

Message for the Conference "Lifelong Learning and Entrepreneurship Education"

Dear attendee

Europe needs excellence and this requires knowledge and competence. Therefore we have to critically reflect whether our societies already have lived up to the challenge of mastering the transition to the knowledge based economy.

Recently the Commission has pointed to one of our core weaknesses. Up to now the majority of the active population still does not possess the core business knowledge needed for a successful vocational and private live. Such knowledge seems still to be still reserved to an 'elite', thus depriving people from actively taking part in shaping our societies in the age of globalisation.

The Commission has therefore invited the Member States in the context of the "Small Business Act" to review their education systems to provide each and every child with core competencies, including entrepreneurial competencies.

This invitation is mirrored by the European Qualification Framework (EQF) which defines entrepreneurship skills as one of the 8 key competences, which should enable people to fully exploit their talents, to understand the drivers of our modern times and to find professional satisfaction and recognition.

There is still a long way to go. We need more teachers not afraid of getting in contact with businesses, we need more businesses supportive to schools and surely we need across the EU the books telling the right stories. I also believe that international acknowledged certification systems like EBC*L (European Business Competence* Licence) can help us to achieve excellence in entrepreneurship education. Today Moreover EBC*L is offered in 26 countries and its translation into 22 languages support its uptake and help promoting individual mobility beyond national borders.

EBC*L is also a very modern approach and supports life long learning, which is our answer to the challenges linked to change. We wish to keep an inclusive society, a society that cares and does not leave anybody behind because of missing skills but allows also adults for adjusting and broadening their skills and competencies. For all these reasons I wish you a successful conference and all the best for your initiative „Wirtschaftskompetenz für Europa“.



Günter Verheugen
Vice President of the European Commission