

Twenty countries, regions and institutions sign the Barcelona Declaration on European mobility in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- The Barcelona Declaration was presented at the European Conference of the Regions for the Promotion of Mobility in Vocational Education and Training
- The two day conference discussed the current situation of student and teacher's mobility in VET and its goals for the future
- 1,000 students and 66 Catalan centers have participated in mobility programmes in 18 countries

Attended by representatives of the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission, the Education Minister, Mr. Ernest Maragall, closed today the *European Conference of the Regions for the Promotion of Mobility in Vocational Education and Training*. The two day conference had the objective of analysing the current situation for European mobility in VET for students and teachers and to promote its growth.

More than 300 people from 16 different countries and 25 European regions attended the Conference, also experts from institutions related to VET and representation from different sectorial and regional organisations (EARLALL and FREREF).

The professionals and political representatives analysed in depth the role of the regions in the organization of mobility programmes and student exchanges in VET, and the contribution of the regional authorities in experimenting and developing the ECVET system, that looks for the recognition of acquired training in other countries for mobility activities.

The Barcelona Declaration

This conference marked the place where the representatives of the European regions agreed the contents of the *Barcelona Declaration about the contribution of the regions and territorial authorities in the organisation and promotion of mobility for people in initial VET*.

La Declaration has been agreed by representatives from the following European regions: Tuscany and Piemonte (Italy); Baden-Württemberg (Germany); The French Community Valònia-Brussels (Belgium); Aragon, Balearic Islands, Andalucía, Castilla la Mancha and Catalonia (Spain); Wales (United Kingdom); Malopolska (Poland); Suïss Romanda (Switzerland); Aquitània, Middi-Pirinees, Llenguadoc-Rosselló, Rhone-Alp, Isle de França, Auvèrnia, Champagne-Ardenes and Lorena (France); also from Romania and Luxemburg.

The Barcelona Declaration means a new chapter for the regions regarding VET mobility. The regions have become the most appropriate agents to promote and develop mobility, acting according to the subsidiary principle, as an essential link between European institutions and member states and those directly benefiting from mobility programmes: students, teachers and training centers.

The Declaration highlights the importance of VET in the training of people and recognises the obstacles that still exist regarding mobility. The signatories are committed to increase the VET offer as far as it is in their power to do so, to maximise resources, to work for the recognition of training undertaken during the mobility period and to cooperate with the economic actors in order that the students can do placements of practical training in companies in other countries in good quality and safe conditions.

1,000 students participate in mobility

During 2008 the different mobility programmes have enabled the training of 1,000 catalans students in different countries, the majority in the European Union. During this period 66 training centers have been involved in these programmes and 121 projects have been presented. The financial investment to bring this about was € 1,041,532.

During 2008 catalan students have participated in mobility programmes in 18 countries. The majority of which taking place in France, Italy, United Kingdom and Germany.

Countries mobility 2008 Students

Germany	90
Austria	17
Belgium	5
Croatia	6
Denmark	16
Finland	7
France	296
Greece	2
Hungary	7
Ireland	19
Italy	248
Lithuania	6
Norway	8
The Netherlands	4
Portugal	19
United Kingdom	224
Sweden	24
Chile	1
Total	999

(Barcelona, 26 and 27 Mai 2009)