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of Education
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EUROPEAN UNION

Program for the European Conference “Regional Partnerships for Lifelong Learning – Structural Innovations in Education and Training”

Berliner Congress Center, 08th/09th November, 2004



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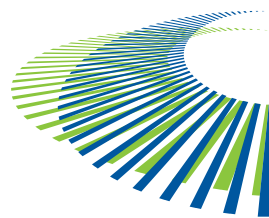
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EUROPEAN UNION



Regional Partnerships
for Lifelong Learning
Berlin, 08. / 09.11.2004

Structural Innovations
in Education and Training

Monday, 08th November, 2004

10.00 – 11.00 Welcome Addresses

- Wolf-Michael Catenhusen, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Nikolaus van der Pas, General Director, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission
- Hartmut Krebs, State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Research, Northrhine Westfalia, representing the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Mark Rutte, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

11.00 – 12.30 Round Table

“How to achieve the Lisbon goals”

12.30 – 13.00 Press Conference

12.30 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 5.30 Panels 1-6

1. Implementation of lifelong guidance
2. How best to ensure interlocking and permeability of educational and training domains
3. Quality assurance: a central issue
4. How to develop new learning worlds and learning places
5. How to ensure SME’s commitment within regional partnerships
6. The central role of Monitoring for implementing Lifelong Learning

7.00 Dinner

Tuesday, 09th November, 2004

9.00 – 10.00 Plenary Session

Report from previous day's panels

10.00 – 11.30 Round Table

“The Future of Lifelong Learning in Europe: Areas of actions, strategies and innovations”

12.00 – 1.00 Panels 7-9

7. Developing partnerships
8. Financing Lifelong Learning
9. Internationalisation of Lifelong Learning

1.00 – 2.30 Lunch

2.30 – 3.45 Panels 7-9

(continued)

3.45 – 5.00 Plenary Session

- Report from Panels 7-9
- Final statements: Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, and European Commission



9.00 – 10.00 Registration**10.00 – 11.00 Welcome addresses**

- Wolf-Michael Catenhusen, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Nikolaus van der Pas, General Director, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission
- Hartmut Krebs, State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Research, Northrhine Westfalia, representing the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Mark Rutte, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

11.00 – 12.30 Round Table

Issue: “How to achieve the Lisbon goals for the Union in order to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion as a part of knowledge-based economy”

Participants:

- Wolf-Michael Catenhusen, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Nikolaus van der Pas, General Director, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission
- Hartmut Krebs, State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Research, Northrhine Westfalia, representing the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Mark Rutte, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Jacek Murawski, Director, Public Funding and Networking Academy Program, Cisco Systems EMEA
- Representative of the German Trade Union Umbrella Organisation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, (DGB)), Germany, N.N.

12.30 – 2.00 Lunch**2.00 – 5.30 Panels 1-6**

- 2.00 – 3.30 Bloc I
- 3.30 – 4.15 Coffee break
- 4.15 – 5.30 Bloc II

Panel No. 1: Implementation of lifelong guidance

Chair: John McCarthy, European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), Thessaloniki, Greece

Speaker: Gareth Dent, Learndirect, Sheffield, United Kingdom • Millar MacDonald, Department for Education and Skills, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Learning Region: Reiner Aster, Lernnetz Berlin Brandenburg, Germany • Thomas Peter, Lernende Region Bodensee, Germany

R3L: Paul White, Bathmind: Lifelong Learning Personal Development Planning, Bath, United Kingdom

Education and training guidance is a linchpin for implementing Lifelong Learning: it offers individual support in getting access to education and training on the basis of recording individual competences. It also offers guidance in a very heterogenous further education landscape. In particular, guidance offers interlocking possibilities for hard to reach target groups. In this respect, the role of regional partnerships' cooperation is essential in two points: it offers independent and comprehensive education guidance in a first step and may lead to more specific and coordinated counselling/guidance in a second step.

Making education and training offer more transparent, presenting various ways of learning and being educated as well as customized guidance, considering individual circumstances, are some of the most important challenges for future education and training guidance.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Role of regional partnerships providing various access to relevant players and consumers in the field of LLL
- Recording and certifying informal competences and learning experiences
- Guidance and counselling instruments (e.g. Internet-based media - "blended counselling")
- Counselling methods (e.g. coaching)
- Train the Trainer: Qualification/competence profiles for further education consultants: advancing from counselling to coaching
- Conduct and support lifelong learning processes/educational biographies
- Career counselling
- Interface management with other educational domains, the business community and civil life
- Quality assurance in education guidance
- Documentation/recording of counselling results



Panel No. 2: How best to ensure interlocking and permeability of educational and training domains

Chair: Lynne Chisholm, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

Speaker: Peter Härtel, Styrian Economic Society, Graz, Austria • Wolfgang Jütte, University of Donau-Krems, Krems, Austria

Learning Region: Bertram Lohmüller, Lernende Region Zollernalb, Germany • Reinhard Kastl, Lernende Region Mittleres Mecklenburg-Küste, Germany

R3L: Erik Wallin, CoLabs.eu: European Network of eLearning, Lund, Sweden

Promoting the interlocking and permeability of educational and training domains is another central target in order to make Lifelong Learning a reality. This requires structural and institutional re-orientation in education and strong inter-ministerial coordination. Building regional partnerships between private educational providers, schools, universities, (and other educational institutions) and companies, etc., could also serve as an innovative motor.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Role of regional partnerships with regard to promotion of permeability
- Transition from school to working life/school to higher education
- Certification of informal and non-formal learning
- Modularization of learning contents

Panel No. 3: Quality assurance: a central issue

Chair: Werner P. Herrmann, European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), Thessaloniki, Greece

Speaker: Peter Wilson, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), Leicester, United Kingdom • Rainer Zech, ArtSet, Hannover, Germany

Learning Region: Bettina Kaßbaum, Lernende Metropolregion Hamburg, Germany • Alois Becker, Lernende EURegio, Niederrhein, Germany

R3L: Walter Kugemann, ReLL – Regional Network to Develop Lifelong Learning Strategies, Erlangen, Germany

Quality assurance in education and training represents a central instrument to implement Lifelong Learning. Assuring the quality of educational and training services and responsible bodies is a precondition for autonomous and individually controlled learning processes. Regional partnership builds a sound basis for cooperation in this respect. In order to increase transparency of educational and training offers and to strengthen the role of the demand side, it is important to dispose of reliable information on the offers. Thus, quality proofs are becoming common, even in education. Quality management often involves large organisational changes. In particular the smaller responsible bodies often find it difficult to cope with these challenges. This is where networks could offer support - either by learning from one another, by counselling or by a seal of approval, etc.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Quality assurance and networks: Requirements, areas of potential, Sequences
- Definitions of quality: Reference levels, stakeholders
- Quality development as strategic management: support structures in the network
- Regional quality circles and quality seals: Effects for parties making demands, suppliers and regions
- Quality of the network processes: Certification of networks?
- Significance of European activities for regional partnerships

Panel No. 4: How to develop new learning worlds and learning places

Chair: Rudolf Tippelt, University of Munich, Munich, Germany

Speaker: Claudio Dondi, SCIENTER, Bologna, Italy • Jan H. G. Klabbers, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Learning Region: Thomas Schmidt, Lernende Region Appoloniuss Berlin, Germany • Doris Lenz, Lernende Region Offenbach, Germany

R3L: Giancarlo Sintoni, ENLACE – European Network for Local Activation of Cultural Excellence, Genova, Italy

Within the scope of the “Learning Regions”, new forms of cooperation offer possibilities to develop and test new ways of learning. These so-called “new learning worlds” have become a central issue for the development of a modern learning culture. It is a matter of innovations that support Lifelong Learning within the scope of teaching and learning arrangements. Therefore organisational, economical, technical, textual, and pedagogical-didactical questions have to be solved. Answers should lead in the direction to a self-directed, customized, modularized learning at different places. The developments in the area of new learning worlds are not restricted to the IT and e-learning domain. The opportunities offered by new technologies are a central key for innovative learning arrangements, for exploring new learning places and for the individualisation of a learning society in which everyone has the chance to benefit from lifelong further education. By making use of different competences and resources of regional partnerships the development of ambitious innovations should be supported.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- How do partnerships contribute to the creation of new learning worlds?
- E-learning as a key for innovative learning arrangements?
- New learning worlds generated by regional partnerships: case study in self-study centres
- Educational coaching at new learning places
- Train the trainer: New roles of teachers and trainers in specific new learning places

Panel No. 5: How to ensure SME´s commitment within regional partnerships

Chair: Magda Trantallidi, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Athens, Greece

Speaker: Josef Scheff, University of Graz, Graz, Austria • Paula Kyrö, University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland

Learning Region: Andreas Feller, Lernende Region Emmendingen, Germany • Dieter Neubauer, Lernlandschaft Wartburgregion, Germany

R3L: Rosella Brindani, Educ.A.Network (Sharing life long learning experiences), Reggio Emilia, Italy

Due to structural problems, SMEs often find it difficult to react to new market requirements affording permanent human resources development measures. Their resources are widely absorbed by their everyday business, human resources development frequently is not an integral task in their corporate structure. Contacts to further education providers are lacking - regional partnerships provide a necessary tool in order to achieve more coherent approaches.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Counselling services for SMEs
- Inquiry of educational demands in SMEs
- Attuning the qualification requirements to the strategy and the structure of SMEs
- Developing and placing customized offers
- Strategies to intensify integration of SMEs into regional educational networks

Panel No. 6: The central role of Monitoring for implementing Lifelong Learning

Chair: Thomas Stahl, Institut für sozialwissenschaftliche Beratung, Regensburg, Germany

Speaker: Jean Gordon, European Institute of Education and Social Policy, Paris, France • Michael Osborne, University of Stirling, Stirling, United Kingdom

Learning Region: Gudrun Stahn, SaarLernNetz, Germany • Cornelia Damrath, StepOn! Mainz-Bingen, Germany

R3L: Kate Sankey, INDICATORS – developing and testing indicators for monitoring and measuring stakeholder organisations in Learning Cities and Regions, Stirling, United Kingdom

Monitoring of regional partnerships in educational and training domains means assessing supportive and critical factors for success. It provides a tool of reviewing, reflecting and assessing working procedures and development aiming for specific regionally based benchmarking systems. Monitoring is both an instrument to develop and increase quality in the system as a whole. This requires the standardisation of evaluation key data in order to make the process transparent and legible for all parties involved and to come to comparable quality features for the efficiency of networks.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Goals of regional partnership monitoring: What should be assessed? (Objects of investigation: e.g. reach of target groups, success of new learning concepts, rate of integration of SME)
- Methods of monitoring (e.g. interregional benchmarking)
- Monitoring as a motor for self-reflexion processes, a tool for network development and a dynamic quality development
- Design of standards for monitoring networks
- Standards for input, process and output
- Certification of networks. Which organisational changes are necessary for the involved parties?

7.00

Dinner



9.00 – 10.00 Plenary Session

Report from previous day's panels

10.00 – 11.30 Round Table

“The Future of Lifelong Learning in Europe: Areas of actions, strategies and innovations”

Participants:

- Ulrike Flach, MP, Chair of the Committee on Education, Research and Technology-Assessment of the German Bundestag, Germany
- Rainer Wend, MP, Chair of the Committee on Economics and Labour of the German Bundestag, Germany
- Christiane Tallberg, Rapporteur for Lifelong Learning of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, (CoR), European Union
- Nikolaos Sifunakis, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Education and Culture of the European Parliament, European Union
- Christoforos Koryfidis, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Union
- Ulrich Aengenvoort, German Adult Education Association (Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband (DVV)), Bonn, Germany
- Christiane Schiersmann, German Joint Initiative for Further Education (Konzertierte Aktion Weiterbildung (KAW)), Bonn, Germany
- Volker Hasewinkel, Telekom Training Center, Bonn, Germany
- Ingrid Sehrbrock, Federal Executive of the German Trade Union Umbrella Organisation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB)), Germany

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break**12.00 – 1.00 Panels 7-9**

12.00 – 1.00 Bloc I

2.30 – 3.45 Bloc II

Panel No. 7: Developing partnerships

Chair: Paolo Federighi, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Speaker: Barry Nyhan, European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), Thessaloniki, Greece • Peter Heydebreck, University of Lindköping, Lindköping, Sweden

Learning Region: Elke Hohmann, Lernende Region Main-Kinzig + Spessart, Germany • Dieter Wuttig, Fluxus Hannover, Germany

R3L: José María Espinós Rodrigo, Regionet-Integra, Quart de Poblet, Spain

Building regional partnerships is another important element in the implementation of Lifelong Learning, allowing cooperations which aimed for specific target groups and more permeability between the single pillars of the educational system. The development of regional networks can only be ensured in the long run if the partnerships will institutionalize and operate on an ongoing basis.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Organisational development
- Horizontal und vertical networking
- Coordination of offer and demand
- Regional development
- Cooperation products
- Structural changes on the further education market
- Business models for networks

Panel No. 8: Financing Lifelong Learning

Chair: Dieter Dohmen, Education and Socio-Economic Research & Consulting, Cologne, Germany

Speaker: Gerhard Bosch, German Expert Commission on Financing Lifelong Learning, Institut für Arbeit und Technik, Gelsenkirchen, Germany • Kay Cheesman, Learning and Skills Council, United Kingdom

Learning Region: Andreas Käter, Tölzer Land, Germany • Peter Pankau, Lernende Regionen Unna e.V., Germany

In view of the changes in the educational system there is an agreement in principle that the state and also the individual, the economy, the social partners and other non-governmental organisations should assume responsibility for education and learning. Financing Lifelong Learning not only comprises direct services and costs for the individual, but also includes provisions for the educational infrastructure and the social domain. Thus, it includes models for establishing and financing a network-supply structure at a local and regional level as well as the corresponding structures providing for learner counselling, supporting and mobilising. Innovative business models with a shared cost contribution of all beneficiaries of Lifelong Learning are required. Regional partnerships of private and public agents may play an important role in this context.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Sustained financing of regional networks and local educational structures
- Incentives for individuals and collective agents at the regional level to invest in Lifelong Learning
- Public Private Partnerships for Lifelong Learning
- Creating the main conditions for the development of education markets
- Developing and promoting innovative business ideas in education markets
- Transferring the conclusions of the BMBF/OECD Conference “Policies to strengthen incentives and mechanisms for co-financing lifelong-learning” to a regional level
- Marketing for Lifelong Learning at a regional level



Panel No. 9: Internationalisation of Lifelong Learning

Chair: Jan B. Oostenbrink, EUREGIO, Enschede, the Netherlands

Speaker: Johannes Georg Rosenstein, National Agency – Education for Europe at BIBB, Bonn, Germany • Haralabos Fragoulis, European Training Foundation (ETF), Torino, Italy • Søren Kristensen, Senior Expert for Educational Research, Denmark

Learning Region: Regina Gellrich, Lernende Region PONTES – Lernen in und für Europa, Ostritz, Germany • Claus Sax Hinrichs, Lernnetzwerk Schleswig/Sønderjylland, Germany

R3L: Christine Fitton, SILLNET – Strategies in Lifelong Learning Network, Edinburgh, United Kingdom • Renato Mastrosanti, ALLE – Acting Locally for Lifelong Learning, Rome, Italy

Today, future-oriented education policy can only be made having regard to the European and international developments. The exchange of information on the evolution in the European educational systems and labour markets plays an important role. It occurs with increasing frequency that regions do no longer develop along national borders, but trans-nationally. As a consequence, it is necessary to increase and support the mobility of the EU-citizens by the recognition of qualifications, more transparency of qualifications, and the promotion of transnational and Europe-wide networks, partnerships, and cooperations.

The central topics to be discussed in this workshop are the following:

- Trans-national educational cooperations
- Trans-national educational counselling
- Unitised further education
- Certification of educational measures
- Trans-national educational demand of SMEs
- Promoting mobility and exchange

1.00 – 2.30 Lunch

2.30 – 3.45 Panels 7-9

Bloc II

3.45 – 5.00 Plenary Session

- Report from Panels 7-9
- Final statements: Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, and European Commission



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