

Welcoming words for the occasion of the EBC*L Champions League 2010



Dear participants of the EBC*L Champions League 2010,

Given the social development and environment in the 21st Century, it is vital to maintain our society's competitiveness. The requirements on everyone of us are becoming higher; capacities are becoming more and more important.

In its "2020 Strategy", the European Union has marked a clear goal: we need smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The fundament for this growth and to assure the quality of our life is a capaciously educated, competitive population. We therefore need best quality and equal educational opportunities for our children and youth in Austria. At the same time we need to actively encourage lifelong learning among all population groups.

Nowadays economic competence is the indispensable prerequisite for professional success and a fulfilled private life. Business knowledge is the premise to successfully participate in the economy - be it as employee or entrepreneur. Business competence is part of contemporary education.

The European Business Competence* Licence, EBC*L significantly contributes to the spread of this key competence. As a recognised educational standard it supports the core aim of lifelong learning and vocational training. Being active in more than 30 countries and the translation in 24 languages the European Business Competence* Licence, EBC*L also supports individual mobility.

I am particularly pleased the EBC*L initiative has emanated from Austria and Vienna hosts its international centre. Austria therefore plays a pioneer role concerning the spread of business competence and entrepreneurship. Those schools, where the EBC*L has been well established, have made an important contribution to that.

I wish all the participants of the EBC*L Champions League 2010 great success in the competition. You have already succeeded by proving business knowledge, motivation to study, strength of purpose and problem-solving competence by having passed the exam for the EBC*L certificate.

Dr. Claudia Schmied

Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture