

EFVET Newsletter

June 2007

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Message from the President (June 2007)

Welcome

Welcome to this June/July edition of our EfvET newsletter. I hope you get chance to read this before your summer break – those lucky enough to get one and trust you will find the contents of interest.

Before highlighting a few key aspects of our activities I would like to welcome our new members to the EfvET Network – recently a number of new members from Sweden, UK and Lithuania have joined us and this is a very pleasing development. Welcome to you all and we trust you will find the network a stimulating environment to share good practice, develop collaborative ventures and also assist EfvET in its contribution to the Education and Training debate within the member states. Only by working together can we seek to influence European VET and Lifelong Learning Policy for the benefit of learners.

In recent weeks, EfvET has been invited to participate, and in deed lead through key note presentations, in two important European Transnational conferences. One in Sweden, where Stelios our Vice President took the lead and a second at the invitation of the Basque government, led by our Past President Hans van Aalst. Both conferences focussed on the need for flexibility and change in VET given the challenges to meet the aging of our populations – a situation facing us all. This issue is covered elsewhere in this newsletter but I draw your attention to the findings of both events. In a few weeks these can be found on our website under news items.

EfvET has also been invited to assist the Commission on new initiatives seeking to modernise learning and through EUCIS- LLL Platform represent an Education and Training perspective from Civil Society. On 5th July EUCIS is holding a public hearing – to which all members are welcome - to discuss some of the wider issues so as to build a common position – the event is entitled:
14h00-17h00 : Public Hearing « European education systems confronted with the challenges of the 21st century »

European Economic and Social Committee

74, rue de Trèves

B-1040 Brussels

Metro : Trone (line 2) or Maalbeek (line 1A and 1B)

To register a place please contact myself on president@efvet.org

EfVET Working groups

As mentioned in previous newsletters – EfVET is seeking to harness ‘experts’ from our membership to work toward key position statements on policies relating to the 4 key strands within EfVET mission. Again the details of how to join these groups is part of this newsletter and available via our website. I do encourage those who are able to offer their time and energies to this end to come forward and participate. Your contact for this would be Stefano Tirati – stefano@efvet.org

Finally – if you have not already done so, I would urge you to register for our 16th International Conference to be held in Tours, France 24-27 October 2007. This I know will be an excellent opportunity to further the development of EfVET, network with partners and share new developments. You can register on-line on www.efvet.org/conferences. I hope to see you there.

I would like to wish you all a relaxing and warm summer break and wish you well. I look forward to meeting most if not all at our Conference.

Warm regards
Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

EfVET 2007 Conference in France

The 16th EfVET Annual International Conference will be held in Tours from:
24 till 27 October 2007.

Tours is within easy reach from the airports of Paris and Brussels via a high speed train connection (TGV), the journey Paris-Tours takes about 55 minutes, Brussels-Tours about 3 h 30 minutes. It is a very old and beautiful University city along the river Loire.

The conference venue is the **Hotel de L’Univers**, (www.hotel-univers.fr) a five star hotel right in the centre of Tours and only about a 6 minute walk from the station.

Theme/Title: VET - Meeting the challenge: Breaking the mould

Rationale:

Vocational education/training, which, for many years, has been the object of action at European level, can and should become an even more powerful instrument for social, economic, as well as cultural policy. The intensification of international competition, new technology and products, changes in division of labour within Europe and the European labour-market are all issues linked to the above. Indeed, the Education and Training 2010 agenda sees it as the key challenge for Member States.

Therefore, can the perception of VET and Lifelong Learning be turned around? What strengths can our VET and LLL systems offer in the 21st Century?

Challenges to be met:

Flexibility for individual learner needs
Adaptability in meeting the specific needs of learners with disadvantage and / or disabilities
Innovation and creativity
Transferability of skills and competences,
Skill training vs. fit for employment training
Improving the overall profile of Vocational Education
Labour market and innovative VET environment
Key competencies
European standard for VET
Relevance of education as an enterprise

These are some of the issues to be explored at this years annual Conference.

The complete programme is attached on this file.



Conference in
France Programme..

Frans Schneider [<mailto:frans.schneider@efvet.org>]

Launching EfVET Working Groups

Dear EfVET member,

Following the common decisions and the Action Plan discussed within the AGM at the Cyprus Conference, we are now circulating, among EfVET members, the invitation to establish a number of working groups focused on different thematic areas.

This initiative is aimed at creating the possibilities and the conditions for EfVET members to play a more active role, both at political and operational level, and thus improve the overall impact and effectiveness of our network organisation.

The Working Groups would have the following aims:



Creating a knowledge base within a dedicated section of the EfVET web site about the specific policy area (i.e. posting documents, links, resources, news about initiatives such as conferences, projects, etc.)

- Serve as contact point to other EfVET members interested in the specific policy field
- Assume a pro-active role by promoting initiatives, such as conferences and/or projects
- Making EfVET visible at European initiatives / conferences in the field

In our views, the activities promoted by these Working Groups are closely connected with the Policy Group, whose aim is to develop, also by consulting EfVET members, a number of position papers on different key issues of the European debate on VET.



In this perspective, joint efforts would ensure that EfVET views, expressed within our position papers, would be well-known among EfVET members and shared with relevant stakeholders at European as well as National Level.

As you might remember, in November and December 2006 we have carried out a preliminary consultation on Mobility among EfVET members, resulting in a concise position paper which has been communicated to the relevant Directorate General of the European Commission.

We would like to pursue and improve the work done by establishing a number of Working Groups each focusing on a different policy area. If you wish to join one of this Working Groups or you need any further information, do not hesitate to get in touch with each contact person:

- Mobility Stefano Tirati – stefano@cscs.it
- Equal Opportunities Stelios Mavromoustakos – mavromoustakos.s@intercollege.ac.cy
- Transparency Geoff Scaplehorn – Geoff@acer.ac.uk
- Students Raimo Sivonen – raimo.sivonen@kao.fi

We would be pleased if you could send us your expression of interest by July 13th.

As we are just starting this process, we would need to ask to newly appointed Working Groups members to dedicate their first energies and creativity to structure and organize their own goals and actions.

As resources are limited, our idea is to exploit web based cooperation tools, in order to minimize travelling while ensuring good and flexible communication channels.

We count on your cooperation and enthusiasm.

Stefano Tirati

"Cityguiding in an experience economy "

Final conference Leonardo da Vinci City Guides project

Friday 23 November 2007

Zwolle, the Netherlands

We live in an experience economy. Today's consumer wants to experience, sense and feel something. He wants to be surprised and stimulated.

How do you ensure that a city trip in this experience economy turns into an experience for the tourist? How do you tailor a guided tour to your target group these days? Does a "normal" guided tour still suffice, or does the consumer demand more and something different? What is the role of the city guide in new stepping, skating, sailing, walking and cycling tours? And how does the "City Guides" project anticipate **this? All these questions will be answered during the final conference of the Leonardo da Vinci "City Guides" project.**

City Guides project

The "City Guides" project aims to develop and design practical training for the Tourist Guides who work as City Guides. This is to be achieved through increasing the emphasis on knowledge, development of skills, improving the quality of presentation and providing guides with more information on local history, architecture, local fortifications, the region, attitudes, etc.

A high degree of professionalised education/training will result in an increase in the number of tourists, improve the quality of guiding and stimulate tourist business as a whole, including the tourist labour market. Consequently, this will directly influence the local economic situation.

Co-operation

As the conditions between partner countries, cities and vocational training centres vary a great deal, the project stimulates an environment of co-operation between local government, local vocational colleges and local organisations which protect local cultural heritage. The development of this relationship is vital since after all, the City Guide can be considered "*a showpiece*" of the city he or she represents.

Encouragement of local co-operation on the one hand and the provision of basic training for City Guides on the other will form the basis for further development of the presentation, protection and improvement of local cultural heritage. The project simulates the development of qualified cityguides, especially in the smaller cities and representing their city as real "ambassadors".

But this is not enough for a historical city such as Zwolle. To involve the inhabitants, interest people, stimulate preservation, restoration, and reconstruction activities in line with the history a city, requires local cooperation from different organisations. Together they will be able to preserve and maintain the cultural-historical character of the city or object. This will also be presented and discussed during the conference.

What is the target audience of this conference?

The conference is intended for:

- Anyone who, from a job point of view, feels an affinity with the tourist-recreational sector in general, and "guiding" and guide training in particular.
- Organisations and persons who are interested in showing cultural heritage to visitors.
- Organisations and persons who are active in the city marketing sector.

This conference offers participants the opportunity to learn more about each other and each other's activities, and to show each other how to promote the city. Participants will gain an insight into how this is done in other European countries. What ideas do people have, what are the restrictions or facilities people are faced with, what can we learn from each other and how can this lead to new initiatives?

When and where is the conference held?

The final conference will be held at ROC Landstede in Zwolle, on Friday 23 November 2007. We also offer you and your colleagues the chance of participating in a number of the aforementioned activities and tours the next day.

Registration

Interested in participation? Visit www.city-guides.nl and click 'conference' to receive a registration form. You will receive a final invitation with a programme and registration form in due course. Please note the date in your diary now.

Further information

The working language of the conference will be English (no interpretation will be provided).

For further information please visit the website www.city-guides.nl or contact info@city-guides.nl

The following organisations are partner in the "City Guides" project

- Landstede Onderwijsgroep, Zwolle, The Netherlands (contractor)
- European Educative Projects BV, Vught, The Netherlands (coordinator)
- EFVET – European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Brussels, Belgium
- St. Cyril and St. Methodius University, Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria
- Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Fédération Européenne des Associations de Guides Touristiques (FEG), Paris, France
- KEK KRONOS, Psahna Evia, Greece
- NHTV, Breda, The Netherlands
- VVV Kampen-Zwolle-Overijssels Vechtdal, Zwolle, The Netherlands
- Norton Radstock College, Radstock near Bath, United Kingdom

Frans Schneider [<mailto:frans.schneider@efvet.org>]



Conference Announcement & Call for Proposals

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS:

2008 World Congress and International Community and FET College Conference

"DEVELOPING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS"

February 18-20, 2008

HOSTED BY

- Bronx Community College

SPONSORED BY

- International Association of Community and Further Education Colleges
- World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics

CO-SPONSORED BY

- American Association of Community Colleges
- League for Innovation in the Community College
- City University of New York

CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Roosevelt Hotel
Madison Avenue at 45th Street
New York City, New York

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Bronx Community College, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the world's premier international associations for community, technical, and further education colleges are pleased to announce the 2008 "Developing Global Partnerships" conference in New York City February 18-20.

Please note that the deadline for presentation proposals and other activities relevant to conference themes is **September 30, 2007**. Prospective presenters should submit a proposal of not more than 300 words outlining how they will use the 60-minute time slot for the presentation. The proposal should include the title, name of the presenter(s), affiliation, mailing address, and contact number(s). Presenters are asked to indicate the category into which their proposals fall. Presenters and speakers must pay all registration and related conference fees. Letters of invitation will be provided for those who request them.

CONFERENCE THEMES

While the conference will be run under the theme "Developing Global Partnerships," the following subthemes also have been adopted.

Theme 1: Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Examples of topics related to this theme:

- Re-skilling and up-skilling for a changing economy
- Developing paths for accessibility and success for disadvantaged students
- Developing industry and college partnerships

Theme 2: Global Partnerships for Technical Training

Examples of topics related to this theme:

- Curricula and programs development
- Innovation, research, and technology transfer
- Partnerships for the development of community and further education

Theme 3: Global Partnerships for Student and Faculty Development

Examples of topics related to this theme:

- Developing partnerships for an improved curriculum
- Using e-learning effectively for faculty development
- Preparing students for a globalized economy
- Developing student and/or faculty exchanges
- Developing language skills

DEADLINES

September 30, 2007Proposals received
October 31, 2007 ...Notification of acceptance of proposal

Proposals should be sent to the following address:

Allen G. Edwards, President
Mississippi State Technical Community College
10915 Hardin Valley Road
P.O. Box 22990
Knoxville, Tennessee 37933-0990

For more information: (865) 694-6616 or president@psbcc.edu

BACKGROUND

This conference is being jointly planned by Bronx Community College, the American Association of Community Colleges, the International Association of Colleges, and the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics. The IAC and the World Federation have successfully organized conferences in Canada, the Netherlands, Great Britain, South Africa, and the U.S. This conference is designed to provide opportunities for developing partnerships with colleagues and colleges from around the world.

CONFERENCE FEE

Fee is \$495 (USD).

CONFERENCE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The conference's official language is English.

Adult Education and Intercultural dialogue

Dear all,

I am very pleased to confirm that EUCIS-LLL will organise a contact seminar in partnership with the French Agency for the Education & Training Programme :

"Adult Education and Intercultural dialogue"
5th - 9th December 2007
TOULOUSE, FRANCE

Please note that the **grants to come to the seminar will be opened to a limited number of participants** from each country (covers travel, accomodation and restauration). We already know that the following agencies have booked some places :

Denmark (3)
Germany (3)
Hungary (1)
Portugal (3)
Greece (3)
Norway (3)
Ireland (3)
Belgium/ French Community (BEF)
UK (3)
Sweden (3)
Slovakia (3)
Turkey (3)
Czech Republic (2)

We will diffuse the final programme in September to all the national agencies, by then I guess the other agencies will also confirm their participation. The deadline for applying should be around the end of September.

Please tell your members to contact their national agencies as soon as possible to say that they are members of EUCIS-LLL and would like to participate in this seminar (even though it is not advertised yet on their websites).

The goal of this seminar is to build new partnerships between our member organisations "on the field" in the Grundtvig programme on adult education. It will **not be a "classical seminar"** but really a practical encounter to prepare projects and application forms in the Grundtvig programme. The idea is to have :

Day one

Morning : a general presentation of the Grundtvig programme and of the place of intercultural dialogue in adult education with experts

Afternoon : working groups on different topics : the participants are invited to present their structures and interests and to gather into small groups (5-6) around a common project / idea / interest

Day two

All day : working groups will build a common project and then work on the application forms with the assistance of the national agencies experts

Day three

General presentation of the results of the workshops and synthesis of the meeting.

This programme will of course be detailed and will be punctuated with cultural and “breaking the ice” activities. Generally, these meetings are very positive in terms of new partnerships and to be successful in presenting Grundtvig projects.

This seminar is also very important to reach one of the goals of our platform to bridge the gap between the different sectors of education and training. Indeed, it is important that the synergies that emerge from our cooperation at European level also becomes a reality at national, regional and local levels.

Audrey Frith
Coordinator
EUCIS-LLL Platform
+33 1 43 58 97 96
afirth@lalligue.org



EuroSkills 2008

EuroSkills 2008 aims to create a new platform for the promotion of the skilled workforce, and skills and vocational education in Europe. EuroSkills 2008 as an event will contribute in raising the status of vocational education and craftsmanship in Europe on a strategic basis. Thereafter the event will be organised every two years by a European Member State, alternating with WorldSkills. EuroSkills 2008 will take place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Challenging Skills Competitions

Organising a series of skills competitions - from local to regional, national to international - gives young candidates the opportunity to get involved in competitions at an early stage. At the same time, it combines individual initiatives from educational institutions and industries involved in the promotion of skills and vocational education.

Against this background, hundreds of talented students, apprentices, and young experienced workers will show their skills from the 18th-20th September at EuroSkills 2008. This new exciting event, held at the Ahoy' venue in Rotterdam (The Netherlands), will bring together all parties involved in vocational education, the skilled workforce and industry in Europe. EuroSkills 2008 will deliver a new concept: skills competitions, demonstrations and a conference program.

EuroSkills 2008 is supported, both politically and financially, by the European Commission and national governments. The event incorporates the objectives of the Copenhagen process and the goals of the Maastricht Communiqué (2004). As a result, EuroSkills will be integrated in the EC Programme for Life Long Learning, especially the Leonardo da Vinci activities.

EuroSkills 2008 in brief

- 18th-20th September 2008
- Ahoy' Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- exhibition floor 35.000 m²
- expandable to 50.000m²
- promotion of the skilled workforce and vocational education by means of competitions, demonstrations and an extended communication program
- conference program on vocational education, skills development and partnership between education and industry
- participants originate from all European countries (EU and non-EU)
- 30 - 40 professions from nine trade sectors
- new formats for team competitions and demonstrations, and for audience interaction preparatory work executed by the Development Workgroup representing 15-20 European countries
- communication program: bimonthly newsletter, information meetings and website www.euroskills2008.nl
- advertising and PR campaign for media coverage in Europe

Dutch Patrons

Mr. Drs. L.M.L.H.A. Hermans – President MKB Nederland
Former Minister of Education, Culture and Science
Ms. A.M. Vliegenthart – Chairman MBO Council
Former Secretary of state on Social Healthcare & Sport
Ms. Mr. P. Swenker – Chairman COLO
Ms. Drs. A.M. Jongerius – Chairman FNV
Mr. Drs. F.J. Paas – Chairman CNV
Mr. C. Cornielje – Chairman AOC Council

Turning Back the Clock: The Rebirth of Ageing Workers

Summary of presentation given at the *Competence 50+ 2007* Conference
Göteborg June 18-20, 2007



Competence 50+
Conference Presenta

Dr. Stylianos Mavromoustakos –
Vice President of EfvET



JOIN DEBATE on PROJECT “Radio Web Europe”

www.radiowebeurope.eu

TWO MEMBERS OF THE EfvET participate in this European initiative

In the framework of Plan D1 for “Democracy, Dialogue and Debate”, the Commission – DG Communication launched in March 2006 a Call for Proposals² - DG COMM A2-1/2006 - in order to support pan-European projects carried out by non-profit civil society organisations aiming at encouraging and promoting dialogue and debate among citizens on EU issues.

Radio Web Europe, one of the initiatives selected by the Commission, has been presented by a partnership of 8 organisations from 7 Member States: CENASCA CISL (IT), co-ordinator of the Project; CABA (PT); **CECE (ES)**; CESFOR (IT); **MPRC (LT)**; ProjectOffice (AT); Townfield Training (UK); UHM (MT). The project aims at involving young people and promoting their participation in the debate on the future of Europe.

Radio Web Europe started in December 2006 and it will end on 31st December 2007. Its implementation is structured in the following 4 actions:

¹ Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate (13 October 2005)

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/wallstrom/pdf/communication_planD_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

- a) **Thematic Focus Groups**, addressed to young citizens in order to stimulate their participation in the debate as representatives of the "European citizenship" and to read the needs of information of young people about European issues (2 Focus Groups each country partner);
- b) **Multimedia website** www.radiowebeurope.eu that allows real youth participation in the debate about the European issues in web streaming with on line contents (Interviews, Opinions, Analysis, Surveys) or live contents (chat, directed web, etc.). Participants will be able not only to view and download audio/video contents, but also to upload their own multimedia contributions. The contents will be realized in order to allow audio/video podcasting in particular of the contents produced by non-profit civil society organisations.
- c) **Workshops**, organized to encourage and promote youth debates on European topics as provided by the European Commission's Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate (2 workshops each country partner)
- d) **Final transnational Conference**, to be held in December 2007, that represents an occasion to share experiences among the 7 countries involved in the project.

The Project's principal objective is to connect, at different territorial levels, civil society to responsables for policies, experiencing new ways of involvement of European young people and non-profit civil society organisations. Radio Web Europe represents also a way of integrating the debate taking place on "Debate Europe".

Info:

info@radiowebeurope.eu

Rasa Zygmantaite

Projects and EfvET

EfvET as a dissemination partner is delighted with the progress of the following projects. These projects have developed new vocational training programmes aimed at SME's and can be transferable to any member state with a little adaptation to meet local circumstance. Further information from the partnerships can be gained at the Roundtable sessions at our EfvET Conference in October 2007 to be held in Tours, France – register on-line at www.efvet.org/conferences and follow the link.

Rural tourism support via Leonardo da Vinci initiative

The European Rural Tourism Development project team meets on 5th July in San Sebastian, Spain to evaluate pilot courses which have been running in Spain, Bulgaria, Italy & the UK. The courses are designed to help rural tourism businesses develop in a professional and sustainable way. Parallel course for students planning to enter the sector have also been piloted. The courses have been designed to include networking opportunities and on-line learning to suit busy small businesses.

During the meeting, there will also be a presentation on rural tourism development in France by the Institut Européen de l'Entrepreneuriat Rural. For more information follow the link:
<http://www.ertd.info/>

City Guides lead the way

The City Guides project team met on 22nd June in Athens to discuss progress on pilot courses. The City Guides project team met on 22nd June in Athens to discuss progress on pilot courses. Partners from the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and the UK together with representation from FEG (European Federation of Tourist Guides Associations) have been working together on this Leonardo project to design practical training for city/tourist guides to meet local tourism needs. A final conference to present the project outcomes and consider how guiding can improve the tourist's experience will be held in Zwolle, Netherlands on 23rd November. More information on the link: <http://www.city-guides.nl/>



Rosaleen Courtney

Love story the topic of a Comenius project

In the April issue of this newsletter we told the story. Now we have the pictures from the event and as you can see we were extremely lucky with the weather. One photo is of King Christian III of Denmark, Sofie Brahe (scientist), Birgitte Goye (founder of the first boarding school in Denmark), Queen Dorothea and Princess Anne. The other is of the Polish-Lithuanian King Sigmund Augustus and his beloved Queen Barbora – and the most romantic end of this project was that these two students fell in love!



Rasa Zygmantaite and Louise Rosthøj

European Forum of Technical
and Vocational Education
and Training



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New deadline for manuscripts: **15 September 2007.**