

EFVET Newsletter

February 2007

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Message from the President (February 2007)



Moving forward through Action – Delivering our Mission

In my last message (December 2006) I referred to the adoption of EfVET's new Mission and Vision for the future and emphasised our drive to ensure EfVET is well positioned to serve its members and promote VET in Europe at both a strategic and practitioner level.

As part of our on-going activities your National Representatives on the Steering Group have devoted their energies to devise an Action Plan to ensure we realise this mission in an effective

and timely manner. At our Steering Group meeting held in Brussels on 28th January we moved to adopt the Plan and set up a series of small working groups to implement these actions / tasks.

The detailed tasks, timeframes and working arrangements are set out on in the Action Plan – details of which will be placed on the web site shortly. Each working group is made up of a small team of Steering Group members with one acting as co-ordinator with responsibility for reporting back to the SC later this year.

I recognise that there is a lot of work to be done and this is where you as members can assist. We are looking to members to contribute / help achieve our objectives. If you feel you or your organisation can assist these groups - either through devoting a little time, contributing to the debate / developments or indeed devote some resources then please contact the identified co-ordinator(s) as set out in the Action Plan on the website (available from end of February 2007). We hope to hear from you.

On a particular note I would draw your attention to one of the tasks – namely a survey of all our members to identify their specific needs and the value added benefits EfVET offers. We need to hear from you. On line questionnaires are currently being devised to address this aspect so we can tailor our support directly to you as members. I would urge you to complete the questionnaire and return – we hope to upload the questionnaire shortly and will notify you at the appropriate time.

Project activity: LLL Programme 2007-2013

May I take this opportunity to wish those of you preparing Transfer of Innovation; Development of Innovation and Thematic Networks good luck in meeting the deadline of March 30th 2007. I recognise the tight schedule will keep you busy for the next 6 weeks. I would however draw your attention to the fact that EfVET would welcome the opportunity to act as a dissemination partner within your proposed projects. This has provided considerable strengths to the 'valorisation and dissemination' strategies of proposals in recent years – offering as it does dissemination to some 1500 VET providers across Europe. For further details you can contact myself on president@efvet.org or Stefano Tirati on it@efvet.org

Conference 2007

Finally – I draw your attention to our 2007 Conference in the delightful city of Tours in France. The Conference dates are 24th October -27th October 2007. Registration details are on our website www.efvet.org/conferences. The full programme is currently being devised and will be available on the website by the end of February.

DG EAC – Consultation on Modernising the School

The Life Long Learning Unit under Gordon Clark is about to embark on a major consultation initiative entitled ' Modernising the School' – although by the time the consultation will take place (between March and May) the title may change. It is looking at the necessary reforms of Educational and Training Institutions to meet the challenges of tomorrow. EfVET through EUCIS was invited to participate in the early deliberations in formulating the paper. We will keep you informed of developments but would welcome your views within the consultation process.

I wish you all well

Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

Méssage du Président (Février 2007)

Avancement de notre Mission

Dans mon dernier méssage (décembre 2006), j'ai fait mention de l'adoption de la nouvelle mission et de la vision pour l'avenir et j'ai mis de l'emphase sur notre intention d'assurer que l'EfVET soit en bonne position de servir nos membres et de promouvoir l'éducation et la formation professionnelle en Europe et au niveau stratégique et pour soutenir nos praticiens.

Un aspect des activités de vos représentants nationaux – membres du comité de pilotage – centre sur le développement d'un plan d'action pour assurer que nous atteindrons les objectifs de notre mission le plus tôt possible. A notre réunion à Bruxelles le 28 janvier 2007, nous avons accepté le plan et établi une série de groupes de travail pour implémenter les tâches.

Les tâches détaillées, l'horaire et les méthodes de travail apparaîtront bientôt sur notre site web. Chaque groupe de travail est composé de certains membres du comité de pilotage, dont l'un est le coordinateur. Celui-ci a la responsabilité de rapporter au comité de pilotage au cours de l'année à venir. Je me rends compte qu'il y a beaucoup de travail à faire et je vous demande de nous aider à atteindre nos objectifs. Si vous, avec vos collègues dans votre établissement, pouvez nous offrir de l'assistance à ces groupes, soit du temps, soit des contributions au débat, soit des ressources, alors je vous prie de contacter les coordinateurs identifiés. La liste apparaîtra sur le site web à la fin de février 2007. Nous attendrons votre réponse avec impatience.

En particulier, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur l'une des tâches – c'est-à-dire une enquête parmi nos membres pour identifier leurs besoins spécifiques et la valeur ajoutée que leur offre l'EfVET. Nous avons grand besoin de vos opinions. Nous préparons déjà les questionnaires pour obtenir vos idées afin de mieux développer notre service. Vous trouverez bientôt les questionnaires sur le site web et je vous encourage de remplir ces questionnaires et de les retourner immédiatement.

Projets: Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013

Bonne chance à nos membres qui présenteront des projets d'innovation et des réseaux thématiques avant le 30 mars 2007. J'attire votre attention sur l'offre de l'EfVET de vous joindre comme partenaire dans votre projet pour en coordonner la diffusion. Pendant les années récentes la participation de l'EfVET dans la diffusion et la valorisation des projets a confirmé leurs succès. L'EfVET a accès à 1500 formateurs à travers l'Europe. Pour plus de détails, contactez-moi (president@efvet.org) ou Stefano Tirati (ct@efvet.org)

Conférence 2007

Je vous rappelle que notre conférence de 2007 aura lieu dans la cité de Tours en France du 24 au 27 octobre 2007. Pour assurer votre participation, visitez notre site web – www.efvet.org/conferences. Le programme sera publié sur le site web avant la fin de février.

DG EAC Consultation sur la Modernisation de l'École

Le Lifelong Learning Unit mené par Gordon Clark commencera bientôt une consultation importante intitulée "La Modernisation de l'École", bien que le titre puisse changer avant le début de l'exercice au mois de mars. La consultation examinera les réformes qui seront nécessaires dans les établissements d'éducation et de formation professionnelle pour répondre aux défis de demain.

L'EfVET en association avec l'EUCIS a été invité à contribuer à la formulation des documents. Nous vous tiendrons au courant de ce développement et nous vous invitons de présenter vos opinions au processus de consultation.

Mes meilleurs voeux

Peter Hodgson

Président

president@efvet.org



A European Observatory of the use of ICT-supported Lifelong Learning by SMEs, Micro-Enterprises and the Self-employed in Rural Areas is a Leonardo project, which will complete in September 2007 with a conference in Brussels.

The aim of the project is to examine the policy and practice for ICT-supported continuing educational and training (CET) in the context of lifelong learning (which includes learning at work, skills acquisition, personal development) across the participating countries and in the European Union more generally, with an inventory of opportunities for unemployed or employed people, with an emphasis on employees of SMEs and micro-enterprises, and the self-employed. The intention is to establish the Observatory with the remit to continue its operations beyond the life of the project. The Observatory on the Internet will be a long-term resource to inform policy

and practice, addressing training organisations, social partners and policy makers. All interested parties will be invited to respond to reports which will be published on the Observatory website, using Discussion Groups and other means of communication. The website for further information is www.euracademy-observatory.org

EfvEt is a main partner in this project both from a research point of view and as a dissemination partner. We would hope that those members within EfvET who have an interest in working with SMEs and also involved in serving rural communities using flexible learning methodologies and ICT would benefit from participation and involvement in the Observatory.

The final project conference, organised by EfvET and Euracademy Association will be held in Brussels on Friday September 7 at a venue to be confirmed. The results of the project will be presented, with an aim to provoke discussion on the main challenges and possible solutions. Further details will be available from www.efvet.org/projects

To register an interest and /or reserve a place at the Conference, please email EuroObservatory@nortcoll.ac.uk



Project updates



City Guides take off!

The pilot programme for the City Guides project started in the Netherlands and the UK in February. Partners in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and France are also working on the project which is aiming to raise the professional status of city/tourist guiding across Europe. Please see the website www.city-guides.nl for more information.

Participants in the first workshop held at Norton Radstock College, UK, were very enthusiastic about their involvement. There was a mix of people interested in guiding and volunteer guides. The day included lively discussion on the key competencies required for guiding, a presentation on the latest tourism developments and key trends from Bath Tourism Plus and group work on

developing local knowledge led by a Blue Badge guide. The pilot will run until 30th April and consists of 4 practical workshops and guided learning (including e-learning).



European Rural
Tourism Development



Leonardo da Vinci

European Rural Tourism Development

The ERTD pilot continues with a focus on helping small rural tourism businesses to adopt a professional approach and training students who wish to enter the industry using a guided learning approach. Partners from Spain, Italy, Bulgaria and the UK are monitoring progress. More information can be found on www.ertd.info

At the February workshop in the UK, managers and students visited a rural tourism hotel to learn about standards for room preparation. They also participated in group work, creating examples of effective on-line communication. Later in the month, there will be a workshop on sustainable development with external speakers from environmental bodies: involve and REAL tourism. Participants from the College's previous rural tourism courses will also be invited to attend.

Peter Hodgson



Leonardo da Vinci

SKILLS DEMONSTRATIONS ABROAD - The practices begin to shape

Since October 2004 the Leonardo da Vinci project **SKILLDA** has been working on the creation of a vocational skills demonstration system between the participating organisations from Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Hungary. Skills Demonstrations are real working situations, which are planned, implemented and assessed in co-operation with the training providers and working

life. In skills demonstrations students show how well they have achieved the objectives of their vocational studies and the vocational skills required at work.

The **SKILLDA** project has produced a vocational skills demonstration manual for students, teachers and workplace instructors as well as an evaluation module for teachers and workplace instructors. The purpose of these tools is to help students in initial vocational education and apprenticeship training give skills demonstrations during their on-the-job training periods abroad as qualitatively as in their home countries and according to their national curricula. The tools aim also at improving the competence of teachers and workplace instructors in planning, organisation and evaluation of vocational skills demonstrations and at ensuring the best possible use of the resources of workplaces and educational institutions.

The usefulness of the system and the project outcomes were tested through two Leonardo da Vinci student mobility projects, during which Finnish and Danish students did their practical training abroad and gave their skills demonstrations. The vocational skills demonstrations of students were assessed by workplace instructors, either alone or in some cases with the help of teachers of the host schools.

The test results have been promising. However, to make the system really work in practice, certain pre-requisites are required. These include, for example: positive, experimental attitude, thorough pre-planning, commitment of all parties to the guidelines, good command of foreign languages, especially command of English, good working life connections and good connections to partner schools, understanding the skills demonstration system, clear local, exam-specific curricula, mutual trust and trustworthiness, sufficient amount of information, right-timed and sufficient guidance of students, documentation and follow-up.

The quality assurance criteria for the vocational skills demonstration system have included, among other things, training of evaluators in the evaluation of vocational skills demonstrations, transparency of evaluation (evaluation objects and criteria have been defined beforehand and the parties have been aware of them), authentic skills demonstration/learning environment, co-operative evaluation (participated by student, teacher and workplace instructor) and sufficient documentation. In addition, the principal idea has been that students do not have to show in their home countries again what they have learnt during their on-the-job training periods abroad. In this way, the project has tackled issues emphasised in the Copenhagen declaration. The project will end 31 March 2007.

Anne Onikki, Project Coordinator
Savo Consortium for Education

Newsletters from EfvET partners

As you have noticed our treasurer Frans Schneider has distributed the EVTA E-Magazine the recent months.

EVTA and EfVET have decided to exchange the newsletters from the 2 organisations so our members will have the opportunity to get the maximum information about VET in Europe.



EVTA **E-magazine**

When the tecnic allows you will receive a direct link to the newsletter. That will happen in a couple of months.

Below we would like to refer to the Cedefop Newsletter latest edition.

Leif Haar

PERMA LINK

Issue 1 - January 2007

The European training village (ETV) newsletter is an awareness service distributed monthly by Cedefop featuring information on vocational training issues at European level: latest Community legislation and policy, calls for proposals, e-documents, web sites, news, forthcoming events, what's new at ETV and recent Cedefop publications. It has been prepared by the Library and documentation service in collaboration with the ETV.

▶ **Highlights of the month**

A choice of key issues and major topics in vocational education and training in Europe.

▶ **Calls and Vacancies**

A selection of newly launched calls for proposal and tenders from Cedefop and the European institutions , as well as VET related job vacancies.

▶ **New web sites and updates**

Information on recently launched websites, newly developed databases and the latest issues of

▶ **European policy**

Latest EU legislation, communication and preparatory documents extracted from the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), and Commission proposals (COM's and SEC'

▶ **E-documents**

Reports, studies and other interesting documents published by the EU institutions, related EU agencies and international organisations.

▶ **New at ETV**

Latest additions and updates in the European Training Village website, such as newly created project sections

newsletters in the field of VET.

▶ **Cedefop publications**

An overview of recent Cedefop publications and documents available for order and/or download.

▶ **Agenda**

Forthcoming European and international events, conferences and seminars in the field of VET.

and other major developments.

▶ **Press releases**

A selection of relevant press releases from EU and international bodies emphasising different aspects of VET.

Highlights of the month

- ▶ [Preparing the future: Cedefop's work in 2006](#)

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European policy

- ▶ [Proposal for the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2007](#)
- ▶ [Implementing the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs "A year of delivery"](#)
- ▶ [Consolidated versions of the Treaty on EU and of the Treaty establishing the European Community](#)

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Calls and Vacancies

- ▶ [Landscape-Gardening Services](#)
- ▶ [Event support services from a Professional Conference Organiser \(PCO\)](#)
- ▶ [Repair and Maintenance Services of Building Installations](#)
- ▶ [Foresight study on themes and issues for Cedefop Report on vocational education and training research in Europe](#)
- ▶ [Project managers - Research, analysis and policy and programme evaluation](#)

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E-documents

- ▶ [Career Guidance in the Netherlands / Euroguidance](#)
- ▶ [Study on adult education providers / DG EAC](#)
- ▶ [Mobility of teachers and trainers / DG EAC](#)
- ▶ [eLearning papers / DG EAC](#)
- ▶ [VET pages on Vetnet.ch Switzerland](#)
- ▶ [Compendium 2006 - Grundtvig 2 / DG EAC](#)
- ▶ ['Education & Training 2010' - Main policy initiatives and outputs in education and training since the year 2000 / DG EAC](#)

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New web sites and updates

- ▶ [HU - New Hungarian VET database 2006 published online](#)
- ▶ [HU - Free learning opportunities to improve the qualification level of the adult population in Hungary](#)
- ▶ [Celebrating Europe - 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome](#)
- ▶ [Launch of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for all](#)

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New at ETV

There are no items available for this month.

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Cedefop publications

- ▶ [New Acquisition Lists - January 2006 / Cedefop Library](#)

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Press releases

- ▶ [ES - New Royal Decree on the new structure of the VET system](#)

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- ▶ [HU - Road show and panel discussions on higher education reforms](#)
- ▶ [Free movement of students: Austria and Belgium](#)

Agenda

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- ▶ [I International Symposium on Educational Documentation](#)
- ▶ [Agora Thessaloniki XXV - Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training](#)
- ▶ [European Social Partners Conference for the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training \(ECVET\)](#)
- ▶ [Kick-off meeting of the TTnet study 'Defining VET professions-CVET'](#)
- ▶ [Kick off meeting "Cedefop and the Social Partners"](#)
- ▶ [VENet Best Practice Seminar](#)
- ▶ [Didacta die Bildungsmesse 2007](#)

Cedefop's mission

Cedefop's mission as stated in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 337/75 of 10 February 1975 establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, Article 2, paragraph 2: "The main tasks of the Centre shall be to compile selected documentation relating in particular to the present situation, the latest developments and research in the relevant fields, and to matters of vocational training structure;..."

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NOTE: The Domain Name and all E-mail addresses of Cedefop have changed!

New web site: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>

New e-mail addresses: firstname.lastname@cedefop.europa.eu

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