

EfVET Newsletter

December 2006

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Message from the President (December 2006)



Introduction

I am delighted to write to you as your new President. I look forward to serving you with enthusiasm, to working with our colleagues on the Steering Committee and indeed with all our members to ensure we continue to build a strong commitment to improving Vocational Education and Training across Europe.

Over recent years under the leadership of Hans van Aalst, EfVET has positioned itself at the heart of the European debate on VET and Lifelong Learning. EfVET has become a key player, alongside fellow European Networks, representing its members in policy consultations with the European Commission. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Hans for his unstinting dedication to this task. He opened many avenues to assist EfVET in its quest to move forward and strengthen our position. He will be sadly missed both as a colleague but also as a friend and mentor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Leila Lahti for her commitment to EfVET over many years and for her close friendship and support.

Our work continues apace and with increasing demands. EU policy developments within the VET and Lifelong Learning arena will intensify as Europe moves to implement the Education and Training 2010 agenda. VET institutions, such as those represented within EfVET, will need to respond to the challenges implied with constant change; increased flexibility and widening

participation; continuous quality improvement; responding to employer and skills needs in a global marketplace; improved teaching and learning to name just a few.

Beyond the policy debate, EfVET plays an important role in bringing members together in partnerships and collaborative ventures whereby members are able to benefit from sharing good practice. I have always been struck by the fact that we are all facing similar challenges and have more in common than one might at first appreciate. With this in mind EfVET provides a forum for discussion, debate and learning from each other. The benefits to all can be considerable.

Finally I would like to extend my welcome to Stelios Mavromoustakos who replaces me as Vice President and joins our Executive Team. Together we hope to build a strong EfVET with wider representation across all member states and pre accession countries.

EfVET – the way forward.

Following on from the work undertaken by the Policy Group outlined by Hans in the last newsletter, the Steering Group have sought to clarify and refine EfVET's Mission and vision with a view to focussing on the challenges facing EfVET in the coming years. The Mission has been re-stated and can be found on the EfVET Website following its ratification at the AGM held in Cyprus (October 2006). A small working group drawn from the Policy Group is currently drafting an action plan and setting targets to ensure we steer our activities to achieve our objectives and can effectively represent members' views on key issues. The Action Plan will be finalised at the Steering Committee meeting to be held in late January.

A key aspect of this will be to seek members' views on specific VET issues so as to influence the EU policy debate. We can only do this effectively if we know your positions. As such we will be undertaking a consultation with all members shortly – **we urge you to participate in this process so that EfVET can meet your needs appropriately and ensure our services to members remain relevant and timely.**

Conference 2006 and 2007

It was a real pleasure to meet many of you plus several new delegates at our Annual Conference in Cyprus – it proved to be highly successful – not only in the depth of debate but also in the high level of networking taking place. To read the findings and read the papers from the Conference go to www.efvet.org/conferences

I applaud the decision to host the Conference 2007 in Tours, France. I hope this will galvanise recruitment and a stronger representation from France within EfVET in the future.

My thanks and appreciation go to Stelios and team from Cyprus for their work in Cyprus and the warmth of their welcome to all. Thanks also to the Conference preparation team for their preparations for 2007.

EU Consultation on Mobility (November / December 2006)

EfVET has been invited to take part in this debate and has actively contributed within the Conference "Obstacles to mobility", promoted by EUNEC, European Network of Education Councils, in Bruxelles on 9 – 10 November

Following this Conference EfVET as the primary VET practitioner network was invited to prepare a position statement on Mobility to go forward to the Move-it initiative and the Commission representing the views of members. I am delighted with the response of members to this important consultation and the rich comments received. The final communiqué will be placed on the website shortly and forwarded to the Commission by Dec 15th 2006. To follow the debate please visit www.efvet.org

Education and Training Co-ordinating Committee (October 2006)

In mid October 2006 I had the pleasure of representing EfVET at a special session of the Education and Training Co-ordinating Committee meeting alongside our fellow Non

Government Organisation Networks, EVTA, EAEA, EUA, Youth Forum and others. The summary report from this session looking at the progress National Governments are making toward the implementation of LLL strategies as part of Education and Training 2010 can be found on our website. The session was attended by some 31 countries with 12 or so Civil Society

Helsinki Conference ' Best Practices supporting European Cooperation in VET' December 4th and 5th 2006.

EfVET has recently participated in the above conference organised by the Finnish Leonardo National Agency in association with the Ministry of Education in Finland and the European Commission. The event was a key platform within the Finish Presidency. Our Vice President Stelios Mavromoustakos made a keynote presentation. A report and the presentation will shortly be uploaded to our website.

The new Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013

A reminder to those of you involved in developing European partnerships and project activity. The new programmes have been approved. Application forms and guidelines should be issued very shortly with deadlines for submission under Leonardo (the overarching programme for VET) set at March 31st 2007. I expect many of you will be working overtime to prepare submissions under this initiative. It is important to build a good 'valorisation strategy' within any submission. Don't forget to think about including EfVET as a dissemination partner in your projects – it offers the opportunity to reach a significant audience across our network and undoubtedly offers a strong contribution to project success.

I also draw your attention to the new Culture 2007 programme – deadline for submissions end of February 2007

For further information of how we might assist contact myself or Stefano Tirati (president@efvet.org or it@efvet.org)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a warm winter break

Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

Méssage du Président (décembre 2006)

Introduction

Je suis très heureux de vous écrire comme nouveau Président. J'attends avec impatience de vous servir avec grand enthousiasme, de travailler avec nos collègues du comité de pilotage et en effet de travailler avec tous nos membres pour assurer que nous continuerons à maintenir un fort engagement pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle à travers l'Europe.

Au cours des années récentes, sous la direction de Hans van Aalst, l'EfVET a continué sa position au coeur du débat européen sur l'éducation et la formation professionnelle et l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. L'EfVET a joué un rôle clef, en collaboration avec d'autres réseaux européens, pour représenter ses membres dans les consultations sur les politiques de VET avec la Commission Européenne. De la part de vous tous, je voudrais remercier Hans van Aalst pour sa dévouement infatigable pour atteindre les objectifs de l'EfVET. Il a ouvert les chemins à suivre pour aider l'EfVET à faire du progrès et à consolider notre position en Europe. Nous le manquerons et comme collègue et comme cher ami et conseiller.

Je voudrais aussi remercier Leila Lahti pour son engagement à l'EfVET au cours de tant d'années et pour son amitié et sa coopération .

Notre travail plus exigeant continue rapidement. Les politiques de l'UE dans les domaines de VET et d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie s'intensifieront comme l'Europe commence à l'implémentation de l'Agenda de Lisbonne 2010. Les institutions VET, représentées par l'EfVET auront besoin de répondre aux défis provoqués par le changement constant, la flexibilité croissante et la participation qui s'élargit de plus en plus, l'amélioration de qualité continue, la réponse aux besoins des employeurs pour de meilleures compétences dans le marché mondial; l'enseignement et la formation améliorés pour en citer quelques-uns.

Au-delà du débat de politiques, l'EfVET joue un rôle important à grouper ensemble nos membres en partenariats et en projets de collaboration, d'où nos membres pourront tirer des bénéfices d'avoir partagé de bons exemples et des études de cas. Cela me frappe toujours que nous confrontons, tous, les défis semblables, mais que nous partageons plus que l'on puisse apprécier au début. A cette fin, l'EfVET vous offre un forum pour des discussions, des débats et des échanges d'expérience. Vous en tirerez des bénéfices considérables.

Finalement, je voudrais accueillir Stelios Mavromoustakos qui me remplace comme notre Vice-Président. Nous travaillerons ensemble pour créer un EfVET plus fort qui représentera plus de membres dans tous les pays de l'UE.

L'EfVET – l'avenir

Suite au travail effectué par le groupe qui formule nos politiques, décrit par Hans dans notre dernier bulletin, le Comité de Pilotage a essayé d'éclaircir et de raffiner notre mission et notre vision pour nous concentrer sur les défis qui confronteront l'EfVET dans les années à venir. Nous avons rédigé à nouveau notre mission, que vous trouverez sur notre site web, et qui a été ratifié à notre réunion annuel en Chypre (octobre 2006). Un petit groupe du Comité de Pilotage est maintenant en train de rédiger un plan d'action et d'établir des objectifs, pour nous assurer que nous représenterons les opinions de nos membres sur les questions clef. Le plan d'action final sera discuté à la réunion du Comité de Pilotage à la fin de janvier 2007.

Nous allons entreprendre une consultation de nos membres bientôt. **Nous vous conseillons vivement de participer à cette consultation afin que nous répondrons à vos besoins d'une façon appropriée et nous assurer que nos services aux membres continuent à être pertinents et opportuns.**

Conférences 2006 et 2007

C'était un grand plaisir de vous rencontrer tous – surtout nos nouveaux membres - à notre Conférence Annuelle en Chypre. C'était un grand succès avec beaucoup de bons débats et beaucoup de contacts établis. Pour lire les rapports de la conférence, consultez: www.efvet.org/conferences

J'applaudis à la décision de nous accueillir à Tours en France pour notre Conférence en 2007. J'espère que nous y trouverons plus de membres et de représentants en France pour l'EfVET.

Je dois remercier Stelios et son équipe de Chypre pour leur travail en Chypre et pour leur accueil chaleureux. Merci aussi à l'équipe de Tours qui entreprend l'organisation de la conférence de 2007.

Consultation de l'UE la Mobilité (novembre/décembre 2006)

L'EfVET a reçu une invitation de participer à ce débat et a contribué à la conférence de l'EUNEC "Obstacles à la Mobilité" à Bruxelles le 9 novembre 2006.

Suite à cette conférence, l'EfVET, comme réseau de praticiens de VET principal a été invité de présenter les opinions de ses membres sur la mobilité à l'initiative "Move-it" et à la Commission. Je voudrais remercier tous nos membres qui nous ont déclaré leurs opinions. Le communiqué final

apparaîtra sur le site web bientôt et sera présenté à la Commission avant le 15 décembre 2006. Pour suivre le débat, consultez www.efvet.org

Le Comité de Coordination de l'Education et de la Formation (octobre 2006)

J'ai représenté l'EfVET à une session spéciale de ce comité avec nos collègues d'autres organisations non-gouvernementales (EVTA, EAEA, EUA, Youth Forum etc.)

Vous trouverez sur notre site web un rapport de cette conférence, qui a examiné le progrès fait par les gouvernements nationaux à atteindre l'implémentation des stratégies de VET 2010.

Conférence d'Helsinki "Best Practices supporting European Cooperation in VET" (décembre 4 et 5 2006)

Stelios Mavromoustakos a fait une présentation clef à cette conférence, organisée par le Ministère d'Education de Finlande et l'UE. Un rapport et sa présentation apparaîtra sur notre site web bientôt.

Nouveau Programme – Lifelong Learning 2007-13

Je vous rappelle que ce nouveau programme a été accepté. Les fiches d'application et les documents de conseils seront publiés bientôt. Des projets du programme Léonardo doivent être présentés avant le 31 mars 2007. Je vous encourage de citer l'EfVET comme partenaire de dissemination.

J'attire votre attention sur le nouveau programme "Culture 2007" auquel on doit présenter des projets avant la fin de février 2007.

Pour plus d'information ou d'assistance, contactez-moi ou Stefano Tirati president@efvet.org ou it@efvet.org

Mes meilleurs voeux

Peter Hodgson
Président
prisdent@efvet.org

From the Treasurer

The membership fee for 2007

In the first week of December the invoices for the membership fee for the year 2007 were sent out to you. I would like to remind the members that payment should take place within 30 days of receipt: an agreement that was made in the AGM in Helsinki in 1998 and reinforced at the AGM in Maastricht in 2001.

If you keep to this it will save us the quite expensive exercise of having to sent out reminder invoices.

The Data base: Highly important !!

To keep the database up to date we urge you to inform the Central Office of any changes in the information of your organisation: efvet@efvet.org

Please take a minute and check whether the information about your organisation is still correct on our Website: www.efvet.org

Festive season

I would like to take this opportunity to send you all my best wishes for the festive season and wish you a prosperous, healthy and happy 2007.

Frans Schneider

AGM in EFVET-DK

November 22d EFVET-DK had called for the AGM in Odense. As usual we made a whole day of it, so that the members could hear about the latest news on the LLL-programme, the international strategies of the coming regional growth-forums, and dissemination of various EU-projects.

During 2006 we have lost two member schools. One of these is Odense Production School where Paul Andy – known to many of you – was principal. Due to illness he retired last year, and the new management has unfortunately no interest EFVET.

As usual we also discussed the Annual Conference. Most of the delegates from Denmark expressed the view that there ought to be room for workshops on “hot issues”, i.e. important news that you can bring home and use at your college. In that way the directors will see the benefit of participating. Demanding that all workshops must relate to the overall theme hinders this. It was agreed that a letter for the Steering Committee should be drafted and circulated to the members for comments.

It was agreed

At the AGM Pia Isert was re-elected as vice chair, and Ole Riis-Petersen and Gert Meiner as board members.

Louise Rosthøj, chair

Invitation to participate in a Joint Language Teaching Projects Conference

If you are a project coordinator (or have some interesting language teaching ideas to present) then please consider presenting at a language teaching projects results conference in September 2007.

Many projects have planned a final conference (some even call for a press meeting; -) and find that the number of participants from outside the project teams is rather limited (to say the least). The solution to this is to cluster with other projects and have a joint conference.

Imagine that five projects have a joint conference; the project teams would get together approximately 100 participants and the combined dissemination efforts are likely to attract another 100 participants, i.e. a prospect of 200 participants keen on learning about your results!

The POOLS project now offers you such an opportunity in September 2007 in Alkmaar, a beautiful city in the Netherlands. The dates for the conference are set to September 27th and 28th. Learn about Alkmaar here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alkmaar> or from the homepage of Alkmaar: <http://www.alkmaar.nl/>

The Horizon college in Alkmaar offers its facilities to the conference with possible meeting rooms the day before and after the conference (Wednesday and Saturday); this makes it possible for you to move a project meeting to Alkmaar and thus cover the travel costs. If you are having an EU-supported project then please remember to ask your national agency or the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (<http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/index.htm>) for eligibility of the costs.

All language teaching projects are welcome to participate and are also welcome to assist us in planning and disseminating the event. If you are interested then please e-mail ka@ots.dk before February 1st after this date we might have to say no to some projects because we “only” have conference space for approximately 200 participants.

We also welcome presentations from individual teachers. We are planning a format for proposals and a panel to decide which presentations to accept, more about this in the coming months.

Costs: We plan to make a low cost conference to take place in a college with no profits whatsoever. Participation as such will be free, but we want to include social events like a conference dinner at the college with everything pre-paid. We have made an arrangement with a nearby quality hotel which offers single rooms with breakfast for 55EUR per night, but cheaper lodgings are also available.

Kent Andersen,
The EfVET webmaster

News from the Netherlands

The MBO Raad (Netherlands Association of VET Colleges), in close cooperation with the Dutch organisation for national centres of expertise on business and education (Colo), are participating in a Leonardo da Vinci project aimed at testing the European Qualification Framework (EQF). Other countries participating in the project are Denmark, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Austria and Switzerland. In short, the plan is to select educational programmes from a few sectors and link the national levels to the EQF. This should result in a transparent comparison of the national qualifications (concerning the chosen educational programmes) between the participating countries.

For more information on the project, please contact the MBO Raad:
Ms Pia Deveneyjns; p.deveneyjns@mboraad.nl; +31 30 2219 839

In an attempt to integrate different national initiatives concerning international mobility, the MBO Raad is the leading partner in coming to one national website concerning mobility in VET, focussing on students, companies and VET colleges (www.workplacement.nl). The content for this website comes from different (subsidised) projects. The creation of the website can thus be seen as a valuable valorisation for all respective projects.

For more information on the project, please contact the MBO Raad:
Mr Manfred Polzin; m.polzin@mboraad.nl; +31 30 2219 864

To EfVET Steering Committee 6 December, 2006

REPORT of Stefano Tirati – CSCS
 Manfred Polzin – MBO Raad

“MoVE-iT: Obstacles to Mobility in VET”

9-10 November 2006, Vlaamse Onderwijsraad, Brussels

Promoting Organisation: EUNEC – European Network of Education Councils

For more information: www.eunec.org

c/o Vlaamse Onderwijsraad

Leuvenseplein 4

1000 Brussel

Tel.: + 32 2 219 13 70

Fax.: + 32 2 219 81 18

EfVET has been invited to join a consultation panel organized by EUNEC to discuss the recommendations of the MoVE-iT study.

The MoVE-iT study was contracted by the European Commission with the aim of identifying the obstacles which prevent or stand in the way of mobility and gathering practical solutions which could overcome these obstacles.

The study focuses on mobility in initial vocational-training and it has been conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers in cooperation with CINOP. You can find more information on the study on its official web site: www.europe-move.it

Two EfVET representatives, Manfred Polzin (The Netherlands) and Stefano Tirati (Italy), have been invited to contribute to the debate together with a large number of EUNEC members and experts coming from 15 countries. Overall around 25 persons have attended this event.

The focus of the EUNEC conference was to provide some critical remarks and statements on the findings and recommendations developed by MoVE-iT study.

We believe that the recommendations of the MoVE-iT study represent a valuable document as they highlight a number of problems and suggest, with a pragmatic approach, a number of practical solutions. On the other hand, it seems important to us to express a word of caution. As the (training) systems in Europe differ enormously, not all recommendations seem equally relevant to us. It is necessary to take into account the differences concerning systems, levels, age, duration etc.

You can download the draft of the MoVE-iT study recommendations from the EfVET web site: www.efvet.org

The conference has been very well organized and every participant, through plenary sessions as well as through working groups, has been able to express own views and confront with other participants.

Our impression is that the discussion in the subgroups has been very rich and a number of relevant and interesting points have been raised.

EUNEC is in the process of collating all comments arisen during the conference and from December you will be able to access this document from EUNEC web site: www.eunec.org

During the conference EfVET has been invited to launch a consultation among its members in order to present to the European Commission and the European Parliament the point of view of VET practitioners on mobility issues.

EfVET consultation is currently in progress: a questionnaire has been circulated among all members in order to collect comments and suggestions and by mid December an EfVET policy statement on mobility will be made available to the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The EUNEC President, Simone BARTHEL, and the General Secretary, Mia DOUTERLUNGNE, have expressed their interest in fostering a cooperation with EfVET as our two organisations share the same general objectives and encompass a complementary representation base. EUNEC mainly represents education councils, representing in many cases the social partners and ministerial bodies, whereas EfVET represents VET providers.

All conference participants have been acquainted with EfVET and many of them have expressed interest and willingness to cooperate with us in promoting EfVET membership in their respective countries.

Res Integra

Reducing early school leaving by an integrated approach

A Leonardo da Vinci project; 2004–2007

Aims of the Res Integra project:

- to reduce early school leaving.
- to improve guidance and counselling at (pre) VET institutes.
- to contribute towards 'making better use of human resources' in our ageing society.
- to use and strengthen already existing knowledge and expertise by sharing and implementing good practice.
- to prevent youth unemployment
- to give youngsters with social and emotional and/or learning problems a fair chance to display their capabilities
- to contribute towards more social cohesion in the EU

The project:

Vocational Education and Training (VET) plays a key role in achieving the Lisbon ambitions to make Europe the most dynamic and competitive region in the world with greater social cohesion. The roadmap to Lisbon has many obstacles but the problem of early school leaving has proven to be an extremely persistent one.

The Res Integra project is delivering a contribution towards the reduction of early school leaving by exchanging good practices between approximately twenty VET institutes from six countries.

The approach:

The selection of good practice is based on three different 'angles of incidence'.

1. Integrated approach: concerning co-operation with other actors not primarily from within the education system. Special attention will be given to the integration of youth care.
2. Pedagogical learning environment.
3. Alternative didactical approaches.

The good practices of the participating VET institutes are subdivided in accordance with these angles of incidence. By incorporating elements from their counterparts abroad into their own practice, each of them is able to improve their own methodologies. The incorporation of new elements from abroad will be monitored by the foreign partners, where the idea comes from. This methodology not only offers an enrichment to every good practice, but realises a teacher exchange and an international teacher cooperation at the same time.

Results:

The final results are at least three proven, effective approaches to reducing early school leaving that are suitable for implementation in other environments, based on the angles of incidence mentioned above.

Co-ordinating institute:

Bve Raad
Manfred Polzin
Senior Consultant on International Affairs
Henrica van Erpweg 2
NL - 3730 AD De Bilt
Phone: +31(0)30 2219864
Fax: +31(0)30 2202506
www.bveraad.nl

RSS Feed for the EfVET website

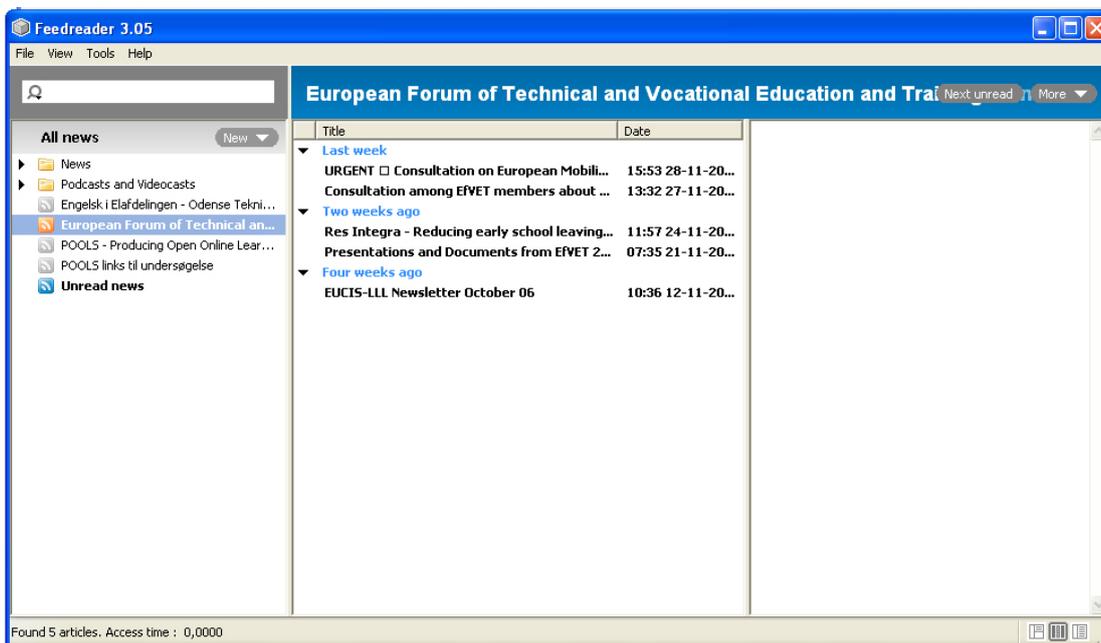
The EfVET website has now been updated with an RSS feed. To make use of the feed just click on the RSS Icon in the Home page of the website or use this address:

http://www.efvet.org/plugins/p47_rssyn/rssfeed.php

RSS makes it possible for the website users to know immediately when new content has been added to the site without having to go to the site to search through the many pages.

To use RSS you need a modern Internet browser like Internet Explorer 7.0, but the webmaster's favorite is a stand alone RSS reader called Feedreader, which can be downloaded for free at this address: <http://www.feedreader.com/download>

What I like with Feedreader is that it automatically starts when I switch on my computer and shows with **bold** text which of my feeds (E.g. the EfVET feed) that have news



The EfVET RSS feed seen in the Feedreader

Kent Andersen
EfVET webmaster

EUCIS-LLL Newsletter October 2006

See attached files at the end of this Newsletter

Impressum:

Editor:

Leif Haar, Tietgen Business College, e-mail: leha@tietgen.dk

Webmaster:

Kent Andersen, Odense Technical College, e-mail: ka@ots.dk

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

New deadline for manuscripts: **1 February 2007.**

Merry Christmas and a Happy EfVET New Year to all of you.

