

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Tax incentives for education and training: can we use them better?

Cedefop and the European Commission's Directorates-General for Education and Culture and for Taxation and Customs Union are holding an international conference on tax incentives for education and training on 22 September in Brussels.

The dual focus of the conference is to better understand the role of tax benefits in promoting education and training and to help policy makers design taxation policies with this purpose in mind.

Cedefop's recently published study, **'The use of tax incentives to support education and training in six selected Member States'** (Germany, France, Ireland, Austria, the Netherlands and Finland) shows that there is considerable scope for tax incentives to cover a greater share of investment in education and training than they do today. But in order to be effective tax incentives should be clear, simple and well-targeted, and provide a substantial financial benefit.

Commenting on the issue, the European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel, said: *"Investing in education & training means investing in our future: a prosperous future, with a flexible, well-trained and highly productive workforce, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. This is why it is vital to explore ways to encourage more private investment in education & training, including through the mechanism of tax incentives."*

The conference will

- announce and discuss the results of Cedefop's study. The study records the various types of tax affected – personal income tax, corporate income tax and value-added tax – and tax incentives implemented today, such as exemptions, allowances, deferrals and credit, and analyses their respective strengths and weaknesses.
- highlight EU and international examples of good practice on the tax treatment of education and training;
- discuss research results on how tax systems affect decisions on education and training, and more generally on how best to encourage lifelong learning through tax incentives.

Conference participants include education, training and taxation experts from government and business communities, academia, social partners and the EU institutions.

Conference website:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/gen_info/tax_conferences/tax_incentives/

Download the publication:

http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publication_details.asp?pub_id=536

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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.

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