



## **Joint Workshop on International University – Enterprise Cooperation for Adult Education**

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Brussels**

The Santander Group, the Compostela Group of Universities and the UNICA Network are jointly organising a one-day workshop on developing relations between universities and enterprises. The main objective of the event is to present important conditions for promoting a new dimension in Adult Education namely, an entrepreneurial approach.

Continuous education is an important factor of growth in the knowledge economy and this is the reason why the European Commission makes all efforts to encourage its development. Adults are however much better positioned to undertake new professional paths than fresh graduates; after a certain experience as employed and perhaps with a stronger financial foundation the adults often find their ways as entrepreneurs. It is therefore clear that university education in Europe should integrate massively this target group. However, in the absence of strong previous experience in this direction, the content and methodological framework for such education need to be developed in a genuine cooperation between university and entrepreneurs. Therefore adult entrepreneurship should be in the focus of both the education sector in general and the University – Enterprise cooperation in coming years.

Another goal of Adult Education is to promote entrepreneurial approaches and reduce the rate of failure of already launched businesses. This is to be targeted not only through continuous education and other specific U-E cooperation measures such as practical placements of students which could be designed as a support for entrepreneurs as well.

The workshop aims to identify answers to fundamental questions like **“How University – Enterprise cooperation instruments could benefit Adult Education?”**

This will be approached by answering specific questions such as but not limited to:



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- How practical placement of students could be oriented towards supporting adult entrepreneurs that have their business threatened because of lack of skills?
- What are the generic and specific competences needed for Adult Education?
- What is the core content of Adult education (curriculum development)?

The workshop is addressed to university and enterprises representatives in charge of the university-enterprise cooperation relations and continuous education, student placement programmes, organisations dealing with vocation training and adult education.

The programme will portray the EU current context, priorities and possible funding opportunities for the development of the University - Enterprise dialogue in this direction. The European context will be supported by practice-based examples coming from both the European universities and entrepreneurs. The university viewpoint will be presented by the European University-Enterprise Network, the initiative oriented to support the EU initiative "New skills for new jobs". The perspective of the entrepreneurs will draw from the experience of the European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs (YES) founded in 1988. YES is the major association of young entrepreneurs throughout Europe representing 40.000 members and aiming to support and improve the economic and social performance of young entrepreneurship in Europe. As such, it is the largest dynamic network of entrepreneurs. The programme will also feature new approaches towards graduate training.

**Key words of the seminar:** university-Enterprise dialogue, adult education, entrepreneurship, university approach towards continuous education, graduate training.

To register for the workshop, please go to:

<http://www.sgroup.be/news/156/new-date-7th-june-2010-joint-workshop-on-international-university-%E2%80%93-enterprise-cooperation-for-adult-education.html>

The deadline for the registration is **30<sup>th</sup> May 2010**. For detailed inquiries about the workshop, you are welcome to contact the SG Office.