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Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
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DEUTSCHLAND

Reference: Invitation letter by German Ministry 27 July 2009
Subject: PARTICIPATION IN VET-LSA

Thank you for your invitation to participate in VET-LSA.

The Finnish Ministry of Education finds the VET-LSA project interesting. The project provides possibilities to find out the strengths and the weaknesses of different training forms in different countries and to learn from one another. The VET-LSA project is also one way to facilitate the recognition of qualifications in European countries and to increase mobility.

The Ministry of Education has completed a consultation process with the stakeholders. Informed by the stakeholders' extensive responses, the Ministry of Education notes that, although the aims and expected results of the VET-LSA project are interesting, the proposed instruments for measuring competencies need further development and elaboration before Finland can commit to the implementation of the project.

Although interesting, the proposed method of measuring learning outcomes significantly differs from the one used in Finland. We have developed a system of assessing learning outcome within the scope of vocational skills demonstrations, which are carried out at the workplace. Unfortunately, the proposed approach would not allow this system to be used in the assessment of learning outcomes

In addition, the international and country-specific costs of the VET-LSA project are of a level which is impossible for us to meet in the present situation of stringent budgetary frames.

In view of this, I hereby confirm that Finland is not able to participate in the VET-LSA project, even though we take a positive view of the project in principle. It might be possible for us to participate if it allowed the option of at first taking part only in Work area 1 (Instrument development) and afterwards reconsidering further involvement in the project.

Below you find our answers to the questionnaire attached to the invitation letter:

1. In principle, are you in agreement with your country's participation in the study and the distribution of costs agreed at working level?

As stated above, Finland is not able to participate in the study. At the moment we could only participate in Work area 1 (Instrument development).

2. What occupations will your country participate in?

If Finland is allowed to participate only in Work area 1, we could participate in all four occupations.

3. How many measure points will your country participate in?

Finland is interested in one measurement point: students at the end of their vocational education at the upper secondary level.

4. Who will be the two officially nominated delegates for your country in the International Steering Group?

If Finland is permitted to participate on the conditions mentioned above, the Finnish Government will nominate two delegates.

Our contact in this matter is Ms. Seija Rasku (E-mail seija.rasku@minedu.fi, Tel. +358 9 1607 6963).

Minister of Education

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