



RI/AM-dm

2005-06-01

Dear President,
Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: 20th anniversary of the AER Eurodyssey programme – Besançon (Franche-Comté/F),
15th and 16th September 2005**

Invitation to

- **the Eurodyssey Forum,**
- **the meeting of Committee D (Culture, Education & Training, Youth),**
- **the celebration of the 20 years of Eurodyssey and**
- **the Conference on “Fostering vocational training and youth mobility – An investment in the future of Europe”**

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the AER Eurodyssey programme - the first European interregional programme aimed at developing youth vocational training and mobility in Europe - we take great pleasure in inviting you to the event that we organise in cooperation with the region of Franche-Comté on 15th and 16th September 2005 in Besançon (see attached programme for details).

In 1985, the former President of the Region of Franche-Comté, Edgar Faure initiated the Council of European Regions which, two years later, became the Assembly of European Regions. In this framework, he created at the same time a pilot scheme, "the European Youth Tour", which was later renamed "Eurodyssee". With this event we would also like to pay tribute to the forerunners of this European construction by youth exchanges.

Mobility programmes and projects, be they due to international, European or regional initiative, are key tools in order to assist young people in better managing their transition from school to work. They give them the opportunity to acquire and to increase their vocational skills and knowledge. They are also a means for personal development and the acquisition of experience. At a general level, for the regions, these mobility programmes create new prospects for the development of interregional cooperation in different fields.

Regional, national and European authorities as well as the business sector play an essential role in providing young people with an opportunity for professional and personal success, thus contributing to bridging the gap between education and employment. Therefore youth policies

must be reinforced and, as in the case of our conference, be placed in the centre of the debate in the Europe of the 21st century.

Keynote speeches from representatives of European institutions and regional governments and round tables involving, amongst others, researchers and representatives of socio-economic groups will provide a major opportunity for policy-makers and stakeholders to share ideas about the topic of "vocational integration of young people through European and international mobility" and the future of the related policies. Testimonials by different actors of this mobility will illustrate the statements. Our aim will be to provide an answer to the young people's main concerns by putting them at the centre of national and regional action.

Please find attached the general programme, detailed practical information and official registration form. The agendas for the Eurodyssey Forum and the Committee D meeting will be sent at a later stage.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the conference coincides with the International Music Festival Besançon-Franche-Comté. Due to the difficulties to find accommodation after 15th June, we recommend to book your hotel accommodation as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you in Besançon.

Yours faithfully,



Riccardo Illy
President of the AER
President of Friuli Venezia Giulia (I)



Raymond Forni
President of the Franche-Comté Region (F)

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