

Barcelona declaration on the contribution of the regions and territorial authorities regarding the organization and promotion of training mobility of individuals in initial vocational education and training



The undersigned regions and territorial authorities, gathered in Barcelona on the 26th and 27th of May 2009 at the European Conference of the Regions for the promotion of mobility in Initial Vocational Educational and Training, are aware of:

- the importance of mobility in IVET,
- the existing obstacles to mobility,
- the recent efforts aimed at improving transparency and validation of the professional qualifications,
- the growing role of the regions and territorial authorities in training mobility actions,

and wish to promote debate and active participation amongst these regions and territorial authorities. Therefore, and under the proposal of the Government of Catalonia, they approve the following **Barcelona declaration on the contribution of the regions and territorial authorities regarding the organization and promotion of training mobility of individuals in initial vocational education and training.**

This Declaration is not intended to create legally binding obligations between the undersigned regions and territorial authorities.

I. Preamble

Taking into account the strategies included in the following documents:

1. The Lisbon Strategy¹
2. Bordeaux Statement on the reinforced European Co-operation concerning Education and Vocational Training²
3. European Parliament and Council's Recommendation, regarding the creation of a European credit system for Education and Professional Training (ECVET)³

which have materialised in:

4. Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013⁴

which in turn is based on:

5. The European Quality Charter for Mobility⁵
6. Final conclusions of the MoVE-iT: *Study on the obstacles to cross-national Mobility faced by apprentices and other young people in Initial Vocational Training and on ways of overcoming them*⁶

II. The growing importance of the role of the regions and territorial authorities

Taking into account that

7. The decentralisation process which has taken place in Europe in the last 30 years has resulted in the acquisition of new competencies by the regions and other territorial authorities at different levels according to the constitutional structure of each State.

and that

8. The intermediary authorities (regional or sectoral), acting as an interface between the training centres and the competent national ministries, have developed a fundamental role in the innovation of measures covering the regional training and education systems.

1. Conclusions of the Presidency, European Council of Lisbon, 23rd and 24th March 2000 [5256/00 + Add 1 COR 1].

2. Communication of the European Ministers of Education and VET, the European social agents and the European Commission, done in Bordeaux on 26 November 2008 to review the priorities and strategies of the Copenhagen process.

3. Voted in plenary session of the European Parliament on 15 December 2008 to its formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council under the presidency of the Czech Republic during the first semester of 2009.

4. Agreement number. 1720/2006/CE of the European Parliament and the European Council, 15th November 2006, in which an action programme on Lifelong learning has been designed [Official Journal L 327/45 de 24.11.2006].

5. Recommendation (CE) number. 2006/961/CE of the European Parliament and the European Council, 18th December 2006 [Official Journal L 394 de 30.12.2006].

6. Report financed and written to be used by the European Commission, the General Direction.

III. The contribution of the regions and the territorial authorities to the development of mobility actions aimed at individuals in IVET

Declare

1. The regions and the territorial authorities, regardless of their level of competence, become essential agents for the promotion and development of mobility, by carrying out actions aimed at promoting:

a. The internal visibility of the offer

The regions and territorial authorities have the capacity to promote training mobility possibilities existing within reach of the potential beneficiaries.

b. The maximisation of resources

The regions and territorial authorities, in so far as it is within their powers to do so, will seek to promote the adequate and efficient use of the resources addressed to mobility.

c. Safety and quality conditions

The “European Quality Charter for Mobility” constitutes a European framework for the establishment and continuity of safety and quality conditions in training centres for IVET students. This allows IVET students to take part in mobility actions under acceptable safety and quality standards, comparable to those currently in force in their original training systems.

d. The external transparency framework

The proximity principle allows the regions and the territorial authorities, organised in networks or through the subscription to bilateral agreements, to become an essential reference to promote knowledge and mutual trust among the different organisers and participants in the various mobility actions.

e. The intermediary function

The regions and the territorial authorities fulfil, in Vocational Education and Training (VET), the same interrelating function among the training centres as the universities have been developing in order to facilitate their students’ mobility.

f. The partnership with the economic world

For the mobility to be fruitful, it is organized in cooperation with the sectoral economic actors; the regions and the territorial administrations develop and promote the appropriate partnerships with the economic sectors and other representatives from the economic world.

This will promote the incorporation of the different mobility experiences in the training process of a larger number of people in IVET.

IV. The role of the regions and territorial authorities in the organisation of mobility actions

2. It is convenient that an objective and trustworthy interlocutor be available to spread the needed knowledge and information for the organisation of mobility actions. The regions and territorial authorities are a privileged interlocutor to provide information at legal and operative levels.
3. The regions and territorial authorities can identify points of reference, organised in networks, as an interface between the interregional and regional levels. These networks should act as a link between the training centres and/or the companies, which may want to establish associations to develop specific mobility actions between the respective territories.
4. Although the linguistic barrier is more of a subjective perception than a real barrier, the regions and the territorial authorities should promote appropriate linguistic and cultural training of the individuals in IVET participating in mobility projects.
5. The regions and territorial authorities, so far as it is within their powers to do so, will seek to contribute in an efficient way to the organisation of mobility actions:
 - a. In the EU framework, through the measures mentioned in paragraph III.1.d, with the participation in community programmes and other activities related to transnational co-operation, and with the collaboration with sectoral and business organisations.
 - b. In the States framework, through their contribution to the actions carried out by member States for the promotion and development of training mobility of people in initial VET.
 - c. In their geographical area, through juridical, economic and technical measures, aimed at the dissemination, guidance, raising awareness and monitoring of training mobility projects, in order to contribute to the creation of a mobility culture in IVET.

V. The certification in training mobility experiences

6. The validation of the training acquired in the framework of training mobility should be an essential aspect of these experiences.
7. The promotion of the use and the improvement of the tools proposed by the European Commission (Europass, EQF and ECVET) is a key element to increase the attractiveness of mobility actions within different groups of individuals following a lifelong learning, contributing to the extension and consolidation of the European learning space.
8. Within the scope of their competencies, the regions and territorial authorities can make use of their capacity of intervention when recognising the training acquired during the mobility period. The regions and territorial authorities are aware of the benefits of mobility programmes on people, companies, centres and IVET systems. They also should contribute efficiently to the widespread use of the established community tools.