVET: ECVET Reflector and Connexion, which focused on the development of a common European credit transfer scheme in IVET; and Move-It, which identified barriers to the quantitative and qualitative expansion of mobility for the target group.

Secondly, the outcomes of these studies formed the background for a Call for Proposals for 12 transnational pilot projects, which were to develop innovative tools and practices in particular to facilitate long-term individual mobility in IVET. The 12 projects are accompanied and supported by a group of experts, headed by the Danish Institute for the Educational Training of Vocational teachers (DEL).

Thirdly, an individual mobility action in IVET is currently on the drawing board, and a test phase will be launched in the autumn 2008 by the European Commission.

The future Leonardo da Vinci Programme will be adapted and developed on the basis of the knowledge obtained from the three studies, the experiences from the 12 pilot projects and the test phase. The 12 pilot projects started their activities in late 2006/ early 2007, and are now in the process of winding down their activities and fine-tuning the deliverables so that they can be fed into the individual mobility action. At this conference, the 12 projects will present their outcomes and launch discussions on some important features of individual mobility in IVET: recognition, support structures and tools, the role of enterprises (in particular SMEs), and quality assurance. The conference will gather up to 200 actors and stakeholders from all over Europe, and represents a possibility to learn about and discuss this important new development in mobility in what is still an early stage.

FINAL CONFERENCE "SUPPORT FOR MOBILITY"

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Focus: individual mobility

9.00 Coffee and registration

I. Introduction

9.15 Welcome by the Commission: the "Guy-Quint-budget line", fostering the individual mobility for apprentices

9.35 The setting: the 12 projects and their contribution to the quantitative and qualitative development of mobility in IVET in Europe (the consortium)

II. Results of the Projects by topics

10.00 Recognition: short intro (consortium) and input from CraftNet and LeoPlus

10.50 Coffee break

11.10 Role of enterprises: short intro (consortium). Brief introductions and panel debate by SME2, EULA, Mobility EU, EU-Mate. Panel guest: Mr. Thomas Meyer, Hencke und Meyer.

12.20 Lunch

13.50 Quality in mobility: short intro (consortium) and input from ProMobility and MobiReg

14.35 Support structures for individual mobility: short intro (consortium). Brief introductions and panel debate by MoNa, CEIMA, TransNet and KOREP. Panel guest: Mr. Svend Rechnagel, The Danish PIU programme/Cirius

III Conclusions

15.45 Summing up of the day (Commission)

16.00 A glass of wine and opening of Project Fair

17.30 End of conference

Interpretation will be provided from/to English, German and French.

The 12 projects

KOREP - Set up a contact office for apprentices and young people in IVT. Encourage SMEs to support mobility. Test feasibility of individual mobility.

Transnational Network - Develop and test transnational modules with certification, targeted at apprentices in SMEs and marketed at full cost towards sending companies. Set up transnational network of stakeholders and database for SMEs, sectors, apprentices and intermediary bodies. Facilitate individual mobility projects through pool projects. www.mobilityineurope.eu

EU MATE - Engage stakeholders, raise awareness, establish applicability of mobility at local levels, define patterns and process to develop tools to support implementation of mobility. Facilitate application of mobility and develop guidelines.

MobiReg - Strengthen regional policy to support bilateral mobility. Test and strengthen inter-regional and inter-institution cooperation to support the quality and quantity of mobility (covering administration, organisation, financial support and pedagogy). Pilot the use of the European Social Fund to finance mobility activities. Encourage stable partnerships between social partners and SMEs

EULA - Develop regional, national, European networks of companies, associations, societies and institutions to enhance the mobility, raise awareness, promote use of tools to facilitate mobility (ECVET), provide administrative and organizational support, promote advantages of mobility.

CEIMA - Set up and run an interregional unit to promote mobility among individual apprentices. Raise awareness and encourage and facilitate take-up among apprentices and businesses.

SME2 - Promote the transfer of proven methodologies for SME support from the research & technology field to the VET field in order to enable SMEs to participate in mobility activities. Develop, implement and validate support mechanism to support SMEs.

LEOplus - Engage strategic and operational stakeholders in mobility activities. Promote mobility, ensure logistics are user-friendly and integrate mobility with qualification frameworks. Encourage SME participation and support participants transnational mobility (logistics, assessment and certification). The website of the project: <http://www.sfeu.ac.uk/leoplus>

MoNa - Establish and test training pathways for apprentices and companies in the skilled craft sector. Equip a network to develop, facilitate and enhance quality in transnational mobility. Extension of existing REIM network, an internet-based platform. Develop a mobility assistance system and database of practical tools. <http://www.euronaver.net/>

CRAFT NET - Focusing on craft and design companies, encourage learners and companies to participate in mobility. Create a preparation module and develop material and guidance methods for host companies. Conduct skills demonstration tests in the host companies.

Pro Mobility - Facilitate and enhance qualifying mobility integrated in IVT focusing on longer duration, recognition issues and internationalisation strategies. Develop infrastructure for stronger commitment and platforms to support mobility measures and organise three experimental exchanges to test and improve the developed mobility guidelines and toolkit. <http://www.pro-mobility.net/de/index.php>

MOBILITY-EU - Develop mobility agreements for young people in IVT and implement a platform dedicated to the promotion and availability of tools for all stakeholders and learners participating in IVT in order to “customize” mobility agreements between participating countries. Website: www.european-mobility.eu.

More information on the 12 projects and the process is available on www.mobilityportal.eu.