

Rede

**der Vertreterin des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung
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**anlässlich der Veranstaltung
LEONARDO DA VINCI Pilotprojekt
Embedding Standards**

**am 29. November 2006
in Berlin**

**Sperrfrist: Beginn der Rede
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!**

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen,
dear colleagues, dear LEONARDO Community,

also from me a very warm welcome to you here in the 2nd – besides Bonn – power centre of Germany from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Let me start with the good news for the LEONARDO Community. LEONARDO will be continued as a independent pillar for VET of the new program generation of EU education programs starting 2007 until 2013. This sound almost natural, but is not so, due to very different educational systems in the EU where VET in a lot of cases does not play - let me put it diplomatically – the same role a other areas of education.

With two thirds of youth in the VET System, I do not have to emphasize the importance of LEONARDO for Germany and the German Federal Government.

And, another good news, LEONARDO will have much lighter bureaucratic procedures, paperwork and financial regulations. I know, the LEONARDO community does still not really believe that but let me tell you: “wonders” happen.

As representative of the Federal Government I would like to thank you, the “convinced” Europeans to fill a program like LEONARDO with life. When abstract LEONARDO-program policy breaks down to such hands

on, applied, and “real” projects, we can see the value of these educational programs. Thanks for that.

The project we will be discussing here already was ahead of time by developing and embedding standards for the IT-sector. When talking about the Copenhagen process, bringing education program policies closer to the project level, this project already succeeded, including the for most Europeans not-easy-to-understand-EU-discussions around European Qualification Framework (EQF) and European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). While experts from ministries, educational institutions and organisations were doing a lot of desk research and discussed the feasibility of the concepts you started already with the implementation of these ideas and proved that these approaches are useful and that they could work.

Inside the EU-Programs we need more projects like this one. Only then it will be possible to establish the connection between the Copenhagen process, the European education programs and the so far a little highlighted TRANSFER of results, be it in a specific sector, be it systematic.

Certainly, not all open questions that we discussed in the consultation process of EQF or that we now will discuss within the process of the ECVET-consultation are answered and solved with one project. We need more testing, research and evaluation. But with this embedding standards-project you picked up the challenges of mobility of workforce as well as the challenge of lifelong learning and linked it with a sectoral approach for the development of professional Competence covering all levels of qualifications.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research will try to help and support the approach, to use LEONARDO increasingly as a VET-policy tool for Germany and of course for other Member States in the EU.

From an educational perspective the “internationalisation” within the German VET-system obtains more and more importance. That encompasses on the one hand the enhancement in the field of transnational mobility and the possibility to stay abroad for a longer period which has been facilitated by the new Vocational Training Act. On the other hand “internationalisation” means to make students and employees “fit for Europe” for example by achieving intercultural competences. In 2006 our minister, Mrs Schavan, established a so called “Innovation Council for Vocational Education and Training” – with representatives of the Länder, trade associations, trade unions, entrepreneur, researcher and practitioners to discuss structural reforms and innovative measures to improve the attractiveness and the quality of VET. Key issues are

- structural modernisation,
- transition between different sub-systems – for example prevocational training and initial Training
- improvement of permeability – especially the access to higher education for people with vocational training pathways
- Internationalisation of vet

To make European policy and cooperation visible for the individual trainee, student, teacher, trainer, employee and enterprise and to convince them of the “added value” of these European initiatives – like EQF and

ECVET – you have to make it understandable and easy to handle - without setting up too much bureaucracy. To advance and set up the implementation of a European qualification Framework Germany decided to work on the development of a national qualification Framework. Furthermore the Federal Ministry for Education and Research will launch a national Program and finance practical projects – developing and testing a credit-transfer-system for VET – taking into account special aspects of training in the dual system.

Germany will also support the European consultation-process on ECVET. The results will be presented and discussed at a major European vocational training Conference “Realizing the European learning Area” to be held in June 2007 during the German EU Council Presidency. So far the perspective ...

Let me come back to today`s conference-meeting

Also in the name of my colleagues from the LEONARDO division, all the best for the meeting. And keep on the good work also in the 3rd generation of education programs.

We always need good projects!