

EU Presidency conference “VET as a first choice”

24-25 April 2018

Boyana Residence, Triaditza, Sofia, Bulgaria

Draft Agenda

The objective of the International Conference *VET as a first choice* is to contribute to the exchange of good practices on the advantages of VET and to promote VET as a first choice for learners to discover their talents and to advance in learning and career. The Conference will be opened by keynote speeches and a Panel discussion, tackling the topic from different angles and introducing the themes, which will be discussed later on.

6 themes will be visualised by a variety of good practice examples in two sessions. Each theme will be presented to the whole plenary by few speakers on the basis of their experience through power point presentations, short videos and any further products and materials. The presentations should be facilitated by a moderator in the format of blocks of questions and answers/examples.

Tuesday, 24 April

11.30 – 12.30 Transfer from hotels to the Boyana Residence

12.30 – 13.00 Registration

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 **Official welcome: Krasimir Valchev, Minister of Education and Science (tbc)**

Keynote speech

Opinion Survey on Vocational Education and Training in Europe
Daniel Scheuregger, Cedefop

Panel discussion:

What makes VET a first choice? Kiril Valchev, Moderator

- ✓ “Why Vocational Education and Training (VET)?” “What kind of VET could be attractive for young and adult learners?”
- ✓ Questions from the public

Participants:

Krasimir Valchev, Minister of Education and Science

Joao Santos, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission,
Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Unit E3: VET, Apprenticeships and adult learning

Janka Takeva, President of the Union of Bulgarian Teachers

James Calleja, Director Cedefop

Cesare Onestini, Director of ETF

Petya Evtimova, Project Manager, DOMINO

Tanio Stoychev, Principal of Secondary Vocational Gymnasium

Georgi Atanasov, General Manager, Festo Production

Jordan Jossifov, Parents' Association

Students from a Secondary Vocational Gymnasium: Melani
Porcheva, Madlin Porcheva

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30

Exchange on good practices (Part I)

- **Partnerships**

In this round experts will present projects and initiatives, which highlight the main feature of VET: partnerships in VET governance, delivery and mobility

- **Work-based Learning**

Participants will present advantages and success stories in apprenticeships

- **VET for life (validation, upskilling and re-skilling, career guidance)**

VET doesn't end with school leaving or graduation. Sometimes it starts then and lasts during the whole professional life. Experts will discuss and give examples on these topics.

17.30 – 18.30

Transfer to the hotels

19.30 – 22.30

Dinner, Restaurant The View

Wednesday, 25 April

09.00 – 13.00

Site visits: transfer from hotels to VET schools and to Boyana Residence

Visits to 4 VET schools

- ✓ Vocational gymnasium for transport and energetics “Henry Ford”

Join the demonstrations and partnership’s arrangements between school and business; visit the automotive and renewable energy training centers

- ✓ National vocational gymnasium for precise technics and optics M.V.Lomonosov

Have you ever run a school TV? Have you ever made glasses to see the world better?

Join our tour to meet the students who do this.

- ✓ Vocational gymnasium for tourism, Sofia

The future masters of food and drink – see them, join them!
Bulgarian vines and “spring” chocolate pieces

- ✓ Vocational gymnasium for hairstyling and cosmetics, Knjaginja Evdokija”

Haircut and cosmetics: Teachers and students in a charity demonstration; Master class with our partners from business

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch & coffee

14.00 – 15.30

Exchange on good practices (Part II)

- **Future skills requirements**

In this section participants will discuss on what kind of VET will prepare us to practice professions, if some of them do not exist at the moment, or the requirements for

the existing ones will change in the future?

- **Innovations in VET – VET for Innovations (Excellence)**

How does VET contribute to innovation? What is “VET excellence”?

- **VET, Higher VET, Higher education – permeability and transferability**

Aspects to be presented and discussed:

How do education systems respond to the requirements for ever higher professional skills? What forms and degrees are being offered in your country?

15.30 – 16.00

Conclusions and closing

16.00 – 17.00

Transfers to the hotels and to the airport