



## EUNEC Seminar

### Education and Training in a period of economic crisis

Limassol, Cyprus, 31 May – 1 June 2010

Conference Hotel : [Hotel Mediterranean Beach](#), Limassol

### Sunday 30 May 2010

Touristic excursion, kindly offered by the Cyprus Education Council: [visit to Kourion](#) and to Paphos.

Pick up at the hotel reception at 09.00 am. Return at 14.00 pm.

### Monday 31 May 2010

- 09.00 – 09.30: Welcome by **Simone Barthel**, EUNEC president  
Welcome by a representative of the **Cyprus Education Council**
- 09.30 – 10.00: Professor **Elpida Keravnou**, President of the Governing Board of the Cyprus University of Technology: 'Investing in Education: the case of Cyprus'.

## The economic and social benefits of investment in education and training

It is remarkable to which extent education is recognized as prominent in the reliance plans combating the economic crisis. It is becoming common knowledge that education is a key factor in the development of human capital and is a key lever for recovery. The extent and the quality of education and training both of youngsters as of adults become important strategic instruments for decision makers. Dealing with changing competences and maintaining qualification levels adequate towards new societal developments are vital.

We refer to

- The Pittsburgh meeting of the G 20. The leaders of the G 20 called for the development of a global training strategy to address the job crisis.
- The US\$789 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of February 2009 is aimed at providing a platform for early recovery and protecting the social and economic infrastructure, with education a high priority. ARRA has attempted to turn the threat to education posed by the recession into an opportunity.
- The work done by OECD labour ministers in October 2009. The 2010 OECD meeting of education ministers will discuss the consequences of the economic crisis for education and training systems and the possibilities to review them.
- The communication on the renewal of the Lisbon strategy, called Europe 2020.

10.00 – 11.00: Interactive session: The economic and social benefits of investment in education and training, from the perception of education councils.

Introduction: **Prof. dr. Henriette Maassen van den Brink**, Professor of Education and Labour Economics (University of Amsterdam), Professor of Evidence Based Education (University of Maastricht):

Chair: **Simone Barthel**, EUNEC president.

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30: **Prof. dr. Henriette Maassen van den Brink**: 'The economic and social benefits of education'.

12.30 – 13.00: Questions from the audience

13.00 – 14.30: Lunch break

## How to enhance effectiveness and visibility of impact?

In the perspective of investing in education and training in a context of shrinking budgets, governments and international organizations are paying more and more attention to international comparisons and effectiveness. They want to ensure that education policies enhance the economic and social prospects of individuals, deliver value for money. Countries pay more and more attention to the development and analysis of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the outcomes of education and training.

These indicators play a major role in the accountability of the education and training systems towards the society and this in two directions : as a justification of the used resources en as a way to analyze effectiveness and problems.

- 14.30 -15.30: **Anders Hingel**, European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Head of Unit, Analysis, statistics and indicators; coordinator of the report '[Progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training. Indicators and benchmarks. 2009](#)': 'Education and training: the chance of equity'.
- 15.30 – 16.00: Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.30: Questions from the audience
- 16.30 – 17.30: Interactive session, introduced by **Roos Herpelinck** (Flemish Education Council) and chaired by **Mia Douterlungne**, EUNEC general secretary: How to enhance effectiveness and visibility of impact? A reflection on benchmarks.
- 20.00 – 23.00 Conference dinner, kindly offered by the host council, in restaurant Forsos in Moutagiaka

## Tuesday 1 June 2010

### Education and budgetary restrictions

We think it is worth focusing on cuts in government spending on education as a result of the global economic crisis. We could also try to get an overview of national economic stimulus packages with a focus on education and training. What can education and training do in case of shrinking budgets?

- 09.00 – 10.00: **Mireille De Koning**, professional assistant within the Research Unit at Education International (Global Union Federation representing education workers): 'Overview of EI's work and findings from the survey on the impact of the crisis'.  
Background document: [Report of the EI Survey](#) on the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on Education.
- 10.00 – 10.30: The Portuguese case, presented by **Manuel Miguéns**, secretary general of the Conselho Nacional de Educação
- 10.30 - 11.00: Reflections and input from other education councils.
- 11.00 – 11.30: Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.30: Preparation of the statements on education and training in a period of economic crisis.
- 12.30 – 14.00: Lunch break
- 14.00 – 17.00: **Executive committee meeting**  
(only for members of the EUNEC executive committee)