



MINUTES EFVET STEERING COMMITTEE

Brussels, 28 January 2006

Present:

Hans van Aalst; Frans Schneider, Leif Haar, Peter Hodgson, Leila Lahti, Jos Leenhouts, Kent Andersen, Geoff Scaplehorn, Stefano Tirati, Larry Kavanagh, Stelios Mavromoustakos, Louise Rosthoj, Birgitta Johansson, Rasa Zygmantaite and Mariàn de Villanueva

Chairman: Peter Hodgson

PH welcomed Rasa Zygmantaite as National rep of Lithuania on behalf of the SC members

1. Apologies for absence

Birgit Hook, Alessandra Marinheiro and Tibor Dori.

No news from Haralambos Loukissas (OEEK, Greece)

2. Minutes of the last meeting (7th September 2005)

Approved.

3. Collaboration agreement with EVTA

Hans van Aalst, Frans Schneider and Peter Hodgson have met with EVTA (Jonathan Eden and Tomasso Grimaldi) to formalise the Collaboration Agreement between the 2 networks and in addition explored the position of EVTA and EFVET within the EUCIS (European Civil society Platform for Lifelong Learning). Areas of joint interest were expressed covering - Project dissemination processes, sharing good practices, promotion and improvement of Europass, E-magazine (EVTA)- sharing of information and distribution of each networks newsletters (EFVET).

The Commission has several data bases of good practice but have inadequate mechanisms to disseminate. EFVET and EVTA jointly propose to collaborate with CEDEFOP to find a more effective process.

EFVET will meet again with EVTA in three months time.

A number of SC members expressed interest in contributing to this collaboration process with EVTA , especially in relation to Europass: these included **Leif Haar, Stefano Tirati, Birgitta Johansson, Jos Leenhouts and Geoff Scaplehorn.**

EVTA will identify representatives to work with EfVET on these matters. There will be a document indicating the people who are going to be involved to establish the relation. Leif Haar suggested to have a formal paper about the process of the collaboration among the two organizations.

4. EUCIS LLL Platform

Hans van Aalst and Peter Hodgson have met Jan Figel and his staff in Paris. on his visit to the Salon de l'education in Paris , representing EfVET at the Conference organised by EUCIS (European Civil society



Platform for Lifelong Learning). EfvET was part of the delegation of Presidents and Officers of EUCIS Founding networks (EfvET, EVTA, EAEA, Euro WEA and Solidar). The primary purpose of the meeting was to meet the Commissioner for Education, Culture and Multilingualism Jan Figel and the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for LLL Mr Guy Bono, to discuss the role of EUCIS and promote further dialogue with the Commission on LLL from a Civil Society perspective. Hans van Aalst outlined the focus of the discussions and explained how valuable it was to be a key member of EUCIS – one of the strands of activity necessary to further our Strategic objectives and relationships with the Commission.

Peter Hodgson explained he had taken the opportunity to invite Jan Figel to address the next Conference to be held in Cyprus in 2006

5. EQF Consultation

Geoff Scaplehorn said that in February the EC was holding a consultation meeting to discuss EQF. EfvET had been invited to attend and also invited to respond in writing offering an EfvET perspective on EQF. Geof explained he had drafted a response paper to be presented to the Commission on behalf of EfvET.

Pia Devenijns of The Netherlands had been nominated by the BVE-Raad to attend and already booked the single place reserved for EfvET. Concern was expressed that the representative should ensure they represent EfvET and not just a National organisation. It was agreed to ask Tibor Dori to attend as well on behalf of EfvET if an additional place could be secured. The Steering Committee reiterated that in future invitations to EfvET to key events should be cleared with the SC or ET to ensure representatives can offer an EfvET wide perspective and as such would need briefing. Finally wherever this occurs – the representative would be required to prepare a report on the event, its outcomes / findings etc to be presented to the SC.

6. Update on the integrated LLL group

Jos Leenhouts described the work of the group. The emphasis was to seek ways to reduce the bureaucracy, especially relating to mobility projects

The group had suggested the Creation of an accessible website for projects. A call for tender to develop this appears to have been made.

EfvET Steering Committee suggested putting the role of National Agencies in such bureaucracy on the agenda. **Jos Leenhouts will discuss this in the EfvET NI meeting: how to possibly handle this issue.**

7. Conference updated

Stelios Mavromoustakos provided a copy of the draft programme for Cyprus. A brief discussion took place regarding the programme and budget preparations. A number of suggestions were made for the Conference team to discuss. It was noted that the Conference team would meet after the SC meeting.

The Budapest Conference 2005: Frans explained that he was still chasing late payments and could not therefore finalise the Conference accounts but explained he expected the Conference would bring in a small



surplus. The evaluation feedback was very positive with the exception of comments relating to accommodation and food.

8. Financial updated

Frans Schneider provided the bank information and the budgets of the projects in which EFVET is involved. The final accounts of the last Conference will be sent later.

Frans Schneider reported on his negotiations with our accountants, BDO CampsObers, after the remarks made at the AGM of 2005 about the overspending of the budget of this firm every year. In 2004 they charged us nearly 50 % more than was budgeted. He stopped all payments of the invoices for 2005, since there is a threat of a charge for that year which will be about 100 % more than is budgeted.

If the negotiations are not successful we will take up Leif Haar's offer to take the accounts to the accountancy firm of his college in Denmark, which happens to be also BDO CampsObers.

9. Portfolio. Membership issues

Hans van Aalst reported that the Portfolio discussions of recent months were welcomed and he would be hope we could finalise the re-alignment of portfolios to meet EfVET strategic objectives soon.

Central office: **Frans Schneider and Peter Hodgson will send a paper before the 31st of March.** This paper will be discussed during the next Steering Committee.

Web site: the next Newsletter will have a questionnaire to seek member's views of the Website. Leif Haar and Kent Andersen will restructure the site. Stefano Tirati suggested having some space for national information. The brochure of EFVET: Peter Hodgson is working on with information about the projects, as dissemination.

10. Letter from AoC and BVE-Raad

Jos Leenhouts was asked to explain the joint letter outlining BVE-Raad and AoC's views on the future structure and direction of EfVET. Members of the SC expressed their concern of the tone of the letter, whilst recognising some of the constructive aspects of EfVET in its strategic role.

The SC decided this was a matter for the Policy Group to be chaired by Hans van Aalst with Geoff Scaplehorn, Jos Leenhouts, Louise Rosthoj and the Finnish representative. It was agreed that Hans van Aalst will answer the letter and will invite them to meet with the Policy Group at a convenient time in the coming weeks.

11. Any other business

Leila informed that the IVETA's yearly International conference is going to be next August in Moscow.

12. Date of the next meetings

Executive Team: Brussels, 16th June 2006

Steering Committee: Brussels, 17 June 2006 at 09.00 h