



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM
EREF-2009**

Nova Gorica, Slovenia, 8-9 June 2009

**PRESENTATION OF BEST PRACTICE CASES
IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT**

Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate - *Improvement of entrepreneurial skills of young people across Europe.*

WKO (Chamber of commerce of Austria) and bit media e-Learning solution GmbH & Co KG.
Programme run by an existing consortium.

Objectives and vision:

Specific objective was the implementation of entrepreneurship education at schools level for as many schools as possible in Austria and Germany. The ESC consists of 4 modules and aims at preparing learners for requirements of their future economic and working environment and strengthening economic and social competencies at an early stage in order to safeguard enterprises and economic wealth.

The holder of an ESC knows about the economics and how enterprise functions. Solid knowledge about economics plus social and entrepreneurial competences are part of 8 key skills belonging to Lifelong Learning (EC, 2005).

The Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate (ESC) consists of three basic modules A, B and C (ESC - Basic) as well as the advanced UP module (ESC Advanced), which enable the students to acquire the necessary qualifications they will need in order to understand the issues and contexts within an enterprise and to work independently within a company or to be successful as entrepreneurs themselves. In addition these studies also promote social competence. The students can take a voluntary additional exam on the content of these three modules; The UP module at the level of the start-up business examination completes the training for the Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate.



Fostering entrepreneurship education

The primary focus of the Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate is in the schools. It is a voluntary additional qualification that promotes the students' knowledge of business and presents business as a significant factor for the job market and the prosperity of society in general. At the same time, fear and insecurity with regard to self-employment would be reduced and professional independence within the context of employment would be built up as well.

Resources available for the scheme:

Full time personnel: 10 (curriculum development, development of educational materials like books, CDs, development of electronic testing solution, teacher training, coaching and support for teachers)

Total budget so far is app 4.000.000 EUR.

Why it is a success story?

Currently in place in Austria, Germany and Ethiopia and in preparation for Luxemburg, Russia, Czech Republic and Switzerland. Total number of practitioners so far is around 40.000.

The ESC® (Entrepreneur's Skills Certificate®) education program was awarded best project in Oslo 2007 and "Good Practice Exchange under the European charter for small enterprises 2008-2009". An initiative has been started recently to distribute the ESC to 7 more European member countries.

Contact:

Stefan Düss, Internationalisation Manager, bit group

Kaerntnerstrasse 311

A-8054 Graz

AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 (0)316/28 55 50-705

Fax: +43 (0)316/28 55 50-50

Mob.: +43 (0)664/61 99 705

<mailto:stefan.duess@bitonline.cc>

www.bitonline.cc

