AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE EDUCATION-QUALIFICATION COMPLEXES

Under the present conditions of scientific and technological revolution there is an increasing number of workers constantly needing training. It is indispensable that the greater part of those who have completed their course of study at secondary school should be involved in some form of qualification improvement immediately after they start work. The need to train large groups of workers for specific new types of production is becoming more and more frequent, and this is carried out through 're-preparation'. About 10 per cent of students leaving secondary school do not take up the profession they have studied, but train for a different job. In order to meet these demands of preparation, re-preparation and improvement of qualifications, it is most appropriate to use the joint efforts of existing educational institutions and of other establishments which could add to their efficiency.

This approach, whereby new structures of manpower training are based on those which already exist, takes into account the characteristics necessary to all educational structures, such as stability over a certain period of time and maintenance of traditions.

Structure and Aims

Education-Qualification Complexes (EQC) have been established in Bulgaria as a form of association of secondary schools and higher education institutes, enterprises and scientific departments for the preparation, re-preparation and upgrading of qualifica-
tions of personnel. The main aim of the EQC is to keep training in constant conformity with the everyday needs of enterprises. They are founded on the basis of contracts which take into account the mutual interests of manpower users, personnel trainers and students. There is then an increasing dialogue between all types of educational institutions and manpower users.¹

There are nine EQC currently functioning in Sofia:
- EQC ‘Metallurgist’
- EQC of complex automation of engineering production
- EQC of transport, agriculture and building techniques
- EQC of agriculture
- EQC ‘Economist’
- EQC of the biotechnological and chemical industry
- EQC ‘Informator’
- EQC of information and communication systems
- EQC of urban transport facilities

The total number of participants in these EQC is as follows: 23 schools, 21 institutes and scientific departments, four higher education institutes with individual faculties, and 50 enterprises.² The number involved in each EQC varies: for instance in the EQC of transport, agriculture and building techniques the following members take part:

- Two higher institutes: The Higher Institute of Engineering and Electrotechnics and the Higher Institute of Economics
- Four specialized schools: The College of Engineering and Electrotechnics, The College of Chemical Industry and Biotechnologies, The College of Energetics, The College of Electrotechnics
- One interschool centre of Labour Training and Vocational Orientation
- One scientific institute, ‘Balkancarprogress’
- Eight engineering plants

The EQC of information and communication systems (INCOMS) involves:
- Four secondary schools: The ‘A.S. Popov’ College of Low Current Electrotechnics, a College of Electronics, a College of Mechanotechnics, a Unified Secondary Polytechnical School of Electronics
- One higher education institute: the Higher Institute of Engineering and Electronics
- The enterprises of the ‘INCOMS’ Association

The principal activities of EQCs are the preparation of management and workers in secondary, college and higher education according to a nomenclature confirmed by the Ministry of Public Education; improvement of the education and qualifications of management and workers; prequalification of all types of personnel; study and forecast of the needs of management and workers; continual revision of the syllabi for preparation and qualification improvement; development and improvement of the organization of the educational process and the necessary equipment; provision of teachers and trainers and improvement of their qualifications.