



REGULATIONS/AGREEMENTS

- The European Commission has published a communication in favour of the development of a [coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training](#). (for [other languages](#), see [latest news](#)).

NEW CALLS

- Calls for proposals for [Erasmus Mundi \(EU integrated masters\)](#), deadline April the 30th.
- In favour of [higher education cooperation with neighbouring countries](#) and to support the modernisation of higher education in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region (including North Africa), the EU has developed the Tempus program. Tempus IV will be released in second half of 2007, without submission deadlines.

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS or PREPARATORY COMMUNICATIONS:

- DG Education and Culture published a staff working paper to the EP and the Council in favour of ECVET: **European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training**. A system for the transfer, accumulation and recognition of learning outcomes in Europe. ECVET supports the documentation, validation and acknowledgement of practical exper. There are different opinions about this, see critical notes of [EUNEC \(statements\)](#) and the [ESIB](#), National Unions of Students in Europe.
- The [EESC](#), the European Economic and Social Committee ([members](#)), gives formal opinions on all issues which the cover, has published a **critical draft opinion** on [EQF](#) for the meeting on 2 May 2007, on the proposal of the EC about the [Europeans Qualifications Framework EQF for lifelong learning \(see p. 6 and following\)](#). This opinion will become informal final in the next weeks, comments fast to [Ewa Kanienska](#).

AGENDA

- 26-27 April, Agora Thessaloniki XXVI – building a [European VET area](#).
- 6 and 7 may, big conference about Life Long Learning, Berlin. [More info later here](#).
- 11-13 july 2007, Hong Kong. Conference to stimulate **internationalisation of Asia's** institutions through partnerships with universities. More information at www.qsapple.org

NEW REPORTS/RESEARCH

- European Commissioner for Multilingualism Leonard Orban had published: [Effects on the European Economy of Shortages of Foreign Language Skills in Enterprise](#). In his [press release](#) Orban states that language skills are highly underestimated. The languages cited as most important include **German, French, Spanish and Mandarin, Arabic and Russian**. The study will form the basis for the forthcoming work of the Business Forum, which Orban intends to launch this year in partnership with European business, to understand better how language skills impact on EU trade and jobs.
- EC published [overview of European education policy since 2000](#) (12 pages) .
- General research: *Educational Design Research*. Routledge, 2007, about strong cooperations between design and research. IIEP Series: [Cross-national Studies of the Quality of Education](#). Including an examination of 3 educational policy research design questions: 'What and who will be measured?', and 'What are financial and logistical costs?'

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS

- [EMDEL: European E-learning Database](#). The EMDEL catalogue gives an opportunity to see what's offered on the e-learning courses market and their use and is free of charge.
- The Unesco has finished the project, [Breaking the silence. The Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project](#). Including a report with [teaching ideas](#).