

PRESENT AND FUTURE SITUATION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

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Footwear production is a manufacturing industry with some peculiar and specific characteristics. The products are fashion consumer goods that are a mix of human creativity and production phases but they should also fit a large variety of human feet, be as much as possible comfortable and be respectful of the environment. If the results of the creativity change following fashion trends, the production system has to adapt and transform coping with market and users' needs.

The presentation provides an overview of the European education in footwear sector, describing the learning pathways nowadays available for the shoe industry.

The speech presents the Master in Footwear Management and Technology as concrete answer to the time and knowledge needs of shoe industry employees. It is starting in February 2009 with a modular approach designed for people working already in the footwear sector or for people whom are new to the footwear technology and management but want to learn and explore the possibilities to contribute to this fascinating industry. The lessons cover the entire shoe life cycle and the student can decide the modules to be attended. The teachers are from centers of excellence all over Europe and the theoretical teaching is strictly linked with practical activity into the footwear industrial world.

The presenter is also co-author of the book "Mass Customization and Footwear: Myth, Salvation or Reality?" edited by Springer-Verlag.