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Welcome

On behalf of the Steering Committee of euken it is a great honour for me to welcome you to this, the 49th Conference of euken. The conference is dedicated to **University Lifelong Learning and the labour market in Europe - The contribution of continuing education and vocational education to the challenges of changing work and qualifications requirements**.

The fast-changing labour market requires efficient ways of up-skilling and re-skilling in the whole Europe. The conference deals with the question of which role euken as one important stakeholder of Vocational Education Training (VET) and Professional Higher Education (PHE) can play. The Conference will discuss the different European models of CE and VET as contributions for the challenges of the labour market. This topic is the top of the wave for the moment. It crosses LLL, adult learning, HE, VET, Teaching and training.

Germany is probably the best place to reflect, discuss, exchange experience on this topic. The system of vocational education is perhaps the most important component of the German model, and is still very prevalent in the German educational system. German Higher Education institutions (universities of applied sciences and universities) have a lot of experience in dual studies - a specific German model

Therefore, on behalf of euken, I would like to thank very much, the University Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz for hosting this conference, the President of this University, Professor Krausch and the authority. In particular, I would like to thank Dr Beate Hörr, Director of the Academic Continuing Education Centre of this university, and her team, the whole organising committee of the conference for the preparation. We all know that it requires a considerable amount of work.

I thank also the scientific committee of the conference, who read and commented over 30 papers and posters, which proves the interest in the subject.

I wish you many fruitful discussion during this conference. Please be imaginative!