Challenges and Opportunities for VET: Where are we now and how do we respond to change?

24th Annual EfVET International Conference, Pathos 21-24 October 2015

James Calleja, Director
E-mail: Joachim.James.Calleja@cedefop.europa.eu
The starting point

Europe in the time of the crisis

- Migration flows
- Unemployment
- Global competition
- Ageing workforce

The route to lasting economic recovery and social cohesion passes through knowledge, skills and competences.

- Europe and the European countries need world class VET
- Intensified innovation and entrepreneurship needed in the coming years.
A changing landscape

- **New technologies** allow individuals to follow their own pace and organise learning according to work and family.
- **MOOCs** (massive open on-line courses) a trend full of challenges so far mainly been developed by HE institutions, to a lesser extent for vocational education and training.
- **Quality assurance and recognition.**
- Still unclear how they will fit into existing **accreditation and recognition arrangements**.
Europe 2020 – VET challenges

As rapid change threatens to outpace the skills of an ageing workforce and Europe developed towards a knowledge based society, the European Union (EU) and other European countries and the social partners have worked together to establish a policy framework for modernising education and training.
Riga conclusions - MTDs

- Promote work-based learning
- Further develop quality assurance mechanisms in VET
- Enhance access to VET and qualifications
- Further strengthen key competences
- Professional development of VET teachers, trainers and mentors
Key competences and standards

Education authorities should invest heavily in early education making sure that all young people possess key competences and the right attitude for employment at the end of the schooling period. Trends are clearly showing that, beyond compulsory schooling, sectoral standards and quality assurance govern certification, and public education may well lose its current hold on further and higher education.
The common EU tools

- **EQF**: European qualifications framework
- **QF-EHEA**: Qualifications framework for the European Higher Education Area
- **EQAVET**: European quality assurance reference framework for VET
- **ESCO**: Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area
- **ECTS**: European credit transfer and accumulation system for HE
- **Europass**: CV, Language Passport, Certificate Supplement, Diploma Supplement, Mobility
- **ECVET**: European credit system for VET
- **Validation principles**: Common European principles on validation on non-formal and informal learning
- **ESCO**: European terminology on skills, competences, occupations and qualifications
Reforming VET provision

- Getting the right people to become VET teachers
- Developing them into effective learning facilitators
- Teachers and trainers are the pillar of any VET reform
CEDEFOP 2017-2020

Vision

Strategic Goals

Multiannual Objectives

Shaping VET

Valuing VET

Informing VET
Thank you for your attention

More... http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en