



Newsletter Archive

## EFVET Newsletters

### April 2001

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## Message from the President

Dear Members,

EfVET is working hard to improve added value for members. We have decided to publish the main issues discussed on the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Steering Committee on the Web. Please have a look and do not hesitate to send your comments or ideas!

Our web-master **Kent Andersen** and **Mara Garofalo** - our executive secretary at the central office - have been working hard to improve the web site, and work is going on. Please take a look at [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) and send your comments to Kent. The web site is yours!

From Katri Luukka, Finland, we have received an interesting booklet used by 40 000 workers of Helsinki city. Have a look at [http://www.efvet.org/news/helsinki/city\\_of\\_helsinkis\\_values.htm](http://www.efvet.org/news/helsinki/city_of_helsinkis_values.htm)

EfVET may help you to improve your EC projects. Either in a coordinator role, or in a dissemination role. **Peter Hodgson** and **Wolfgang Stutzmann** are the persons to contact! They will report on recent examples in this newsletter or on the website. Have a look and see if you may profit from this possibility as well.

**Peter Hodgson** has represented EfVET in a consultation meeting of the EC about the new Memorandum for Life Long Learning. His report will appear soon on the Website.

**Paul Andy Andersen** – our current vice president - is working on the increase of membership, to begin with Portugal and France. He needs your active help in this as will be explained in this newsletter. European Networks.

**Frans Schneider** and a couple of enthusiastic Dutch team members, including **Adriaan**

**Vrienten**, are working hard to make the Maastricht conference the best we ever had. It will focus on student learning in a Euregio. Active participation of colleges from Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands is ensured. **Leila Lahti**, who did so much for the Thessalonica conference has recently joined the team to share her experience and dedication with them.

I will meet with CEDEFOP in the near future to negotiate further cooperation between CEDEFOP and EfVET. I am going to have meetings with the EC commissioners in Brussels to develop more intense relations between EfVET and the European Commission. Next week, I will join the meeting of the World Federation of Associations of Colleges & Polytechnics. EfVET is the European member of the Federation and I am looking forward to help our members to increasing cooperation all over the world through the network of the World Federation.

**Leif Haar** has again done the job of editing this newsletter, and **Mara** assisted to make sure that it is actually produced and distributed. National representatives may use the Electronic version to produce a printed mailing in their country.

Finally: **Paul Andy Andersen** has agreed to take the position of Vice President, but only until the next conference, and I am inviting members to submit proposals for this coming vacancy through the national representatives as soon as possible.

Let us keep the organization as vivid and productive as it has always been. I am looking forward to meeting you all at the Maastricht Conference.

*Hans F. van Aalst*

*President*

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## From the Treasurer

At the end of February you all received the invoice for the membership fee for the year 2001, some of you also received a reminder for the year 2000.

I would like to urge you to keep to the agreement, made at the Annual Conference in Helsinki in 1996, that payment should take place within 30 days. This is not only in the interest of the cash flow of EFVET Europe, but also in your own interest, since 10% of the membership fees paid, will go back to your National Body. However this only applies to the fees paid before 1 May in the year of membership!!

We thank you for your co-operation.

*Frans Schneider*, NL Representative and Treasurer

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual EFVET International Conference this year will be held in The Netherlands in the city of Maastricht on 25,26 and 27 October.

The treaty of Maastricht was signed in that city in 1992 and for the first time two articles were devoted to Vocational Education and Training, underlining the important role of this for Europe.

The conference will focus on the importance of the student in Vocational Education and Training for the European economy. VET colleges provide about 60% of the workers in industry and the small and medium sized enterprises. The working title of the conference is for the moment:

***“Vocational Education and Training: focus on students”***

Parallel to our conference there will be an international conference for students, which will be held in ROC (Regional Education and Training Centre) Leeuwenborgh in Maastricht. The students will stay in their hotel. We will be asking the National Bodies to financially sponsor two students from their country to attend. At the end of our conference we will be able to compare the outcomes of our conference with the outcomes of the student conference.

Please note the dates in your diary, this will be a conference you cannot afford to miss.

By the beginning of June we will send you all the brochure and programme.

*Frans Schneider*, NL Representative and Treasurer

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## **EfVET and European Projects**

The EfVET Steering Committee has identified two major approaches of EfVET towards European projects:

### **1) Acting as a partner to facilitate dissemination of project outcomes**

EfVET is an ideal mechanism/ platform to assist members to disseminate project results and as such those members submitting bid proposals under EU funding programmes should be encouraged to build in EfVET as a partner.

This would require EfVET to establish a dissemination procedure which would include a variety of means of dissemination along with monitoring mechanisms to meet EU Audit requirements. Effectively funding support for this activity would thus be built into the project costing along with those costs to be met through matched own contributions. This could allow EfVET to meet some of its direct administrative costs.

Therefore we like to encourage our members to include EfVET in their partnership (especially for the current LEONARDO II bid) for the dissemination of project results.

## 2) Acting as Contractor (Co-ordinator) of a project

There is potential for EfVET in its own right to initiate EU projects as contractor, e.g; European Network strand of LEONARDO II; Survey and Analysis strand of LEO II.

We like to initiate a discussion process about ideas for potential projects which can be discussed at the Annual conference in Maastricht.

With the funding from European projects EfVET might be able to reduce the membership fee and/or the conference fee. Therefore please encourage your partnerships to include EfVET as a dissemination partner in the current LEONARDO II round.

If you have any ideas or requests for partnership regarding “EfVET and EU-projects” please contact either Mara at the Central office ([efvet.central@skynet.be](mailto:efvet.central@skynet.be)) or me ([wolfgang.stutzmann@t-online.de](mailto:wolfgang.stutzmann@t-online.de))

*Wolfgang Stutzmann and Peter Hodgson*  
*EfVET SC (Portfolio EfVET and EU projects)*

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## **EfVET invited by the European Commission to assist in the Consultation process on the EU Memorandum on Life long learning**

The European Commission in late 2000 issued a Memorandum on Lifelong Learning (SEC 2000-1832) as a result of the Lisbon European Council confirmation that 'the move towards lifelong learning must accompany a successful transition to a knowledge based economy and society'. In saying this the Council recognizes that Europe's education and training systems are at the heart of the coming changes. The document is accompanied by an extensive consultation process, both at a national and European level, with an explicit effort to ensure representation of non-governmental organisations in this debate.

NGOs showed a big interest and generated a lot of input in the preparatory phase of gathering common concepts. Currently, in the phase from commenting on the general policy lines to the preparation of an action plan for lifelong learning, the European Commission again invites NGOs for their active participation and advice.

EfVET has joined forces with our sister European Networks to assist the Commission in its aim to consult widely both at national government level and engage Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) in the process.

EfVET is working in partnership with

- a. Corporate Social Responsibility Europe (CSR);
- b. European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA);
- c. European Association of Universities (CRE);

d. European Vocational Training Association (EVTA/AEFP);

e. Platform of European Social NGOs c/o Solidare.

Each Network will during Spring this year will be inviting its Members to engage in the National Consultation process currently being organised at Government/ministerial level in each Member State. In addition EfVET will prepare with the assistance of an 'Expert' a report on the key issues raised by its members against the following six themed issues:

**1. New basic skills for all**

*Objective:* Guarantee universal and continuing access to learning for gaining and renewing the skills needed for sustained participation in the knowledge society.

**2. More investment in human resources**

*Objective:* Visibly raise levels of investment in human resources in order to place priority on Europe's most important asset – its people.

**3. Innovation in teaching and learning**

*Objective:* Develop effective teaching and learning methods and contexts for the continuum of lifelong and lifewide learning.

**4. Valuing learning**

*Objective:* Significantly improve the ways in which learning participation and outcomes are understood and appreciated, particularly non-formal and informal

learning.

## **5. Rethinking guidance and counselling**

*Objective:* Ensuring that everyone can easily access good quality information and advice about learning opportunities throughout Europe and throughout their lives.

## **6. Bringing learning closer to home**

*Objective:* Provide lifelong learning opportunities as close to learners as possible, in their own communities and supported through ICT-based facilities wherever appropriate.

In addition before the end of June 2001 the expert will gather exemplars of good practice from EfVET members and collate the input from its member organisations in national consultations. Furthermore, the experts will each draft a contribution to a joint publication "*Putting lifelong learning to practice*" with provocative statements, stimulating debate on how to operationalise the general policy lines. These will be input for the European NGO-conference on lifelong learning in September 2001, where the experts will each moderate a workshop.

This is a golden opportunity for you as practitioners in the field to influence and give direction to EU policy in this area – an opportunity not to be missed. We on the Steering Committee urge you to engage fully in this process – your national representative will be in touch very shortly to bring our voice on the issues to the fore.

The whole exercise will culminate in an EC sponsored conference to NGO's and the six participating Network memberships. This will be held in Brussels in early September 2001 (provisionally September 10<sup>th</sup>) Please access the EfVET website for more information over the coming weeks or contact the following EfVET representatives for further details:

NGO Consultation project – joint co-ordinators on behalf of EfVET:

Mr Peter Hodgson, UK Representative on the Steering Committee:

Tel: +44 1761 433161, Fax: +44 1761 436173, e-mail: [phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk)

Herr Wolfgang Stutzmann, Germany Representative on the Steering Committee

Tel: +49 621 504 4123, Fax: +49 621 504 3789, e-mail: [wolfgang.stutzmann@t-online.de](mailto:wolfgang.stutzmann@t-online.de)

*[Peter Hodgson](#), UK Representative*

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## CD Project Ready for a General Presentation

Central members of the Ef Vet organisation will be at the head of the distribution of the EfVET project about the Danish VET system with emphasis on the technical and commercial lines. Before the summer holidays 2001 each member of our organisation will have received a free copy of the finished CDROM "VETDK2001 – the Danish VET system explained". In Denmark tours will also have been arranged to introduce the material.

The Danish Ministry of Education has authorized expenditure for the distribution and the introduction tour in Denmark. The purpose is of course to make the Danish VET system as well known as possible after the comprehensive reform has now come into force. The Danish authorities believe that the educational system will appeal to a large number of young people and make them interested in choosing a vocational education.

The EfVET members behind the practical performance of the project have chosen a style of communication, making use of modern multi-media with a link to the Internet, and has established a website connected to the project. The content is richly illustrated and presents the Danish system in minute detail. This part is especially suited for self-tuition.

One thing is to read about the system. To see it in action is something different. The CD makes it possible to have a look inside a number of Danish VET colleges and firms. Through a number of 28 scenarios of 360 degrees the colleges show a variety of teaching methods. This part of the CD is, among others, effective in supporting Danish educationalists when they are going to explain the dissimilarity and options of teaching situations after the reform. But the type of presentation will also be exciting and informative for self-tuition.

The Steering Committee of E/VET in Brussels will be in charge of the distribution of the CDROM to the app. 500 vocational colleges in Europe. The CDROM will be presented in Denmark to 8 different colleges geographically distributed by the people behind it.

The Danish Ministry of Education has also started a number of other projects containing material relevant to the reform. This material will also be presented on the tour as the target group is the same. In this way, all of the spectrum of audio-visual possibilities will give a total view of the material available to the people who present the Danish VET system to foreign countries. The tour starts in April, almost at the same time, as the material will be distributed to the E/VET members.

More information on <http://video.ots.dk/vetdk>

*Paul Andy Andersen*, DK Representative

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## **The Towards Autonomous Learning for Educators (TALE) Project Team**

### **A News Update**

The TALE project is an innovative project, which is now completing its work, and the materials produced are available to trainers, teachers and others throughout Europe. The projects aims are to develop, produce, test and evaluate new teaching and learning strategies and materials, based on autonomous learning principles, with teachers across Europe.

Where this project has been unusual, is that autonomous learning methods have been used throughout the project team, and in all project activity. As a result, project meetings have been active, collaborative and co-operative, with decisions being reached through shared and individual activity, discussion and negotiation. Team members have accepted responsibility for sharing the tasks and the processes of the project, have tested products within the project meetings and in between, and as a result have built a team identity which has been particularly strong.

The meetings and the project overall have been facilitated by the team at Norton Radstock College, who have considerable experience of using autonomous learning experiences, but the range of skills contributed from across the team have been varied and impressive.

The project overall has clearly demonstrated the value of working using autonomous learning approaches, as well as producing some high quality resources.

## ***Project results***

- **Good Practice Guide**

This includes key principles of Good Practice in Autonomous Learning, and 16 Case Studies from the project partners of using Autonomous Learning Approaches. The case studies outline how autonomous learning activity has been used by the project partners, how that has worked, and where there have been difficulties.

- **Training the Trainer Pack**

Includes study / reference material on key theories, approaches and strategies for using Autonomous Learning Approaches in teaching. Presented in topic related resources, supported by activities and tasks to complete and links to other resources.

The final section is a set of 18 activities for use in programmes for training trainers, with guidance about their use.

All materials are aimed at trainers / teachers / tutors working in vocational training / education.

## ***Availability of the Products***

- **Printed / Text version**

All materials will be accessible from the project Co-Ordinator – Norton Radstock College. A printed text version of materials in the partner countries' languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch), will also be available in from the particular project partners, by mid 2001.

The full electronic version of the printed text in each language will also be available to download from the TALE website.

- **Project Web Site**

The project web site is intended to be a flexible resource, aimed at Teachers and Trainers in Vocational Training across Europe, and includes theoretical background items, case studies, learning tasks and activities which can be used when training trainers.

It is **NOT** an on line learning programme as such, but should offer something for anyone interested in understanding and using autonomous learning approaches.

The sections are :

- **Using The Materials**
- **Introduction And Background**
- **A Good Practice Guide To Using Autonomous Learning Approaches**

Principles Of Good Practice In Autonomous Learning

Definition Of Autonomous Learning

Case Studies Of Using Autonomous Learning Approaches - Format

- **The Training The Trainers Pack**

An Introduction To Autonomous Learning

An Introduction To The Psychology Of Learning

Communication

Training And Learning Needs And Styles

The Trainer And The Group

Planning The Training

New Technologies As Autonomous Learning Resources

Evaluation

- **Examples Of Activities For Training Trainers**

**The web site is available in English only, and individual sections are all**

**downloadable in English from the site. Details of the partnership in this Transnational Pilot Project can be found on the TALE website**

URL is <http://www.ep-vasconcellos-lebre.rcts.pt/tale/index.htm>

### ***Project Dissemination***

The project materials are being constantly used and evaluated by the partners and other visitors to the web site. Members of the project team have provided contributions to Local and National Networks / Development Activities(UK / Netherlands / Spain). Project team members also provided a workshop on 'Adding Value to European Projects' at the EFVET annual conference in December 2000, which was well received.

### ***Project Partners***

Norton Radstock College – Contractor - United Kingdom

ROC Amsterdam - Netherlands

Centre de Professores de Oviedo is a part of the Ministerio de Educacion y Culture, Asturias - Spain

C.E.C.E. (Confederacion Espanola de Centros de Ensenanza - Spanish Confederation of Educational Centres)

Escola Profissional Vasconcellos Lebre - Portugal

***Contacts :*** Mr Peter Hodgson /Mr Jim Crawley

**Organisation:** Norton Radstock College

**Address:** South Hill Park  
Radstock  
Bath BA3 3RW

**Telephone:** +44 1761 433161

**Fax:** +44 1761 436173

**E-mail:** [phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk) / [jcrawley@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:jcrawley@nortcoll.ac.uk)

*Peter Hodgson, UK Representative*

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## Impressum

### Editors:

*Mara Garofalo*, EFVET Central Office, e-mail: [efvet.central@skynet.be](mailto:efvet.central@skynet.be)

*Leif Haar*, Tietgen Business College, e-mail: [leha@tietgen.dk](mailto:leha@tietgen.dk)

### Webmaster:

*Kent Andersen*, Odense Technical School, e-mail: [kent@lang.ots.dk](mailto:kent@lang.ots.dk)

The EFVET Newsletter is published electronically on the EFVET Website and sent to members by e-mail.

New deadline for manuscripts: **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2001**

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[www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)

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