



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Education and Culture
Education
Lifelong Learning Policy Development

European Symposium on Economics of Education

“Making Efficient Use of Investment in Education and Training”

Organized by the European Expert Network on Economics of Education (EENEE)

on behalf of the European Commission

16.-17. November 2004, Brussels

OBJECTIVE

The importance of education and training in a lifelong learning perspective for the knowledge based society and the achievement of the Lisbon goals increases the overall need for investment in human capital. Investing in human resources is indeed essential to increase employability, economic prosperity and social welfare. The Lisbon Council in March 2000 called for a substantial increase in investment in human resources. However, due to tight public budgets, there is also a clear pressure to ensure a more efficient use of existing public resources and a larger appeal to private investment, especially as far as higher education, vocational training and adult education are concerned. This implies the need to make better use of research findings for educative policies.

The Symposium aims at presenting to policy makers the latest scientific results and policy implications. The Symposium will also provide a forum for discussion of relevant policy reforms and research projects aiming at improving the use of resources at the European level.

PROGRAM

The Symposium will give experts and policymakers an opportunity to discuss the performance and prospects of education and training policies by devoting ample time for discussion and interaction. To launch this dialogue with the academic community, two main questions will be addressed to the contributors to the Symposium. In the first session, the objective is to provide an evaluation of investment in education and training and specific approaches to improve the allocation of resources. The purpose of the second session is to present incentives mechanisms and accountability systems capable of ensuring a more efficient institutional structure of education and training systems. Each session will combine presentations from experts with debates on policy issues.

The expected outcomes of the Symposium are thus threefold: a closer relationship between research and policy; presentation of policy recommendations for educative reforms; identification of new areas for future research.