

The EfVET conference in Cardiff 22 – 25 October 2003

European Vocational Qualifications in a New Europe

New perspectives and challenges for Colleges

Conference participants can get a CD-ROM with all photos from the conference in original quality. To get the CD-ROM please e.mail ka@ots.dk or webmaster@efvet.org



The conference was opened by Shirley Arayan

Conference Theme

The Conference theme focuses on two primary developments which will effect Vocational Education and Training throughout Europe in the near future. These are:

- a) The integration of the Candidate countries in to an expanded Europe – 1 May 2004
- b) The challenges and opportunities for VET institutions arising from the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration (November 2002)

The Conference will address these key issues through a series of Keynote speakers and 'Themed' workshops.

Rationale of the Conference

The European Union will expand dramatically in the next few years welcoming the 10 new Candidate countries by the end of 2004 and a further phase to follow embracing new member states by 2007. The challenges for all of us working in the Vocational Education and Training sector is to harness the experience and opportunities this inevitably presents. The drive to create a Europe and learning with the shift toward a knowledge society will become increasingly important if we are to ensure our common European society grows and prospers. From a strategic perspective we cannot afford to emphasise our own national challenges – we need to embrace a new Europe and provide learners – both young and mature – with the skills, knowledge and opportunity afforded though increased mobility. This requires a new drive for collaboration and partnership.

The Copenhagen Declaration for the first time has made significant commitment to strengthening the drive toward a European VET framework which will have increasing impact on strategic developments at National and institutional level in the coming years. Conference will explore the implications and review approaches currently in progress to embrace the objectives set out at Copenhagen

Workshops:

These took the form of discussion forums Chaired by a facilitator on the following sub themes:

- 1) Opportunities afforded through collaboration and partnership with Candidate and Pre Accession Countries.



- 2) Embedding European tools to support and add value to VET such as Europass and the European Curriculum Vitae



- 3) Strategic challenges facing VET institutions geared to meet the needs of Enterprises in a New Europe.



- 4) How to resource and finance European activities in VET institutions.



During the workshops there were several examples of "Best practice to meet strategic challenges".

Roundtables

Because we aim to create as many possibilities for members to share experiences, products and ideas, we offered the possibility to participate in a so-called 'round table session'.



Programme:

Thursday 23 October 2003

09.00 Opening session

Welcome and introduction speeches:

Opening address: Rhodri Morgan, AM, First Minister, National Assembly for Wales



Below you find some key Welsh Assembly Government documents about Lifelong Learning:

The Learning Country

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subieducationtraining/content/learningcountry/tlc-contents-e.htm>

14-19 Pathways

[http://www.wales.gov.uk/subieducationtraining/content/Consultation/learning/LearningCountry\(E\).pdf](http://www.wales.gov.uk/subieducationtraining/content/Consultation/learning/LearningCountry(E).pdf)

ETAG - Education and Training Action Plan

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subieducationtraining/content/guidance/etap/etage.pdf>

The National Council - ELWa's Planning and Funding Consultation

<http://www.elwa.org.uk/elwaweb/elwa.aspx?pageid=1404>

09.20 Hans F. van Aalst, President of EFVET

Theme of the conference

Keynote speaker: Hans F. van Aalst, President of EFVET



State of the Nation speech – what EfVET is doing at strategic level in relation to EU
VET Policy

10.00 Keynote speaker

Jane Davidson AM,
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes

National Assembly for Wales



Political and Policy Statement on the Theme directly related to how Wales is addressing key VET Initiatives emanating from the EU

14.00 Keynote speaker:

Representative for Mrs Vivian Reding - Mr Sergio Corti



"The development of tools to support European Vocational Qualifications within a Single Transparency Framework"

Friday 24 October 2003

08.30 Annual General Meeting (members of EFVET)



10.00 Refreshment break

10.30 Keynote speaker:



Helmut Zelloth, Country Manager for Poland, Estonia and Latvia, European Training Foundation



11.10 Keynote speaker:

Mr Victor Demin, President of the All-Russian Association of VET Directors – Russian Federation



11.30 Round table session

12.45 Lunch

14.15 Keynote speaker:

Dr Paul Gerhardt, Acting Controller for Learning, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

"The challenges facing learning - an interactive perspective"



15.00 Refreshment break

15.30 Round table session

17.15 Networking time

20.00 Conference Dinner and Dance: The Angel Hotel Conference Centre

Saturday 25 October 2003 - The Rearden Theatre, National Museum and Art Gallery

09.30 Keynote Speaker

Steve Bainbridge / Julie Murray of CEDEFOP – Were supposed to talk on "EU enlargement and the Lisbon strategy for 2010", launch of the second report on vocational education and training policy in Europe. Unfortunately due to unforeseen events they could not come. Hans van Aalst, the EfVET president made a short presentation using slides form the CEDEFOP PowerPoint presentation

10.00 "Perspective on conference theme" Chair: Hans van Aalst

11.00 Conclusions and recommendations of the conference

Dr John Graystone, Chief Executive, Fforwm, Wales

11.20 Refreshment break

11.45 Closing session by the President of EFVET

Introduction 13th Annual International Conference in 2004 - Italy

12.30 – 16.00 Cultural excursion to Museum of Welsh Life including lunch

Conference End