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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Conference on "Keeping Young People in Employment, Education and/or Training: Common Challenges - Shared Solutions"
(Bucharest, 10-11 March 2014)
- Information from the Romanian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Romanian delegation on the above subject, which has been included on the agenda under "Other Business" for the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 24 February 2014.

**Conference on *Keeping Young People in Employment, Education and/or Training:*
Common challenges - Shared Solutions
(Bucharest, 10-11 March 2014)**

The number of young people in need of employment, education or training is one of the indicators measuring the success of interventions within these fields.

Special focus should be put on young people who cannot access the labour market because of various reasons, mainly because they lack employment opportunities or skills required on the labour market, and are not involved in an educational or training programme (young people not in employment, education or training – NEETs).

Immediate response at EU level is thus compulsory. We should identify means for an enhanced cooperation and exchange of good practices in education, training and employment that can lead to efficient early public interventions for supporting the targeted young people. Several mechanisms were created at EU level, but new challenges arise in terms of defining concrete actions for implementing them.

In this context, the Romanian Government (Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly), in cooperation with the European Commission, will organise a Conference on “***Keeping Young People in Employment, Education and/or Training: Common challenges - Shared Solutions***”. The Conference will take place on **10 – 11 March 2014**, in **Bucharest**, with the aim to create effective learning partnerships for policy development in this area.

The Bucharest conference will bring together interested public authorities and international organisations, representative of academic and business sectors from EU Member States, EFTA, Western Balkans, Turkey, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as well as representatives from countries participating in the Union for the Mediterranean. This event is also part of the SEECP Romanian chairmanship in office 2013-2014.