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News

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ET-struct – Time to act

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...connecting educational-training systems to regional economies for regional stability and growth...



No one could have foreseen in 2000 and 2001 at the time when the EU formulated its Lisbon and Gothenburg goals with the focus on growth and employment that there would be a global financial and economic crisis in 2008 that would affect many of these ambitious targets and cause widespread uncertainty, especially in the daily lives of citizens. For many, jobs and security have been threatened.

At present, a new and aspiring agenda for growth and employment is being formulated (EU 2020). But can it guarantee that the challenges of the future will be met?

One thing is certain: regional economies must be in a position to cope with the pressures. They have to be able to react to and predict changing conditions, and they must be able to educate, train and retrain their citizens to meet the challenges.

ET-struct, a project funded by the Central Europe Programme, aims at offering flexible and sustainable solutions, which will enhance the chances of European citizens to face the rapidly changing demands of the job market. ET-*struct* aims at promoting regional stability and

growth by bringing together three major players that influence regions: regional politics, regional economy and regional education-training.

Through the ongoing adaptation of education and training systems to the requirements of regional economy, *ET-struct* aims at ensuring economical stability, robustness and growth in Europe's regions.

The networking of major players enables a quick-response approach to the changing demands of the labour market.

Individual citizens have to be supported so that they can contribute to their own individual economic security, as well as to the stability of their region and in wider context to the stability of a united Europe.

On 28 May 2010 at the *ET-struct* Start Up in the House of the European Union in Vienna one hundred prominent guests from the fields of Education and Training, Economy and regional Politics met to discuss the impact of *ET-struct* in connection with regional stability and growth.

Podium speakers coming from the Vienna Board of Education, the Vienna Business Agency, the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the University of Vienna and the European Office / Vienna Board of Education highlighted the importance of reacting in a proper way on the challenges which the area will face in the coming years.
