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13 OCTOBER 2009

## **Cost-sharing schemes for training in the newer Member States: what works, what doesn't**

A Cedefop conference on **Sharing the costs of training in the newer EU Member States**, (Thessaloniki, 15-16 October 2009) will show that **overall investment and participation in training can both increase if there are well designed financing schemes combining public and private funds for vocational education and training (VET)**.

The conference will highlight results and recommendations of a report, **Sharing the costs of vocational education and training: An analysis of schemes in the newer EU Member States**. Participants include representatives of all 12 of the new Member States involved in the report: public authorities, social partner representatives and academics. In addition, representatives of the European Commission (Directorates-General for Education and Training and for Employment) and the European Investment Bank will speak on support for training through the European Social Fund and bank loans as an EU response to the crisis.

**The Cedefop report is the first to map and examine a wide range of cost-sharing training schemes in these countries.**

Despite the proliferation of cost-sharing schemes – especially around the time of accession to the EU - the 12 newer Member States had until now paid little attention to monitoring and evaluation.

The Cedefop report, and the discussions at the conference, are intended to provide evidence and arguments on what works and what doesn't and how the situation can be improved - both in terms of the schemes themselves and of evaluation methods.

At present, almost all cost-sharing mechanisms used in the new Member States score relatively low in equity – that is, most of them do not offer equal opportunities to all qualification levels. The report therefore recommends that more attention be paid to ensuring equal opportunity of access in order to increase efficiency.

Conference information:

<http://agora.cedefop.europa.eu/VET-financing-2009/>

Publication: *Sharing the costs of vocational education and training: An analysis of schemes in the newer EU Member States*

[http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/Information\\_resources/Bookshop/publication\\_details.asp?pub\\_id=564](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publication_details.asp?pub_id=564)

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**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](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu)