

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

relating to the adoption of a Community action programme in the
field of vocational training and technological change
(EUROTECNET II)

(presented by the Commission)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning
a Community Action Programme
in the Field of Vocational Training
and Technological Change

EUROTECNET I I

I - INTRODUCTION - THE BACKGROUND

1. Initiated by the Council Resolution of June 2, 1983, and operational since 1985, the Community Action Programme on Vocational Training and New Information Technologies, called EUROTECNET, had a network of more than 130 projects which interacted with each other, exchanging experiences and transferring lessons and good training practices.

Through the programme, training professionals in all Member States were able to keep to the forefront in developing and adapting methods and materials aimed at the various target groups, such as poorly-qualified young people, women, unemployed workers, and workers in companies whose skills were outdated. In addition policy makers in Member States were able to benefit from the wider window offered by EUROTECNET on training innovations when proposing changes in national systems. The network itself ensured that innovative experience from one Member State could be disseminated in other ones, thereby reinforcing the qualitative impact on national training systems. The operation of the network and related activities also provided the social partners with a means of developing the Social Dialogue on technology training questions, such as the co-operation launched in the construction industry.

2. It is now recognised that two interrelated factors will have a decisive impact on the evolution of the labour markets in Europe: "technological change" which will make the integrated market economically and structurally possible, and the "completion of the single market", which represents the indispensable economic condition to foster technological change itself:
 - a) technological change, which influences work tasks and work organisation, creates new qualification requirements, changes professional roles and classifications, and deeply alters the nature of industrial relations, as well as individual career patterns and the functioning of large and small enterprises;

- b) the perspective of the completion of the single market by 1993, will radically transform the scope of labour market mobility, change the nature of labour force movements and the relative value of qualifications and human resources in the socio-economic field, and necessitate a greater effort to ensure economic and social cohesion as an essential component of the single market.

The development of training provision in view of these interrelated factors, is the corner stone of the philosophy behind the EUROTECHNET programme.

3. The greater role played by enterprises in training has led to new types of cooperation between social partners and training actors, recognising the positive impact of public-private partnership and/or inter-enterprises consortia for technological transfers (with particular regard for SME's), and transnational cooperation in view of the single market.
4. It is increasingly recognised that the changes required in vocational training should not just adapt qualifications retrospectively, as a result of new technological processes and consequent industrial restructuring, but rather should anticipate future trends. Thus through proper policies vocational training can contribute to maximising the results of technological investment, thereby assisting economic and social progress.
5. Another significant part of recent technological advance has been the increased use of new technologies for training itself, not only enhancing its efficiency, making training delivery economically and educationally more effective, but radically changing the role and functions of those involved in it, demanding new types of trainers for fulfilling new training functions, as well as inculcating new attitudes in trainees (self learning competency).
6. EUROTECHNET I stimulated a wide range of interest in and demand for activities which require a new Decision in order to provide the basis for a reinforcement and extension of the programme. The positive reaction of the actors, both policy makers in Member States and operators at project level, has demonstrated the need to extend the joint process of developing vocational training throughout the Community to cope with and master technological change through the EUROTECHNET programme.

While the fundamental basic structure will be retained in EUROTECHNET II (i.e. the network of demonstration projects), an increasing effort will be made to build links between individual projects from several Member States. These links will generate joint training projects to improve training methodologies and materials, as well as the greater potential for the transfer of good training practices to regions in need of modernisation.

In addition the greater emphasis to be attached to linking together training innovation in individual sectors will stimulate better co-operation between the social partners involved (in response to calls made in the context of the Social Dialogue) as well as enhancing the

transnational cross-fertilisation of training innovation. Increased efforts will also be made to identify the connections between technological innovation and the qualifications and jobs of the future, particularly in connection with the likely downstream impact of Community RTD programmes on goods and services.

Other key issues arising out of the operation of EUROTECNET I and requiring considerable extra attention in the new programme include the changing role of trainers faced by technological change, the use of the new technologies themselves in the training process as cost effective delivery mechanisms, and the increasing complexities faced by smaller companies in acquiring and keeping technological expertise.

7. An important aspect of the renewed programme is the emphasis on new technologies or technological change as opposed to the concentration exclusively on new information technologies as in EUROTECNET I. This shift in emphasis responds to the need for the programme to encompass the changes engendered by the most advanced technologies and the combination of skills (multiskilling) called for by the marriage of different scientific disciplines, which extend beyond information technologies and are particularly evident in the impact of technological changes in individual sectors. The accent on technological change will also facilitate the links to be developed with the Community RTD programmes, covering as they do a wide range of technologies and potential impact on skills and training. Finally the term new information technologies itself is no longer sufficiently precise for most operators in the training field and could give rise to misunderstandings.

Great care will be taken in the execution of the programme to ensure the concentration of effort in particular areas. This task will be facilitated by the more pronounced sectoral aspect to the programme (in co-operation with the social partners) and the strong links to be established with the Community RTD programmes. The specific fields or technologies on which to concentrate during the course of EUROTECNET II will be defined in co-operation with the Member States to ensure the continuing relevance of the programme for national priorities, while at the same time providing the necessary co-ordination at Community level.

3. In the execution of the programme attention will be paid to the possibility of developing contacts with similar initiatives in the field of vocational training and technological change which have been carried out in third countries, due account being taken of the specific rules and restrictions governing the utilisation of the European Social Fund.

The views of UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederation of Europe) and ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) clearly favour a continuation of the EUROTECNET programme and the Advisory Committee of Vocational Training at its meeting on 8 December 1988 unanimously adopted a favourable opinion.

A renewal of the EUROTECHNET programme would also be central to the Joint opinion of the Working Party on Social Dialogue and the New Technologies concerning Training and Motivation of 6 March 1987 (Val Duchesse), and the spirit of the conclusions adopted by the Social Dialogue Steering group of 12 January 1989.

The Commission proposes the following decision to renew and extend the EUROTECHNET programme.

II - AIMS AND MODALITIES

1. The EUROTECHNET II programme will have two principal objectives :

- to improve the capacity for basic and continuing training in the European Community to take account of technological changes and their impact on employment, work and qualifications ;
- to assist in the design and development of future training provision, in order to take account of the implications of future technological developments for new and existing occupations and provide for the necessary new skills and qualifications required.

The first principal objective is aimed at developing and improving training provision, and will include information and training activities for key actors in the field, the fostering of transnational cooperative ventures within the network, transfer of expertise, especially in favour of less developed regions or certain sectors, coordinated visits and exchanges, a Community wide clearing house for exchangeable learning materials, dissemination and information activities, especially using new technologies.

The second principal objective is aimed at contributing to the design and development of forward looking training provision, and will develop collaborative projects working on new training approaches, establish a dialogue on future training needs with interested partners, and create links with Community RTD programmes which have qualifications and training implications

The ways and means through which the Commission proposes to have these objectives achieved fall into two categories.

The first will comprise a common framework of principles for the development and improvement of training policies and systems in the new technologies in the Member States themselves.

The second will comprise a series of measures to be implemented at Community level which will be designed to support and supplement the measures taken by and within Member States.

III - BUDGET

The EUROTECNET II programme should extend over a period of 5 years, starting at the beginning of 1990. The estimation of needs until 1992 established within the framework of present financial forecasts 1988 to 1992 amounts to 29 MECUs, approximately 21.5 MECUs of which is expected to be financed under the European Social Fund. Budget line B6342 will cover the cost of the various supporting measures of exchange, animation, technical support, joint ventures, expertise consultancy, diffusion and evaluation which are necessary for the execution of the programme. The basic funding of the participating projects will be the responsibility of Member States, although additional funding under the European Social Fund may be sought for projects which are considered eligible within the framework of the national programmes.

Member States and the Commission will present in the Community Support Frameworks the actions to be co-financed by the European Social Fund in the framework of the EUROTECNET programme. The actions relating to the programme will be presented by the competent national authorities to the Commission which will be responsible for the practical financing mechanisms in accordance with the rules governing the Structural Funds. In this way a clear bridge will be made between the operations supported by the Structural Funds and the development of the Community's common policies in the field of vocational training, particularly with regard to the need for the workforce to master technological change.

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION RELATING TO THE
ADOPTION OF A COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD
OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE
(EUROTECNET II)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 128 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 63/266/EEC of 2 April 1963 laying down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy (1), and in particular the second, fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth and tenth principles thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (3),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (4),

Whereas on 2 June 1983, the Council adopted a Resolution concerning vocational training measures relating to new information technologies (5),

Whereas the Commission transmitted to the Council on 18 April 1985 a communication on vocational training and the new information technologies detailing the work programme from 1985 to 1988 (6), and whereas this work programme is commonly called EUROTECNET;

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1. OJ No 63, 20.4.63, p. 1338/63.
 2. OJ1989, p.
 3. OJ1989, p.
 4. OJ1989, p.
 5. OJ No C 166, 25.6.1983, p. 1.
 6. COM(85)167 final

Whereas the Heads of State and Government meeting in the European Council in December 1986 emphasised the importance of Community actions for employment and having as their objective to encourage better training of young people and adults, and whereas the Heads of State and Government meeting in the European Council in June 1989 reinforced this position, stressing that the upgrading of human resources through training constituted a fundamental aspect of economic and social development and noted the agreement reached on continuing vocational training;

Whereas the Council has already adopted, in extending the framework programme of research and development (7), measures aimed at reinforcing technological and industrial cooperation at Community level, in particular by Decisions 88/279/EEC (8), 85/196/EEC (9), 88/419/EEC (10) concerning ESPRIT, BRITE/EURAM, SCIENCE, and 88/417/EEC (11) concerning DELTA, which is directed specifically at learning technologies ; whereas this technological and industrial cooperation in the field of research and development must be supported by parallel efforts in the field of vocational training;

Whereas Council Decision 89/286/EEC (12) on the main phase of the Strategic Community Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (SPRINT) adopted certain activities concerning the transfer of know-how in the fields of innovation management and transfer of technology, and decided to launch specific projects for intra-Community innovation transfer including training elements;

Whereas the European Parliament adopted on 24 May 1983 a Resolution on the competitiveness of Community industry (13), in which it asked for increased efforts to be made in favour of vocational training and the training of the leaders of enterprises; whereas this Resolution was supplemented by the Resolution on the continuing training of workers in enterprises (14), and other Resolutions concerning in particular the framework programme for technological research and development (15), and regional development, education and training (16);

Whereas in the context of social dialogue, joint opinions were adopted on 6 March 1987, one of which related to training and motivation and which stressed the necessity for effective training for workers and managerial staff in the new technologies;

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7. OJ No L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.
 8. OJ No L 118, 6.5.1988, p.32.
 9. OJ No L 83, 25.3.1985, p. 8.
 10. OJ No L 206, 30.7.1988, P.34.
 11. OJ No L 206, 30.7.1988, p.20.
 12. OJ No L 112, 25.4.1989, p. 12 .
 13. OJ No C 135, 24.5.1983, p. 27.
 14. OJ No C 156, 15.6.1987, p.211.
 15. OJ No C 7, 12.1.1987, p. 19.
 16. OJ No C 99, 13.4.1987, p. 15.

Whereas the exploitation of technological developments throughout industry will depend on the adaptability of the qualifications and the enterprise of the workforce; whereas, in this context, there is a more urgent need than ever to reinforce, at Community level, the appropriate initiatives and actions in progress which aim to draw the full potential from human resources and investment in training as a complement to an overall Community strategy in the field of industrial, research, development and innovation policies; and whereas in this context vocational training is an indispensable instrument for the completion of the Internal Market in 1992;

Whereas Council Resolution of 22 December 1986 on an action programme on employment growth (17) stressed the need for improved vocational training, higher levels of qualifications and greater cooperation between social partners as essential elements in the growth of employment;

Whereas the Council in its Decision 87/569/EEC (18) adopted an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life, including the intention to enhance the capacity of vocational training systems to adapt to rapid economic, technological and social change ;

Whereas the Council in its Decision 89/27/EEC of 16 December 1988 (19) adopted a second phase of the COMETT programme on cooperation between universities and industry regarding training in the field of technology, and in particular advanced technology;

Whereas these measures need to be supplemented by additional measures to ensure the adaptation of basic and continuing training systems within and between Member States to take account of technological change;

Whereas the first EUROTECNET programme from 1985 to 1988 highlighted the importance of developing cooperation between Member States in the field of adapting vocational training to the introduction of the new information technologies and the need to strengthen such cooperation; whereas in this context it is important to support training actions having a Community dimension and to ensure balanced development throughout the Community, and therefore in order to do so it is appropriate to involve, as far as possible, existing bodies in the Member States;

Whereas it is necessary, in extension of the Council Resolution of 3 November 1986 concerning the action programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (20), to engage such enterprises in the implementation of EUROTECNET as well as in the diffusion of the results of the programme;

Whereas the necessary funding for the EUROTECNET programme will be established in the general Budget of the Community;

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17. OJ No C 340, 31.12.1986, p. 2.
 18. OJ No L 346, 10.12.1987, p.31.
 19. OJ No L 13, 17.1.1989, P.28.
 20. OJ No C 287, 14.11.1986, p. 1.

Whereas the Chairman's conclusions of the Standing Committee on Employment were adopted on 25 November 1988;

Whereas on 5 June 1989 the Council adopted a resolution concerning continuing vocational training (21);

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training has expressed its opinion;

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

A second action programme of vocational training and technological change, hereinafter referred to as "EUROTECNET II", is hereby adopted for a period of five years commencing on 1 January 1990.

Article 2

The principal objectives of EUROTECNET II are as follows :

- to improve the capacity for basic and continuing training in the European Community to take account of technological changes and their impact on employment, work and qualifications ;
- to assist in the design and development of future training provision, in order to take account of the implications of future technological developments for new and existing occupations and provide for the necessary new skills and qualifications required.

The EUROTECNET II programme is designed to complement and reinforce policies introduced in Member States by :

- a) promoting the use of innovative approaches by identifying within each Member State a number of relevant model demonstration projects and by setting up the linkages required for demonstration projects to contribute to innovation and cooperation within and between Member States ;
- b) strengthening cooperation between Member States on the exchange and transfer of methodologies, the joint development of innovative approaches and the improved contacts between training specialists in this field ;

- c) improving the capacity of Member States to maximise the benefits of their participation in the programme for their own basic and continuing training systems by helping to strengthen the necessary infrastructure in each Member State, and contributing to the better quality of the basic and in-service training of trainers and ensuring the widespread dissemination of results from the programme ;
- d) making widely available and applicable throughout the Community the benefits of experience and good practice in the field of training for technological change ;
- e) undertaking the necessary research and analytical work in the field of new skills and qualifications to enable future provision for basic and continuing training to be adapted, and contributing to the flexibility of training systems through a stimulation of work on open and flexible learning approaches and other innovative methods identified during the course of the programme ;
- f) organising a series of supportive information activities designed to inform a wider public on initiatives relating to training and technological change, to stimulate the interaction of participants in the programme and to improve European cooperation between providers of information on vocational training.

Article 3

The EUROTECNET II programme shall comprise:

- a) A common framework of principles for the development and improvement of training policies and systems in the new technologies in the Member States, as set out in Article 4, and
- b) A series of measures to be implemented at Community level, as set out in the Annex, and as such designed to support and supplement those measures taken by and within Member States.

Article 4

The measures forming part of the EUROTECMET II programme to be implemented under Article 5 should complement and reinforce those activities of Member States which comply with the general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy and which are intended to :

- a) strengthen cooperation at all levels between the vocational training systems. This cooperation should include public and private provisions and the participation of the social partners and all sectors of the economy, to ensure the adaptation of training systems to take account of technological change ;
- b) raise the level of vocational training and acquisition of skills for the work force, both employed and unemployed, in respect of the impact of technological change on industrial restructuring and employment. Specific account should be taken of the training provided by or for enterprises and in particular the situation of small and medium sized enterprises as regards the training both of managers and workers ;
- c) stimulate the development of innovative approaches through the establishment of experimental or demonstration training actions. Such actions should be designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the provision for vocational training and should also be widely disseminated.
- d) provide for unemployed young people, in particular those whose qualifications are inadequate or unsuitable, to enter working life through suitable measures of training both in the new technologies and in coping with technological developments ;
- e) promote equal opportunities for men and women, in particular to facilitate the retraining or re-entry into employment of women whose careers are affected by technological change or who want to take up work again with the necessary acquisition of new skills and qualifications ;
- f) promote the training and retraining of trainers in order to ensure the necessary upgrading of social and technical skills, including the use of multi-media training techniques ;

The Member States shall submit a report to the Commission on their activities undertaken in the implementation of these principles and measures not later than 31 December 1992, and again not later than 31 December 1994.

Article 5

To give a significant Community impetus to the efforts of Member States to raise the quality and level of vocational training and vocational qualifications for technological change, the Commission shall implement a series of supporting measures as set out in the Annex.

In implementing these measures, special account and consideration shall be taken of the need to recognise and meet the differing needs and situations of all Member States, with particular regard to the relative levels of technological advancement and to the respective provision for vocational training.

Article 6

As from 1 January 1990, the annual credits necessary to cover the Community contribution to the actions provided for in the programme will be established in the annual budgetary procedure, taking into account the results of the programme as well as any new needs which may emerge during its operation. These credits are intended to finance the various actions set out in the Annex, including appropriate measures taken to ensure the technical assistance at Community level, continuing monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

The appropriations deemed necessary for the first three years of the programme will form part of future budgets within the framework of the present financial forecasts 1988 - 1992 agreed jointly by the three Institutions in June 1988 and their development.

Article 7

The Commission shall ensure that EUROTECNET II is consistent with other Community programmes and activities in the fields of vocational training and technological developments.

The Commission shall draw as appropriate upon the assistance of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) in the implementation of this programme.

Article 8

In implementing EUROTECNET II the Commission shall keep the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training regularly informed and to this effect periodic reports regarding the implementation of the programme shall be presented by the Commission to the Advisory Committee.

Article 9

The Commission shall submit during 1992 an interim report to the Council and to the European Parliament on the implementation of EUROTECNET II.

The Commission shall by 30 June 1995 submit to the Council and the European Parliament a final report on the experience and results of EUROTECNET II having regard to the objectives set out and defined in Article 2, including an evaluation of its operation.

In the preparation of these reports the Commission shall take account of the reports submitted by the Member States under the provisions of Article 4.

Article 10

This decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

ANNEX

Measures to be implemented at Community level to aid Member States in raising the quality and level of vocational training and vocational qualifications for technological change.

1. The principal objectives of EUROTECNET II are as follows :
 - . to improve the capacity for basic and continuing training in the European Community to take account of technological changes and their impact on employment, work and qualifications ;
 - . to assist in the design and development of future training provision, in order to take account of the implications of future technological developments for new and existing occupations and provide for the necessary new skills and qualifications required.
2. The following series of measures will be implemented at Community level in the course of EUROTECNET II to support and complement measures taken within Member States.
 - a) Promoting the use of innovative approaches in adapting training to technological change :
 - The core of the EUROTECNET programme will consist of a Community-wide network of innovative demonstration projects identified within Member States and aimed at improving the design and delivery of training to take account of technological change. In addition the network will be used to strengthen all forms of cooperation between the parties involved at all levels to seek solutions to issues of common concern, and to enhance the motivation and training of the workforce faced with technological change. In the process of selecting the projects for possible inclusion in the network particular account will be taken of the objectives laid down in Article 4 of the Decision, particularly as regards participation by the social partners, the involvement of economic sectors or branches of industry affected by technological change, the need to ensure access by women to requisite technological training, and the capacity to make widely available the benefits of experience and good practice.
 - While the responsibility for setting up and funding the demonstration projects will remain with Member States, Community support measures will be aimed at developing and improving the links between the projects in a Community context, including the necessary animation, coordination and dissemination activities. The network of demonstration projects and Community support measures may include on the one hand projects which receive support from the European Social Fund and on the other hand projects which do not receive

support from the European Social Fund but which are considered to have a high national priority.

- Information and training actions will be undertaken to improve the ability of key participants in the vocational training field to take advantage of the changes brought about by technological change and of new training methodologies themselves. This will be done through a process of coordinating the transfer, extension and dissemination of best training practice for technological advance within and between Member States.
- The setting up of European training and technology consortia will be encouraged, involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and larger enterprises and training institutions to develop and improve technology training for the enterprises and job seekers.

b) Strengthening the links between Member States :

- Transnational cooperative ventures will be encouraged between demonstration projects and between public training bodies and private organisations which are concerned with developing new approaches to training, the development of transferable training programmes and materials and the exchange of such products using advanced communications facilities.
- A clearing house will be set up in close liaison with the network of demonstration projects to enable the evaluation and exchange of learning materials designed for technology training.
- Transnational study visits will be organised by CEDEFOP on behalf of the Commission for those involved in demonstration projects and other aspects of the programme, and will reinforce the existing study visits scheme for vocational training specialists.

c) Improving the capacity of Member States to maximise the benefits of their participation in EUROTECNET :

- A structure for dissemination and animation will be established as appropriate within each Member State to maximise the impact of the programme on training policies and practices.
- Activities will be undertaken to enable expertise in technology training to be transferred between Member States, between sectors and in favour of disadvantaged groups of the population. This will take the form of providing advice and consultancy services to Member States (particularly the regionally disadvantaged ones) or to individual projects in order to help identify and plan training needs.
- A model training of trainers scheme in technological change and its consequential effect on qualifications will be identified and developed. The transfer values of these actions will be supported by the appropriate exchange mechanisms.

- A series of publications will be drawn up to ensure a wide distribution of information on the programme and its activities in the Community languages.
- d) Undertaking the necessary work to enable future training provision and systems to be effectively adapted as a consequence of technological change :
- To complement and underpin the network of demonstration projects a series of research and analytical actions will be initiated to give scientific support to the programme. Collaborative projects involving several Member States will be supported to develop new training approaches which respond to future needs on the labour market regarding skills and qualifications needed for technological change.
 - In this regard priority will be given to the following areas :
 - . Developing new pedagogic approaches and models for curriculum development of technology training which meet the needs of newly emerging skills and qualifications and which draw in particular on open and flexible learning approaches.
 - . Ensuring easier access and more appropriate forms of training in the new technologies for disadvantaged or marginalised groups.
 - . Developing training approaches which are designed to anticipate future needs and which seek to multiply the effects of investment in technology and improve its results, in terms of productivity and work organisation, particularly as regards Community Research and Technology Development Programmes. Actions in this regard will be designed to complement and reinforce those undertaken in the COMETT programme.
- e) Organising a series of supportive information activities:
- a number of high level demonstration conferences will be mounted within Member States or at Community level to highlight for a wider public major issues relating to technology and training ;
 - a number of European training seminars, specialised colloquia, interprojects exchange workshops and round tables will be set up with a view to pooling expertise and to strengthening links between actors in the programme;
 - the use of new technologies in information provision in training will be also furthered through support for Community cooperation between information providers.
3. Evaluation systems will be implemented for EUROTECNET II which will consist of two parts :
- continuous formative evaluation of the priority activities of the programme

- summative evaluation reports will be produced with a view to complementing the interim and final report on the programme required under Article 9 of the Decision.

4. The necessary technical assistance will be provided at Community level to underpin the activities undertaken under the EUROTECNET programme. Furthermore, specific provision will be made by the Commission for the animation and continuing evaluation of the EUROTECNET programme and for the dissemination through all the Community languages of experience arising out of it.

F I N A N C I A L R E C O R D

1. Budget Line and Title

- B 6342 and European Social Fund (see point 6)
- EUROTECNET II (Programme in the field of Vocational Training & Technological Change)

2. Legal Basis

- Council Resolution of 02/06/83 (OJ No C 166 of 25/06/83)
- Council Decision 89/ / /EEC of adopting the EUROTECNET II programme (OJ No).
- Article 128 of the Treaty

3. Classification of expenditure

- Non-compulsory expenditure
- Non-dissociated appropriations

4. Description

- The principal objectives of the EUROTECNET II programme are as follows:

- . to improve the capacity for initial and continuing training in the European Community to take account of technological changes and their impact on employment, work and qualifications ;
- . to assist in the design and development of future training provision, in order to take account of the implications of future technological developments for new and existing occupations and provide for the necessary new skills and qualifications required.

In particular the EUROTECNET II programme will be designed to complement and reinforce policies introduced in Member States by :

- a) promoting the use of innovative approaches by identifying within each Member State a number of relevant model demonstration projects and by setting up the linkages required for demonstration projects to contribute to innovation and cooperation within and between Member States ;
- b) strengthening cooperation between Member States on the exchange and transfer of methodologies and the joint development of innovative approaches and the improved contacts between training specialists in this field ;

- c) improving the capacity of Member States to maximise the benefits of their participation in the programme for their own initial and continuing training systems through helping to strengthen the necessary infrastructure in each Member State, and contributing to the better capacity of the initial and in-service training of trainers and ensuring the widespread dissemination of results from the programme ;
- d) making widely available and applicable throughout the Community the benefits of experience and good practice in the field of training for technological change ;
- e) undertaking the necessary research and analytical work in the field of new skills and qualifications to enable future provision for initial and continuing training to be adapted, and contributing to the flexibility of training systems through a stimulation of work on open and flexible learning approaches and other innovative methods identified during the course of the programme ;
- f) organising a series of supportive information activities designed to inform a wider public on initiatives relating to training and technological change, to stimulate the interaction of participants in the programme and to improve European co-operation between providers of information on vocational training.

5. Justification

The EUROTECNET programme responds to the need to ensure the adaptation of vocational training to technological change within the context of the internal market, through decisive action in the field of developing highly qualified human resources. The report on the first EUROTECNET programme (from 1985-1988) highlights the progress made through cooperation between Member States, and the work which remains to be done, particularly in identifying and developing areas of good practice, and disseminating these and other examples of technology training to interested parties throughout the Community.

6. Financial implications for operational appropriations:

- nature of expenditure and methods of calculation -

- 6.1 The appropriations necessary will form part of future budgets within the framework of the financial perspectives 1988-1992 agreed jointly by the three Institutions in June 1988 and their development.

The estimation of needs until 1992 established within the framework of the present financial forecasts for the years 1990 to 1992 amounts to 7.5 MECUs on budget line B-6642 with an additional amount, estimated at approximately 21.5 MECUs, to be financed under the European Social Fund within the relevant Community Support Framework of the Structural Funds. The means to be put at the disposal of the programme for the following two years will be examined in the light of the evolution of the financial forecasts.

6.2 The breakdown of the amount to be financed from budget line B-6342 is indicated below.

6.2.1 Strengthening the links between Member States :

- The setting up of a Community-wide clearing house of learning materials may be financed up to 100 % of eligible expenditure on budget line B-6342.
- Transnational study visits will be organised on behalf of the Commission by CEDEFOP, the cost of which will be considered within the annual budget of CEDEFOP.

The proposed expenditure for the duration of the programme is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992	Total
B 6342 (MECUs)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,3

6.2.2 Improving the capacity of Member States to maximise the benefits of their participation in EUROTECNET :

- The establishment of a relevant structure for dissemination and animation within each Member State : the Community may meet 50 % of this cost to an annual maximum of 60,000 ECUs per Member State.
- Development of model training of trainers actions in the Community languages.
- Publishing and distributing the activities and results of the programme in the Community languages.

The proposed expenditure over the duration of the programme is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992	Total
B 6342 (MECUs)	0.8	0.9	1.0	2.7

6.2.3 Organising a series of supportive information activities :

- a number of high level demonstration conferences will be mounted within Member States or at Community level to highlight for a wider public major issues relating to technology and training ;

- a number of European training seminars, specialised colloquia, interproject exchange workshops and round tables will be set up with a view to pooling expertise and strengthening links between actors in the programme
- the use of new technologies in information provision in training will be also furthered through support for Community cooperation between information providers

The proposed expenditure over the duration of the programme is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992	Total
B-6342 (MECUs)	0.4	0.6	1.0	2.0

6.2.4 Execution of the formative and summative evaluation of the programme

The proposed expenditure for the duration of the programme is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992	Total
B-6342 (MECUs)	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.25

6.2.5 For the technical assistance of the programme

The proposed expenditure over the duration of the programme is as follows :

	1990	1991	1992	Total
B-6342 (MECUs)	0.65	0.8	0.8	2.25

6.3 Incidence of appropriation necessary

Taking account of the need for a relatively smaller sum for the first year of 2.0 MECUs, it is considered that the annual appropriation for future years will gradually rise to 3.0 MECUs in 1992 on budget line B-6342.

The following breakdown identifies expenditure to be provided for on Budget line B-6342.

Commitment and payments appropriations B-6342

in MECUs	1990	1991	1992	Total
6.2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
6.2.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	2.7
6.2.3	0.4	0.6	1.0	2.0
6.2.4	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.25
6.2.5	0.65	0.8	0.8	2.25
Total B-6342	2.0	2.5	3.0	7.5

7. Implications for revenue

There are no implications for revenue.

8. Type of control

1. Financial control: by the services responsible in the Commission, in regard to the regularity of the expenditure and the implementation of the budget ;
2. Scientific and technical control: by the services responsible in the Commission, in particular by the Task Force on Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth assisted by the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training as appropriate.

9. Financial implications in terms of personnel
(Part A of the General Budget)

Personnel necessary from 1990 :

- . 2 A7/4 : Coordination and control of overall action programme implementation and monitoring of evaluation operations
- . 1 B
- . 2 C

This represents a cost for the Community (Part A of the Commission Budget) of 278,000 ECUs over a full year for the total personnel necessary as listed above.

On the basis of the same conditions prevailing in other Community programmes, fellows may be seconded from national authorities. Personnel requirements indicated above will be fulfilled either through internal redeployment or within the framework of the 1990 budgetary procedure.

10. Technical Assistance :

The implementation of the EUROTECNET programme will require specialist expertise in the field of vocational training and technological change in order to ensure the balanced development of the programme involving all Member States. The expertise required will in particular consist of :

- technical coordination of the networking arrangements between demonstration projects and of the animation and dissemination activities within Member States ;
- preparation of information material on the EUROTECNET programme for publication and contribution to information activities in all Member States including all the translation required for an operation involving nine languages ;
- continuing monitoring of the programme and of related developments in Member States ;
- coordination and execution of research and analytical work carried out in the programme ;
- technical assistance to the Commission regarding preparatory work to all Community-level meetings, conferences, seminars and round tables.

Assessment of impact on SMEs

Subject: Action Programme in the field of vocational training and technological change (EUROTECNET II)

1. Administrative constraints for enterprises

There are no administrative constraints governing the participation of SMEs in the EUROTECNET actions, since the procedures implemented for the Programme favour the participation of SMEs.

2. Advantages for enterprises

The nature and aims of the EUROTECNET programme are of particular relevance to SMEs. Direct involvement as part of a demonstration training project (training consortium) or by indirect involvement through a sector would have clear advantages for enterprises. Via such participation they would have access to all of the products of the programme (e.g. multimedia training materials, simulated and open training courses) and also be continuously updated on technological developments as they apply to SMEs and training. Enterprises would be in a position to take advantage of the benefits to be derived from the future technology training part of the programme, thereby becoming better prepared for all the ramifications of the Integrated Market.

3. Disadvantages for enterprises

No substantive disadvantages exist for enterprises ; participation will require an investment in time primarily, for which Community financial support will be forthcoming.

4. Effect on employment

The possible effects on employment can only be indirect insofar as, through or as a result of participation in EUROTECNET II projects, SMEs are able to enhance the skill level of their personnel in fields crucial for their development.

5. Consultation with the social partners

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Union of Confederation of Industry and Employers in Europe (UNICE) have been consulted on the future of EUROTECNET and have both expressed a very positive view on the Programme.

The Communication will also be submitted to the Economic and Social Committee, whose view on the previous phase was valuable in that it reflected the views of the social partners and of the economic sectors.

6. Alternative approaches

EUROTECNET II will be implemented taking into account the initiatives already begun at Community level in favour of SMEs, in particular within the framework of the follow-up to the Council resolution of 14.11.1986. Close articulation will be ensured with the different networks implemented for developing information transfer, stimulating innovation in delivery of training and promoting technology transfer through improved Human Resources Development policies and practices : DELTA, COMETT, SPRINT and PETRA.

UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON THE EUROTECNET PROGRAMME

08.12.1988

1. The Committee received with satisfaction the report presented on the activity carried out relating to the Resolution of 2 June 1983 and the work which had been done relating to new information technologies and vocational training under the EUROTECNET programme.
2. The Committee expressed its agreement on the guidelines presented by Commission departments on the continuation of the programme and its wish that a EUROTECNET II programme should follow EUROTECNET I.
3. The Committee stressed the need for a greater cooperation between the Member States in respect of the problems of vocational training relating to new technologies, the mastering of those technologies and the development of vocational training strategies.
In this context special efforts needed to be made with regard to small and medium-sized firms on the one hand and, on the other hand, those regions where the training infrastructure, particularly training in new technologies, was still underdeveloped.
4. The Committee stressed in particular that the guidelines for EUROTECNET II should respond to the following priorities :
 - * The results already achieved by the programme should be exploited to the full with a view to transferring and exploiting the training operations which had already received support, in particular by emphasizing the needs of small and medium-sized firms and the training of instructors.
 - * EUROTECNET II should put its emphasis on a number of strategic sectors and qualifications either in terms of retraining or new types of employment or preventive action aimed at coping with change. It would therefore be important that EUROTECNET II concentrates more on the specific needs of these sectors as regards skilled training, taking particular account of the need to step up equal opportunities for men and women and the needs of relatively unskilled workers who are victims or potential victims of the upheavals brought about by technological change.
 - * EUROTECNET II should have as one of its prime aims the development and transfer of the products of training. This process should concern the exchange and the transfer of training projects of an innovatory character both in respect of all those taking part in EUROTECNET itself and all concerned by training operations and the problems of training to cope with technological change.

- * It would be important that EUROTECNET II takes account of the opportunities provided by the new information and communications technologies, in particular multimedia training systems. Particular emphasis should be placed on training operations of a modular character, in particular as regards the training of instructors and the SMEs.
 - * It would be important to step up the interaction between EUROTECNET II and the other Community programmes, whether these be Community R and D programmes such as BRIIE, ESPRIT and RACE, Community operations relating to the transfer of technologies such as, for example, SPRINT, Community operations aimed at the SMEs and the other Community vocational training programmes or operations, in particular PETRA and COMETT.
 - * It would likewise be important to step up coordination at national level so that vocational training and occupational quarters in all the Member States may draw greater benefit from the implementation of EUROTECNET II.
5. The Committee was of the opinion that active participation by the two sides of industry in implementation of the programme should be ensured at both national and Community level by a prolongation of the joint opinion issued in March 1987 by the two sides of industry as part of the Val Duchesse social dialogue.
 6. The Committee underlined the need to provide for more active relations between EUROTECNET II and the guidelines for the structural funds, especially as regards Community support given to the innovatory operations backed by the European Social Fund.
 7. The Committee attached great importance to a continuing assessment and monitoring of the programme and called on the Commission to set up the necessary machinery when the programme was implemented.
 8. The Committee took the view that EUROTECNET II should be provided with resources commensurate with the programme's aims and objectives and the operations which the Commission proposed.

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