

EfVET Newsletter

March 2009

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Message from the President (March 2009)

Dear Members

In remembrance of Frans Schneider

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of our Treasurer and close friend Frans Schneider. He passed away in early January after a short battle against cancer. He leaves his wife Aad and son Mathew and our hearts and thoughts are with them at his loss. He has always been a family man but his family over the years expanded well beyond the immediate family and EfVET and its members became a major part of his life.

His funeral took place in Amsterdam in January and was attended by many, both past and present EfVET colleagues who worked closely with Frans over many years.

Many of you will remember Frans for his unwavering commitment to EfVET over many years. Indeed he was a key player in founding EfVET some 18 years ago. His foresight and enthusiasm to bring VET institutions together in a collaborative European network will always be remembered and valued. As our Treasurer all these years he has looked after our financial well-being. In addition he worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the cogs of the wheel well oiled and functioning. His excellent negotiating skills came to the fore in securing excellent conference facilities each year. He will always be remembered for his 'joie de vie', his generosity and warmth. We will undoubtedly miss him but he will not be forgotten. Moreover, his vision for EfVET will be continued in his memory.

Re-organisation of the EfVET Executive and Steering Committee.

At our January meeting of the Steering Committee proposals were approved to expand the Executive committee to strengthen our response to ever increasing workloads and ensure we move forward effectively on many fronts.

Three new co-opted members were appointed to the Executive to compliment the existing four elected officers and co-opted member already in post. The following structure was approved:



Executive Team

Secretary

Marian de
Villanueva

President

Peter Hodgson

Vice President

Stelios
Mavromoustakos

Treasurer

Raimo Sivonen

EU Project management

Stefano Tirati

Newsletter & communication

Leif Haar

Membership co-ordination working with National Boards. Rasa Zygmantaite

Policy co-ordination

Geoff
Scaplehorn

Steering Committee – National representatives
Meets 2 x per year – January and September

I would like to thank all those who have agreed to take on the above responsibilities and look forward to working closely with everyone to strengthen EfVET's developments in the coming years. A special thanks to Raimo Sivonen (National Representative of Finland) for agreeing to take on the Treasurer role. He will serve out the remaining 18 months of the Treasurer's term of office – after which the formal election of officers will take place. We hope of course that he will serve us well in to the future.

In addition to the expanded Executive – it was also agreed to invite our new members from Greece and Rumania to establish National Boards in their countries and in future have representation on the Steering committee.

European Commission and the new Strategic framework.

I would refer you to the article from Stelios, your Vice President for the detail but draw your attention to this DG EAC and Commission document. Recently Stelios and I represented EfVET at the annual Stakeholder Forum co-organised by DG EAC and EUCIS. EfVET took a key role in the Forum and participated in discussions around the Priorities for the Commission as set out in the Framework

Conference 2009 Bilbao 21st October to 24th October 2009

Thanks to the Conference team and our colleagues in Ikslan, Cebanc and Hetel for organising the Conference – details of which can be found in this newsletter. Registration and booking will be available shortly through the on-line registration via the website www.efvet.org. The theme will be around the European year of Creativity and Innovation in VET and Lifelong Learning. I hope to see you all there and also hope new members will join us. The programme is exciting and innovative with opportunities to discuss issues around the theme.

Finally –I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members including those from Greece, Cyprus, Rumania and Ukraine. It is pleasing to see that EfVETs network is expanding to the benefit of all members and contributing to further improving VET and Lifelong Learning in Europe.

Warm regards to all



Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

Méssage du Président (mars 2009)

Chers membres,

En Souvenir de Frans Schneider

C'est avec grande tristesse que je dois vous annoncer la mort de notre Trésorier et très cher ami Frans Schneider. Il est mort au début de janvier après une courte lutte contre le cancer. Nos pensées restent avec Aad, sa femme et Mathew son fils et toute la famille de Frans. Ses funérailles ont eu lieu à Amsterdam et plusieurs des ses collègues actuels at précédents ont pu y assister.

Vous vous souvenez tous de Frans pour son engagement infatigable pour la fondation et le développement d'EfVET depuis 1990. Vous vous souvenez tous aussi pour sa "joie de vie", sa générosité et pour son amitié.

Nous manquerons tellement Frans dans l'avenir, mais nous ne l'oublierons jamais au cours de notre travail pour l'EfVET.

Réorganisation de l'Exécutif et le Comité de Pilotage d'EfVET

A la reunion du Comité de Pilotage en janvier 2009, nous avons accepté les propositions d'augmenter l'Exécutif pour répondre au nombre croissant de tâches que le développement d'EfVET exige. Nous avons nommé trois nouveaux membres de l'Exécutif pour créer la nouvelle structure ci-dessus. Je voudrais remercier mes collègues qui ont accepté ces rôles. Surtout je voudrais remercier particulièrement Raimo Sivonen (Représentant national de Finlande) d'avoir accepté le poste de Trésorier.

Nous avons invité aussi nos nouveaux membres en Grèce et en Roumanie d'établir des Organisations Nationales dans leurs deux pays et de représenter ces pays sur le Comité de Pilotage.

La Commission et le Cadre Stratégique

J'attire votre attention à l'article de notre Vice-Président Stelios sur le site web et aussi au document de la DG EAC, qui décrit les priorités de la Commission. Stelios et moi vous avons représenté au Forum organisé par DG EAC et l'EUCIS.

Conférence 2009 à Bilbao du 21 au 24 octobre 2009

Je voudrais remercier notre équipe de Conférence et nos amis d'Ikasian, de Cebanc et de Helte pour leur travail à organiser notre conférence. Vous pourrez vous inscrire bientôt sur le site web www.efvet.org.

Finalement je voudrais accueillir chaudement nos nouveaux membres de la Chypre et de la Ukraine.

Mes amities

Peter Hodgson
president@efvet.org

18th EfVET International Conference

Bilbao, Pais Vasco, Spain

Wednesday 21st October to Saturday 24th October 2009

Venue: Hotel Ercilla
Ercilla 37 – 39
48011 BILBAO

<http://www.hotelercilla.es/>

Conference theme:
Creativity and Innovation in Vocational Education and Training

2009 marks the European Year of Creativity and Education – unlike most European Year programmes – this theme reflects a key policy priority for the European Union over the next 10 years. The concepts of Creativity and Innovation will form a major platform across all aspects of European development. They will permeate policy decisions aimed at building the knowledge society, tackling both economic and social cohesion and active citizenship.

The promotion of creativity and enhancing the capacity for innovation through Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning is a key to the development of personal, occupational, entrepreneurial and social competences alongside the well-being of individuals in society. (Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council 2008).

Creativity and innovation manifest themselves in many aspects of learning. There is a need to promote awareness of their importance alongside entrepreneurship for personal development, creative self expression, acquisition of key competences conducive to innovation, transferable skills to address new skills for jobs and equity and diversity. These are some of the challenges facing education and training managers and practitioners.

What do we understand by creativity and innovation in VET and Lifelong Learning?

How do education and training systems encourage creativity and innovation?

Sharing good practice in creative and innovative teaching and learning

How creative and innovative are we? How might we harness these concepts as a means of improving Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning?

Conference will explore these issues in depth, through keynote presentations and workshops.

We intend to draw up a final Conference report on our considerations and discussions following Conference to present to other Stakeholders and the European Commission with a view to contributing to the promotion of creativity and innovation in Education and Training systems.

There will be an opportunity to participate in workshops allied to the theme which will inform the final report on Conference.

Roundtables – for project dissemination:

Conference offers European project partners the opportunity to disseminate progress, results and products of their Transnational Transfer of Innovation; Development of Innovation and other European initiatives – a key to successful valorisation of project outcomes and sustainability.

To book a Roundtable to present your projects – please complete the separate booking form for roundtables. Please ensure you provide an outline of the project and details of your partnership when you book.

Mobility Marketplace.

Following the successful introduction of the marketplace at last years conference it is intended to continue this to stimulate and bring potential partners together to plan and develop new mobility links – either through Leonardo mobility or Erasmus programmes. This year it is envisaged that ‘mobility groups’ will be formed along occupational / skill sector lines (eg: those delegates interested in mobility links in the field of Engineering/automotive; those in the field of Health and Social Care; Business Administration and Informatics).

Come and join us in Bilbao – we look forward to meeting you in October

Registration for Conference is now open – do not delay – take advantage of the ‘early bird’ discount

Hotel accommodation must be booked using the Hotel booking form. Bookings can only be booked by those who have registered. Note: Accommodation costs are the responsibility of the individual.

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

Conference Programme

PDF PRINT EMAIL

Day 1: Wednesday 21st October	
15:30-18:30	Registration at Hotel Ercilla, Ercilla 37-39, 48011 Bilbao.
18:30-19:15	Welcome and information session for new members and first time participants: - “Introduction to EfVET and the conference”. Peter Hodgson, President of EfVET, and the Steering Committee members. 19:15-20:00 Reception for all delegates and partners: Hotel Ercilla.
20:00	Dinner/cultural evening: Hotel Ercilla.
Day 2: Thursday 22nd October	
09:15-09:25	Welcome to BILBAO: day chair Jose Luis Fernandez Maure, Ikaslan
09:25-09:45	Opening of Conference – Representative of the Basque Government
09:45-10:10	Welcome to the conference, setting the theme: Pete Hodgson, President of EfVET
10:10-10:45	Keynote Speaker: Vocational Education in the Basque Country – Minister from Basque Government

10:45-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-12:00	Keynote Speaker - The European Year of Creativity and Innovation Maruja Gutierrez-Diaz, Head of Unit Lifelong Learning – Innovation and Creativity
12:00-12:45	A practical approach to Creativity and Innovation – The CREANOVA project Kitte Martinen, Adulta, Finland and Professor Jesus Ibanez, University of the Basque Country
12:45-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Workshops 1. How can innovation and creativity enhance teaching and learning methods? (Teachers and Managers) 2. In what ways innovation and creativity can be implemented in VET programs? (Managers) 3. How to move a college to become innovative in teaching and management? (Managers) 4. Creativity in the pedagogical approach-examples of best practice at European VET colleges. (Teachers) 5. What do you think about indicators and benchmarks in education in general and more specifically on innovation and creativity? (Teachers and Managers)
15:00-15:30	Refreshment break
15:30-16:30	Workshops (repeated)
17:00	Reception at the Provincial Government (Diputación de Bizkaia) Evening free to explore Bilbao, dinner not included in conference fee
Day 3: Friday 23rd October	
08:45-10:00	Annual General Meeting
10:00-10:45	Keynote Speaker: TKNIKA, the Institute for Innovation in VET, Bilbao: Building a model for the management of innovation.
10:45-11:15	Refreshment break
11:15-12:30	Roundtables
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:30	Mobility Market place. Following the successful introduction of the marketplace at last years conference it is intended to continue this to stimulate and bring potential partners together to plan and develop new mobility links – either through Leonardo mobility or Erasmus programmes. This year it is envisaged that 'mobility groups' will be formed along occupational / skill sector lines (eg: those delegates interested in mobility links in the field of Engineering/automotive; those in the field of Health and Social Care; Business Administration and Informatics). Refreshment break incorporated in to Marketplace session as and when required by participants
19:00	Leave for: Gala Dinner and dance Restaurant Mendigoikoa (Where you can hear the silence)

Day 3: Saturday 24th October	
9:30 -10:30	Keynote speaker: Ruediger Kaufmann: Innovation Management of European SMEs
10:30-11:00	Refreshment break
11:00-11:45	Conference conclusions and discussion. Hans F. van Aalst, Past President of EfvET
11:45-12:00	Announcement of 19th EfvET Annual International Conference in 2010.
12:00	Closing of the conference – Peter Hodgson, President, EfvET
13:00	Cultural excursion/visit

Second Stakeholders' Forum on EU Cooperation in Education and Training

Dear Members,

The Second Stakeholders' Forum on EU Cooperation in Education and Training took place on 9 February in Brussels. The forum was organized by DG Education and Culture and EUCIS-LLL.

The Forum had two main objectives: to collect stakeholders' opinions, proposals etc. on the European Commission Communication on 'An updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training' and on the 2009 European year of Creativity and Innovation. More than 70 participants from European stakeholder organizations took part.

The objectives of the Stakeholders' Forum was to get feedback from stakeholders mainly on the implementation of the priorities themes proposed by the European Commission for the short term period for 2009 and 2010 and on the working methods. Regarding the working methods the Forum was asked to reflect on actors' responsibility and involvement and not least that of stakeholders.

EfvET had again a strong presence and involvement and it was represented by the President, Pete Hodgson and the Vice President, Stelios Mavromoustakos. Stelios Mavromoustakos moderated one of the four workshops of the Forum. As soon as the results of the forum are made available will be communicated to you all.

Regards,
Stelios Mavromoustakos
Vice President

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New member of the EfVET Steering Committee and National Representative of Sweden



Sofia Sjödin, the new international coordinator in the city of Malmö, is taking over after Birgitta Johansson as member of the Efvet Steering Committee and National Representative of Sweden. Sofia has a Master of Social Science with a major in Political Science from the University of Lund, Sweden. She has worked as development- and EU coordinator in municipalities and regions in South Sweden. The position as international coordinator at the Department of Education in Malmö, is to promote and support the international work within the City's 13 upper secondary schools and 3 adult education institutions. The international policy of the Department of Education puts the student in the centre of the international initiatives. The main goal seeks to ensure that all students participate in international projects and/or practice abroad.

Sofia Sjödin

Developments in Swedish vocational education and training

Vocational education, as well as education in general, is in a highly transitory state. In the national election of 2006, the Social Democrat party lost government power to a four-party Liberal-Conservative coalition.

The current administration represents a new direction in education policies. Several major policy changes have been made in these last years and there is yet more to come. The general aim is to expand and upgrade Swedish vocational education.

Government has taken steps to reform the education for future vocational teachers. Applicants with relevant vocational experiences will be able to finish their exams in 1 year instead of today's 3 years.

Education for youths

Traditionally, vocational education is an integrated part of the upper secondary (post-16) education. The aim is to provide general knowledge, and prepare students for working life as well as higher education. Vocational education is formed and regulated by the state, financed by municipalities and provided by municipalities and private educators.

A new model for Swedish upper secondary education was presented in March 2008 and a government proposition is due this spring. This model includes, among other things, new form of vocational program and lead to "a vocational diploma that constitutes a recognised skill qualification and enhances employability" (*Framtidsvägen (SOU 2008:27)*, www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/10/15/87/7ccb8cd4.pdf). To gain a diploma, the student must complete a diploma project. Diploma tutors on vocational programmes shall be vocational teachers with good skills in the programme-specific subjects of the programme in question.

It shall be possible to implement a vocational programme either as a school-based programme or as an apprenticeship programme. The vocational program, unlike the higher education preparatory programme, does not necessarily qualify for higher education.

Apprenticeship programmes have already started on trial in several municipalities due to another government initiative in December 2007. Half of the education or more is in a workplace outside school.

The new model has 14 vocational programmes with various national branches, the ones being Aircraft Technology Programme, Leadership and Preventive Healthcare Programme, Maritime Technology Programme, and Heating, Water and Sanitation, Ventilation and Real Estate Technology Programme. The upper secondary school reform will be implemented in the fall of 2011, according to government plans.

Adult education

Sweden has an extensive system for publically financed adult (post-19) education. Municipalities supply such schooling on compulsory and upper secondary levels and Swedish language education

for immigrants. Municipal adult education ("Komvux") is financed by state and municipal grants and in some cases local employment policy resources. There is also public adult education on post-upper secondary level – advanced vocational education ("Kvalificerad yrkesutbildning") etc.

Since 2006, government spending on municipal adult education has decreased. A lot of municipalities have cut back on especially vocational training to make ends meet. Recently, however, government launched a new initiative to promote vocational upper secondary education for adults ("yrkesvux"). Municipalities complain that the resources are insufficient; much more is needed as unemployment rates are expected to rise considerably.

Another major event is the creation of vocational higher education ("yrkeshögskolan") – a new framework for vocational education in Sweden. A new government body is created to coordinate several different forms of post-upper secondary level education. The vocational higher education institutions will have an important role in the integration of immigrants into the Swedish labour market.

//Sofia Sjödin, National Rep Sweden

Leonardo da Vinci-project "The Good School – the Journey from Good to Excellent"

By now the workgroup has covered 2/3 of the job but it is still quite a job to put the results together for each chapter. We have been experimenting with chapter 1 and a **draft** can be seen on the project website <http://goodschool.cphwest.dk/Results.html>

Louise Rosthøj
Project contractor

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The EFVET Newsletter is published electronically on the EFVET website and sent to members by e-mail. New deadline for manuscripts: **1 June 2009**.

Happy Easter to all.