



ENGCARD project has received funding from the European Commission-Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities within the framework of the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006

PRESS RELEASE

Conference on European Professional Cards for facilitating mobility, 1 April 2008, Brussels

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FEANI, the European Federation of National Engineering Associations and EUROCADRES, the Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff have presented the results of the feasibility study of the project **ENGCARD – the European Engineering Professional Card** – a significant initiative to setting up a professional card for engineers (ENGCARD) and its portability to other professions in order to facilitate pan-European recognition of qualifications, to enhance mobility of professionals in the EU and worldwide and to contribute to the Lisbon strategy.

The recent conference on the European Professional Card was the final act of a 20 month feasibility study performed by FEANI together with EUROCADRES and financed by the EU Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

European Commissioner Vladimir Špidla , MEP Evelyne Gebhardt, MEP Ramona Nicole Mănescu and several senior officers from the European Commission : DG Internal Market - Mrs Pamela Brumter, DG Employment – Mrs Wallis Goelen and DG Education – Mr Carlo Scatoli, representatives from the professions as well as representatives of the study partners delivered speeches to a very participative international audience of about 175 people.

Commissioner Špidla expressed his sincere interest and even personal support in encouraging the concept of professional cards. MEP Evelyne Gebhardt considered professional cards to be an important instrument, since harmonization progress in the EU today is very modest. In essence, they both linked the existence of professional cards for engineers and other professions with a further improvement of the free movements of workers and services providers in the European Union.

Increased mobility will foster many levels of added value at European, national, company and individual level. Mr. Jacques Reignault from the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) also gave his positive view on the concepts presented.

Contributions from CEPLIS (Conseil Européen des Professions Libérales) and the EAPM (European Association of Personnel Managers) supported visions presented for the professional cards.

EAPM even went a step further, inviting the stakeholders to a challenge; if professional cards will be introduced, their organisation is available for arranging national events to support developments in recognition of qualifications and professional cards.

Presentations were also given on the European health card for doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives and the European ID card for lawyers, adding their experiences and knowledge for the future development of European professional cards.

Part of the ENGCARD feasibility study investigated portability of the concept to other professions. Important factors were to connect the formal competences with the practical ones, valuing both theoretical and practical experience, using a system of monitoring “on-the-job training”. To counter the notion that mobility sometimes is considered a threat, it was also proposed to put focus on the quality of mobility.

The central part was the presentation of the concept for the introduction of an European engineering professional card, presented in detail by FEANI at the beginning of the afternoon session.

It was concluded that any additional developments on the concept of professional cards would essentially need the full support of employer organisations and their affiliates throughout Europe.

The spotlight will now be put upon them, arguing that the findings of this feasibility study are too important to be ignored.

More detailed information on ENGCARD and on European professional Cards for facilitating mobility are available on [FEANI - Official Web Site](#) or [EUROCADRES - Official Web Site](#)

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About FEANI - The European Federation of National Engineering Associations

FEANI aisbl (registered in Belgium) is a not for profit European Federation founded in 1951. It unites today National Engineering Associations from 30 European countries. Through its network of more than 80 National Associations, FEANI represents the interests of approximately 3.5 million engineering professionals in Europe.

The goal of FEANI is to strive for a single voice for the engineering profession in Europe on strategic issues (Code of Conduct, European Institute of Technology, R&D framework programme, European Qualifications Framework, Draft Directives impacting the profession,...) in the EU and worldwide, and to affirm and develop the professional identity of engineers by enhancing the EU and worldwide recognition of their qualifications and facilitating their professional mobility.

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About EUROCADRES - The Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff

Professional and managerial staff take part in the building of Europe through the responsibilities they hold in companies and services, the role they play in society, their mobility and openness to international integration. Associated to the ETUC, EUROCADRES represents more than 5 million professionals and managers in membership throughout Europe, working in all branches of industry, both manufacturing and services and in the civil and public services.

As recognised social partner EUROCADRES participates actively at European level in social dialogue and collective bargaining.

EUROCADRES conducts surveys and studies, organizes exchanges of information and conferences, which facilitate the development of European perspective and model of management; puts forward proposals and intervenes in all issues relevant to professionals and managers: employment, fair conditions on mobility, recognition of qualifications and diplomas, education and life long learning, equal opportunities, responsible European management and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility).

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