

EfVET Newsletter

April 2008

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Message from the President (April 2008)

Welcome

Welcome to this April edition of our EfvET newsletter.

Innovative projects promoting improvement and innovation within European VET.

Congratulations to all those members working frantically over recent months to develop new transnational partnerships and links under the EC Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. I wish all concerned success in the evaluation and approval process. I would also like to express my thanks to all those co-ordinating members who have enlisted EfvET as a dissemination partner in their project applications and trust you will find EfvET's ability to reach out across its network and disseminate good practice a fruitful and rewarding experience.

I have not yet managed to catch up on the scale of our involvement, however at least 15 + applications included EfvET as a partner. Projects covered all strands of the Leonardo programme within the LLP initiative. We wish members every success in the approval stage.

New website:

I would like to thank Aletia Trakakis of Intercollege, Cyprus, Stefano and other colleagues for their efforts in building a new interactive website for EfvET. This will be launched shortly allowing members to interact far more effectively with each other and enter discussion forums and communication. I understand from colleagues that we have a few technical details to resolve and then we can launch the new site. We hope that this will revolutionise our service to members and enable you all to access information, share good practice and enter in to key debates on developments in VET across Europe – thus enabling EfvET to represent your views at EU policy debates.

Dialogue with the European Commission:

I am very pleased to inform you that EfvET continues to play a very active role in influencing EU Education and Training Policy deliberations. Our involvement remains a significant objective as the EC seeks to implement the objectives for Education and Training 2010. EfvET is a founder of EUCIS – the European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning and represented by myself on the

Steering Group. This network, made up of some 17 European Education and Training Networks, is becoming the conduit through which the Commission engages with Education and Training Institutions.

The Commission, you may recall, have been trying to bring networks together to promote common dialogue in the field of Education and Training and following collaborative initiatives related to Lifelong Learning since 2001 – EUCIS effectively meets this need. The Commission through the offices of DG EAC meet regularly with ourselves to determine best practice, consultation with the sector and identify issues of common interest to both parties. It is hoped that following negotiations, currently taking place with the EC, that funding to support our contributions can be forthcoming in future years. Your Steering Committee members have been actively pursuing this for some months now.

KEY Date for your diary:

The Commission (DG EAC) in association with EUCIS member networks (EfVET included) is organising a key stakeholder forum on 20th May 2008 in Brussels. Members will be welcome to participate. EfVET will be there but would always welcome individual member participation. Full details are yet to be announced – but this forum is seen as a forerunner to a series of events whereby the views of VET and Civil Society organisations can be heard. Details will be forwarded to all members once they are finalised.

Conference 2008

The EfVET conference team and Steering Committee are actively finalising the Conference for 2008 to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania in late October 2008. The theme and registration details will soon be published on the web site. You will be able to register for conference, book your hotel reservation, book a roundtable and workshop on line. We have, as a result of feedback last year introduced a new element to the Conference programme, namely a 'Mobility Marketplace' where members can arrange meetings with colleagues to build new partnerships, resolve mobility timeframes and logistics and co-ordinate new applications for mobility. I look forward to seeing you all in Vilnius in October and wish you all well in the intervening months.

Warm regards

Peter Hodgson

President

president@efvet.org

Méssage du Président (avril 2008)

Soyez la bienvenue à cette édition de notre bulletin d'avril 2008

Projets d'Innovation

Mes félicitations à tous nos membres qui travaillent depuis des mois à développer de nouveaux partenariats et liens dans le Programme d'Apprentissage tout au Long de la Vie de l'UE 2006-13. J'espère que vous réussirez tous au procès d'évaluation et d'approbation. Je voudrais remercier tous les coordinateurs et membres d'EfVET qui ont identifié l'EfVET comme partenaire de dissemination dans leurs présentations de projets et j'espère que vous bénéficierez des possibilités d'échanger des exemples de bonne pratique partout dans ses réseaux. Je n'ai pas pu encore calculer la quantité de notre participation, mais je sais que 15 projets au moins ont cité l'EfVET comme partenaire.

Nouveau Site Web

Pourrai-je remercier Aletia Trakakis d'Intercollege, Chypre, Stefano et d'autres collègues d'avoir réinvigoré un nouveau site web interactif pour l'EfVET. Nous lancerons bientôt ce site et il vous serait possible de communiquer plus facilement, de participer aux discussions et d'échanger de l'expérience. Il nous reste quelques problèmes à résoudre, mais le lancement suivra bientôt. Nous sommes confiants que le nouveau site améliorera les services pour nos membres et vous pourrez faire accès à l'information, partager de la bonne pratique, participer aux débats sur les développements de VET partout en Europe – ainsi l'EfVET pourra représenter vos opinions d'une façon plus efficace au niveau européen.

Dialogue avec la Commission Européenne

Je suis fort content de vous informer que l'EfVET continue à jouer un rôle très actif à influencer les discussions sur la formulation de politiques de VET dans la Commission Européenne. Notre participation continue à être un des objectifs importants, parce que l'UE cherche à atteindre les buts *d'Education and Training 2010*. Je représente l'EfVET, comme membre fondateur, sur l'EUCIS (European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning).

Ce réseau qui consiste à 17 réseaux de VET, est reconnu par la Commission Européenne comme l'organisation représentative de toutes les institutions européennes de VET avec laquelle elle peut travailler. Vous vous souvenez, peut-être que depuis 2008, la Commission essaie de grouper ensemble tous les réseaux de VET et, suite à un nombre d'initiatives de collaboration, l'EUCIS répond à ce besoin. Nous rencontrons régulièrement les représentants de DG EAC de la Commission pour déterminer de la bonne pratique et discuter les questions qui nous concernent tous. Les membres de notre comité de pilotage fait des négociations depuis des mois pour essayer d'obtenir des fonds pour financer notre travail à cet égard. Espérons nous y réussissons bientôt.

Une date importante

La Commission (DG EAC) avec la collaboration de l'EUCIS (y compris l'EfVET) organisera un forum clef pour les pratiquants le 20 mai à Bruxelles. Nos membres sont invités à y participer. On attend toujours l'annonce des détails, mais ce forum sera le premier d'une série de réunions où l'on écoute les opinions d'organisations, d'institutions de VET et de la société civile. Nous disseminerons les détails de ce forum aussitôt que possible.

La Conférence 2008

L'équipe d'EfVET qui s'occupe de l'organisation de notre Conférence est en train d'établir le programme de notre conférence qui aura lieu à Vilnius en Lituanie du 24 au 27 octobre 2008. Vous trouverez bientôt les détails de registration pour la conference, de réservation de chambres et de réservation de places pour les tables-ronde et les ateliers. Cette année nous avons introduit un novel élément au programme – "Marché de Mobilité" où nos membres pourront arranger des rendez-vous avec des collègues pour créer de nouveaux partenariats, résoudre des questions de mobilité et coordiner des demandes pour financer des mobilités dans l'avenir.

J'attends avec impatience l'occasion de vous rencontrer tous à Vilnius en octobre.

Mes amitiés

Peter Hodgson
Président

president@efvet.org

EfVET Conference October 22-25, 2008 in Vilnius

Conference Theme:

Improving Quality in Vocational Education and Training as a Vehicle of Lifelong Learning

The multitude of initiatives emanating from EU policy for Education and Training as we move to implement the 2010 Lisbon Agenda include a range of tools and instruments to drive improvements in Vocational Education and Training and foster a lifelong learning culture throughout Europe.

These policy drivers, including EQF and ECVET aim to encourage member states to raise their game in terms of National VET frameworks, stimulate transparency and encourage European citizens to raise their skills promoting greater mobility and opportunity through both learning and working abroad in other member states. Europass and the European CV encourage a common framework in this regard.

How then do we as Learning institutions respond ? How do we make it happen? How do we ensure the quality of VET delivery? How do we enhance the learning experience for all European citizens to bring about both economic and social cohesion? What strategies can we adopt and share to bring about real improvements in Vocational Education and Training?

These challenges are both relevant to VET managers and practitioners alike.

Conference will address some of the quality issues facing both leaders and teachers in VET and Lifelong Learning institutions through presentations from experts and workshops. Issues include:

For Managers:

Improving leadership and management and organisational structure
Strategies for attracting high quality staff
Resourcing and financial implications – a key to modernising VET

For Teachers:

Initial advice, guidance and individual learner planning
Flexible learning pathways to meet learner needs
Competence based approaches and assessment methodologies
Monitoring learner progress and quality assurance methodologies.
To encourage lively debate and the sharing of good practice across the membership – delegates will be invited to prepare in advance examples of practice from across Europe on these issues.

Conference will also include the opportunity for delegates to disseminate the outcomes, products and results of their European partnership projects as has been the case in recent years. These Roundtable sessions can be booked as part of the Registration process.

New for 2008. – The Mobility Marketplace.....

Conference will, as a result of member feedback, include a new and stimulating session on all aspects of student and staff mobility. This will take the form of a 'Mobility marketplace' offering members the opportunity to establish new partnerships, discuss logistics and mobility initiatives in a supportive setting. It will be set up as a surgery – for individual partnerships to come together to promote and plan effective mobility initiatives.

Please find registration form and price list for the 2008 EfvET Conference and more information at:
<http://efvet.intercol.edu>

This is the first announcement of this conference. Much more information will follow.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Vilnius. The first EfvET conference in a Baltic state.!

Your conference team

Rasa, Frans and Leif

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New website

Dear Friends,

EfVET is proud to welcome you to our new website. Although our existing members will notice our new look instantly, we'd like to stress that the changes to the site are more than cosmetic. Our aim is to provide a site from which you will be able to find all the information you need about EfVET and you will be updated about all the upcoming events and conferences.

In our new website all of our members will be able to log in and check information that will not be open to the public. Every member will be able to have her or his own account and in the future we will be able to open a forum for an open online dialogue among the members. In this forum the members will be able to post their opinion about issues related with EfVET. This will benefit our discussion and for the planning of the future conferences as well as the personal connection among the members.

Another innovation is our new interactive calendar where all of our future events are listed. Like the site we had before, in this new site are posted all our past conferences with the pictures and the archives of the events. In the new site we also induced the Round Table Proposals form where all the members can submit online their proposal for the round table discussions, which is essential tradition of EfVET.

We welcome you to log in as guest users for a trial. We hope you will find it interesting and we are looking forward to see you as register members in our new site.

username: guest

password: guest01

Soon each member will receive an individual username and password.

Then new website is accessible at <http://efvet.intercol.edu>

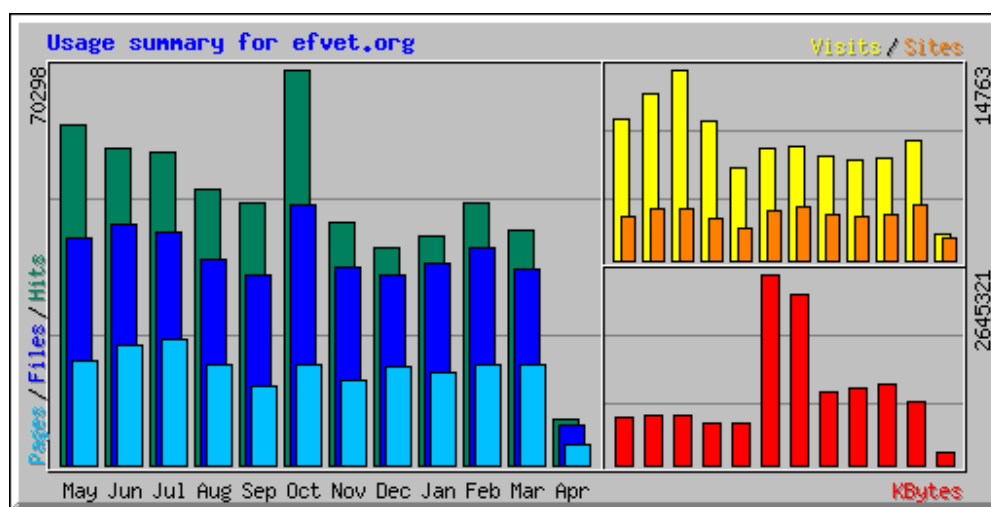
Regards to All,

Stelios Mavromoustakos

Vice President

Usage Statistics for efvet.org

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
Generated 07-Apr-2008 02:09 CEST



Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Apr 2008	1164	1009	510	296	1729	174554	2078	3575	7069	8154
Mar 2008	1344	1123	569	296	4319	870502	9199	17662	34832	41685
Feb 2008	1603	1325	616	274	3547	1110817	7956	17864	38448	46490
Jan 2008	1312	1151	526	248	3424	1071608	7712	16323	35694	40680
Dec 2007	1245	1089	562	262	3605	1006029	8132	17426	33777	38607
Nov 2007	1438	1169	504	295	4068	2357202	8866	15140	35093	43155
Oct 2007	2267	1489	578	281	3823	2645321	8736	17943	46168	70298
Sep 2007	1555	1128	469	239	2494	580354	7186	14070	33840	46655
Aug 2007	1579	1177	578	345	3211	589999	10706	17923	36493	48967
Jul 2007	1791	1331	719	476	3941	682095	14763	22317	41273	55548
Jun 2007	1875	1427	706	428	3964	686259	12859	21201	42839	56253
May 2007	1951	1304	598	350	3428	673040	10861	18555	40437	60499
Totals						12447780	109054	199999	425963	556991

Stelios Mavromoustakos

VIRTEX project wins price

The VIRTEX project, of which EfvET was one of the partners, won a prestigious price in The Netherlands: "The European Language Label for Innovative Language Teaching" (www.europeestalenlabel.nl)

VIRTEX developed language material for using English and German as foreign languages in the catering and hotel industry, in order to prepare students for their work placement and make them more aware of cultural similarities and differences. The project aims to provide a way for students to acquire "virtual experiences" for their work placement through a digital learning environment which is available on CD and which contains film sequences - interviews with restaurant and hotel staff, visualisations of most of the situations in which students may find themselves, among them interactions between staff and guests, etc. -, supplemented by experience-based tasks and assignments. These include programmed interviews in which the students have to take over one of the roles in a filmed exchange with other staff or clients. The assignments can be done by students autonomously and individually, without any direct supervision. The results are kept in a "European portfolio".

Now VIRTEX has the right to carry the label for a whole year on all their correspondence and Websites. The price also included € 5.000.

Congratulations to the team who worked very hard to get VIRTEX of the ground, especially Elzemien Warnink, Jaap Tesselaar and Cor Koster, the project coordinator.

Frans Schneider

EU Civil Society Contact Group

Please find enclosed a press release from the Civil Society Contact Group on the register for interest representatives. Do not hesitate to disseminate it to your contacts.

Kind regards,
Audrey Frith

EU Civil Society Contact Group

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 31 March 2008

Subject: Implementation of European Commission Lobbying Register

Dear President of the European Commission,

On behalf of the public interest organisations united in the EU Civil Society Contact Group, we are writing to you to reiterate our support for a strong and meaningful register for interest representation in Brussels. The register should include names of lobbyists and give sufficiently precise information about the financing of lobbying activities. However we need to inform you that the members of the Civil Society Contact Group would be reluctant to associate their names to a register that obscures more than it reveals.

In the EU Civil Society Contact Group eight of the biggest European NGO platforms coming from different sectors - culture (EFAH), development (CONCORD), environment (Green 10), human rights (HRDN), lifelong learning (EUCIS-LLL), public health (EPHA), social issues (Social Platform) and equality between women and men (EWL) - are working together to develop a common vision for the European Union and to think about the role of public interest organisations in the European project.

The members of the EU Civil Society Contact Group have intensely discussed the register and code of conduct for interest representatives and have agreed to commonly express their concerns in this letter.

As public interest organisations committed to encouraging and promoting a transparent and structured civil dialogue that is accessible, properly facilitated, inclusive, fair and respectful of the autonomy of civil society organisations, we would be particularly alarmed should the European Commission backtrack on its commitment to establish increased transparency.

In the Civil Society Contact Group we believe that scrutiny and oversight of EU lobbying is in the public interest, as it would help to prevent (and if necessary to make public and stop) problematic cases of lobbying such as "front groups" or conflicts of interest. We are therefore committed to providing full transparency ourselves and we do expect representatives of private interests to meet the same standards.

Since the European Commission announced the European Transparency Initiative, the Civil Society Contact Group and its member organisations have contributed to the debate and consultations undertaken by your services. We had until now assumed that the names of individual lobbyists would be one of the central pieces of information in the register, as this is also the case in the US and the Canadian systems as well as in the register of the European Parliament.

In our understanding, the European Transparency Initiative intends to "ensure that the Union is open to public scrutiny and accountable for its work¹". Not including names of lobbyists in the register would be contrary to this objective and therefore would simply fail to provide confidence in the EU institutions. As a

¹ In the Green Paper European Transparency Initiative, p.2

matter of fact people would still not have any real indication of the number of lobbyists working to influence EU decision-making, let alone know who exactly is lobbying EU legislators. This would not only reduce the usefulness of the register as a tool to prevent problematic lobbying practices, but it would also seriously undermine the credibility of the register and of the will of the European Commission to reduce suspicion and distrust.

Similarly, we want to urge you to ensure that the criteria for financial reporting will be clear and sufficiently detailed so as to give the public an easily accessible, informative and factual overview of lobbying activities at EU level.

We do welcome the consultation that your services have undertaken and we believe it is time to take a decisive step towards improved EU lobbying transparency. The standards set by the Commission register will determine to a large extent the level of lobbying transparency in the EU for the coming years. This is a great responsibility and we trust you will ensure that the register of interest representatives will meet high transparency benchmarks, so that we can wholeheartedly endorse it and recommend our member groups to enregister.

As you will understand, public interest organisations would be reluctant to associate their names to a register that obscures rather than reveals.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier Consolo
Director CONCORD



Fintan Farrell
President Social Platform



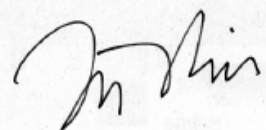
Ilona Kish
Secretary General EFAH



Kirsti Kolthoff
President EWL



Monika Kosinska
Secretary General EPHA



Jorgo Riss
Green10 Representative



Jean-Marc Roirant
President EUCIS-LLL



Liz Scurfield
HRDN Representative

P.S. The same or a similar letter is being sent to Commissioner Siim Kallas, Commissioner Margot Wallström and Commission Secretary General Catherine Day.

EU Civil Society Contact Group

Press release, 31 March 2008

NGOs concerned by U-turn on European Transparency Initiative urge Commission to stand by its commitment to build trust and credibility

Public interest organisations united in the EU Civil Society Contact Group urged the Commission to apply high standards of transparency for a strong and meaningful register of interest representation in Brussels. "Alarming evidence that the EU is going for a U-turn on the European Transparency Initiative is worrying NGOs, which are reluctant to associate to a register that obscures more than it reveals," said Fintan Farrell, chair of the EU Civil Society Contact Group.

In letters to Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström and Secretary General Catherine Day, the Civil Society Contact Group expressed its concern and said it would question the enlistment of its members on a register that hides the names of lobbyists and avoids giving precise information about the financing of lobbying activities.

"We believe that more scrutiny and oversight of EU lobbying is in the public interest, we are therefore committed ourselves and expect representatives of private interests to meet the same standards" added Farrell.

Since the European Commission announced the European Transparency Initiative, the Civil Society Contact Group and its members have contributed to the debate and consultations undertaken by the European Commission. "In our understanding, the European Transparency Initiative was meant to contribute to 'ensure that the Union is open to public scrutiny and accountable for its work¹'. Not including names of lobbyists and meaningful financial information in the register would be contrary to this objective and therefore would simply fail to provide confidence in the EU institutions," ended Farrell.

NGOs are convinced that with the register, presently planned by the Commission, people would still not have any real indication of who exactly is working to influence EU decision-making, let alone on whose behalf lobbying of EU legislators is taking place. NGOs observe that this tactic will reduce the usefulness of the register and undermine its credibility and the one of the European Commission as a whole.

Note to the editor

The EU Civil Society Contact Group brings together the Platform of European Social NGOs (Social Platform), the European NGO confederation for relief and development (Concord), the Human Rights and Democracy Network, the Green 10 (environmental organisations), the European Women's Lobby, the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH), the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL). Encompassing hundreds of European NGOs and thousands of national affiliates, they work together to develop a common vision for the European Union and the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy. www.act4europe.org

Find the letter sent today to Barroso [here](#).

For more information, please contact Regula Heggli + 32 (0)2 511 17 11 or Fintan Farrell + 32 (0)474 797 934.

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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: **15 June 2008**.