



## **EFVET Newsletter**

**June 2005**

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### **Message from the President (June 2005)**

#### **Europe in crisis?**

The rejection of the “European Constitution” by voters in France and The Netherlands has made us aware again how important the dialogue between workers in the field and policy-makers actually is. One of the strategic objectives of EfVET is to facilitate that dialogue.

My personal opinion is that in the field of VET, the method of “open coordination” gives some guarantee that local policies will not be overruled by European measures. The method of “open coordination” means that the policy development process on European level is based on open coordination and wide consultation, reflected in White Papers, declarations, resolutions and the joint definition of objectives rather than the EU's heaviest legal instruments, regulations and directives. (see: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/introduction\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/introduction_en.html))

I also feel that recent directions of the commission in the field of VET have sharpened our vision for the future of VET and certainly have added value to national and local policies. However, our members also express worries. Some of those were expressed in the meeting of managers of VET in December 2004, see: [http://www.efvet.org/documents/maastricht/conclusies\\_vet\\_for\\_the\\_future.pdf](http://www.efvet.org/documents/maastricht/conclusies_vet_for_the_future.pdf). We will keep in contact with the commission to enhance added values for our members.

#### **Visit to Commissioner for Education and Training, Mr Jan Figel**

A delegation of EFVET, the AOC (UK) and the BVE-Raad (NL) will have a meeting with the European Commissioner for Education and Training, Mr Jan Figel. We will discuss the results of the meeting of VET managers in Maastricht, December 2004 and other issues. We will also invite Mr Figel to address the Conference in Hungary.

## **Welcome to new members**

It is my pleasure to say a warm welcome to our new members! Thank you for being with us. I hope you will profit from your membership. A special word of welcome to our new members in Hungary: Mr. Tibor Dóri and ECBS ([www.eurocontact.hu](http://www.eurocontact.hu)). Mr. Tibor Dóri is the Hungarian candidate to become EfVET National Representative of Hungary.

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual EfVET Conference in Hungary**

The conference in Hungary is taking shape now. Reduced subscription fee until the first of July! So be quick! The title of the conference is **“Bridging the Skills Gap Together - opportunities for cooperation between VET institutions in an enlarged Europe”**  
You can find out more about the Conference at: <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu>.

## **Keep up to date on European Policies**

In case you may have forgotten, the site with information on European VET policies starts at: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et\\_2010\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html)

## **Coming up: holidays!**

Enjoy your holidays in the summertime, and looking forward to see you all at our 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Budapest (Hungary) next 26-29 October 2005 !

Hans F. van Aalst  
President  
[president@efvet.org](mailto:president@efvet.org)

## **Message du Président (juin 2005)**

### **L'Europe en crise ?**

Le rejet de la « constitution européenne » par les électeurs en France et aux Pays-Bas nous a rendus à nouveau conscients de la réelle importance du dialogue entre les travailleurs sur le terrain et les hommes politiques. Un des objectifs stratégiques de l'EfVET (European Forum for Vocational Education and Training) est de faciliter ce dialogue.

Mon opinion personnelle est que, dans le cadre du VET (la Formation Professionnelle), la méthode de « coordination ouverte » donne quelques garanties que les politiques locales ne soient pas submergées par les mesures Européennes. La méthode de « coordination ouverte » signifie que le processus de développement politique à un niveau Européen est basé sur une coordination ouverte et sur une complète consultation, reflétée dans les Papiers Blancs, les déclarations, les résolutions et la définition commune des objectifs plutôt que sur des directives, des régulations et des instruments légaux européens lourds. (Voir : [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/introduction\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/introduction_en.html) )

Je ressens aussi que les directions récentes de la commission dans le cadre du VET a aiguisé notre vision pour le futur du VET et a certainement ajouté une valeur aux politiques nationales et régionales. Cependant, nos membres expriment également leurs inquiétudes. Quelques-unes de ces inquiétudes ont été exprimées lors de la rencontre des dirigeants du VET en décembre 2004, voir :

[http://www.efvet.org/documents/maastricht/conclusies\\_vet\\_for\\_the\\_future.pdf](http://www.efvet.org/documents/maastricht/conclusies_vet_for_the_future.pdf) .

Nous resterons en contact avec la commission pour rehausser les valeurs ajoutées pour nos membres.

### **Une visite au Commissaire pour l'Education et la Formation, Mr Jan Figel**

Une délégation de l'EfVET, l'AOC (UK) et le BVE-Raad (NL) tiendront un meeting avec le Commissaire pour l'Education et la Formation, Mr Jan Figel. Nous discuterons des résultats de la rencontre des dirigeants du VET à Maastricht, en décembre 2004, et d'autres problèmes. Mr Figel sera également invité à tenir un discours lors de la Conférence en Hongrie.

### **Bienvenue à nos nouveaux membres**

Cela me fait plaisir d'accueillir chaleureusement nos nouveaux membres ! Merci à vous d'être parmi nous. J'espère que vous pourrez tirer bénéfice de votre adhésion. Un mot de bienvenue particulier à nos nouveaux membres en Hongrie : Mr Tibor Dóri et l'ECBS ([www.eurocontact.hu](http://www.eurocontact.hu)). Mr Tibor Dóri est le candidat Hongrois pour devenir le Représentant National de Hongrie de l'EfVET.

### **14<sup>ème</sup> Conférence Annuelle de l'EfVET en Hongrie**

La Conférence en Hongrie prend désormais forme. Les frais de souscription sont réduits jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> juillet ! Dépêchez vous ! Le titre de la conférence est « **Comblent Ensemble les Lacunes en matière de Compétences – des opportunités de coopération entre les institutions du VET dans une Europe élargie** »

Vous pourrez trouver plus de renseignements à propos de la conférence sur : <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu> .

### **Tenez-vous à jour à propos des Politiques Européennes**

Au cas où vous l'auriez oublié, le site contenant des informations sur les politiques européennes du VET commence ici :

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et\\_2010\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html)

### **Bientôt les vacances !**

Profitez bien de vos vacances d'été, et nous vous attendons tous à notre 14<sup>ème</sup> Conférence Internationale à Budapest en Hongrie, du 26 au 29 Octobre 2005 !

Hans F. van Aalst

President

[president@efvet.org](mailto:president@efvet.org)

## **Budapest will host the 14th Annual EfVET Conference**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to draw your attention to the most important event of our calendar. You still have the opportunity to register to the 14th Annual EfVET Conference! This event will take place

between the **26th and 29th of October, 2005 in Budapest, Hungary** at the Central European University Conference Center.

The **CEU Center** is one of the most well-equipped facilities in Budapest. It is only 15 minutes from the heart of Budapest. The building has a business center, a computer lab with hi-speed internet connection, a self-service restaurant, a café lounge and a bar, an indoor swimming-pool, a fitness room and a sauna - these facilities will all be available for the conference delegates.

Apart from serving as the conference venue, the CEU Center will also provide accommodation for the conference delegates. The Center's own hotel offers comfortable accommodation in single and double rooms (either smoker and non-smoker depending on your preference). All rooms have a shower, most of the rooms have telephone and TV with satellite programs. They have 17 rooms specially equipped for the disabled.

If you would like to find out more, visit their website at <http://www.ceucenter.hu/>

The title of the conference is **“Bridging the Skills Gap Together - opportunities for cooperation between VET institutions in an enlarged Europe”**

You can find out more about the Conference at: <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu/>

This year there will be a shift in the programme structure from plenary sessions towards the more interactive opportunities of exchanging ideas and experiences, namely workshops, presentations and round tables. The daily routine of the conference will be as follows: a plenary session in the morning will put the main topic of the day into a wider context and perspective, followed by parallel workshops and other interactive sessions discussing various aspects of this topic.

Please take a look at the [provisional programme](#) of the Conference.

There will also be [social events](#) for conference delegates. On Thursday you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of Budapest followed by a reception at the Parliament of Hungary which will give you the opportunity to meet local authorities in VET. On Friday night there will be gala dinner at the CEU Center followed by a dance. And on Saturday afternoon, you will have the chance to enjoy a Hungarian folk programme that includes a boat trip to Szentendre, a jewel case of a village near Budapest (<http://www.szentendre.hu/>), wine tasting, a menu of traditional Hungarian cuisine helped by folk music.

Considering the theme of the conference and our respective aim to attract delegates as many as possible from the new member states and accession countries (as well as representatives of EfVET member countries).

We still have an [early bird registration](#) available for the conference delegates till **1<sup>st</sup> of July 2005**.

The discount for early registration is **Euro 40!**

The discount for more delegates from one organisation attending the conference is **Euro 50** per person!

Price includes conference attendance, lunches, coffee breaks, gala dinner, a conference DVD, a cultural event and a welcome reception in center of Budapest, a boat trip to Szentendre with lunch and handout conference materials.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the Local Conference Team.

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Looking forward to meeting you in Budapest in October.

Kristof Fischer

Oktopusz Foundation

## **Meeting with EC Ján Figel**

On June 13, 2005, a delegation with members from EFVET, the Association of Colleges (UK) and the Bve Raad (NL) will meet with Ján Figel, Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, and some members of his cabinet. This meeting is a follow up on the conference 'VET for the future' that was organised by EFVET and the Bve Raad in December 2004. Topics of discussion will be:

- the conclusions of 'Vet for the future'
- the developed (transparency) instruments from the thematic working groups and the way they meet the needs of the VET providers to contribute to the Lisbon ambitions.
- the contribution of VET providers concerning Life Long Learning, Entrepreneurship, labour participation and social cohesion in the EU. This regarding EU citizens and non EU citizens.
- the possibilities of strengthening the principal's network of VET providers and the co-operation with the Commission.

Jos Leenhouts

## **From the Treasurer**

### **The membership fees**

Around last 20 May the reminder invoices for the membership fee for the year 2005 and the repeated reminder invoices for the previous year(s) were sent out to the members who still have not paid. These members are putting us in a position to go through this expensive exercise and having to waist money we could use for improving our services.

Again we noticed that some members have not informed us of the change in their data. Please take note of the next paragraph.

### **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.

This can be done in two ways:

If you have a web page on our web site, please take a minute now by going to: [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) and check whether the information is still correct.

If changes are needed please use the following procedure:

Go to:

[www.efvet.org/membership\\_edit.html](http://www.efvet.org/membership_edit.html)

put the changes in the e-form that will be on your screen and submit the form as prescribed.

If you don't have a web page on our web site, please send the change of information in writing to the following address:

EFVET Central Office, Rue de la Concorde 60, 1050 Brussels, Belgium,

or by e-mail to:

[efvet@efvet.org](mailto:efvet@efvet.org)

Only if you stick to this we can guarantee that all the information you are entitled to as a member will be send to you.

Frans Schneider, Treasurer.

## **Outcomes of the Bergen Summit and trends in the Bologna Process**

Higher education ministers from 45 countries met in Bergen 19-20 May 2005 for a mid-term review of the Bologna Process. Five news countries have joined the process (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The ministers further refined the goals and priorities for the creation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010. The resulting communiqué of the conference celebrated achievements and stressed goals for the future in three priority areas: degree systems; quality assurance; and the recognition of degrees and periods of study. These three aims have become cornerstones of the Process and reflect a reassuring consistency in the aims and priorities set previously. Key developments in these areas include:

1. **Degree systems:** The ministers noted with satisfaction that the two-cycle degree system being implemented on a large scale with more than half of students being enrolled in such programs in most participating countries. They found a need for greater dialogue to increase employability of graduates and perhaps most importantly adopted the overarching [framework for qualifications in the EHEA](#), comprising three cycles, generic descriptors for each cycle based on learning outcomes and competences, and credit ranges in first and second cycles. This development may be seen as tool to promote transparency in qualifications first by focusing actions at the national level and then on the European level.
2. **Quality assurance:** The ministers also highlighted the need for quality assurance and adopted the standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the EHEA as proposed by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The main features of the [ENQA quality assurance report](#) are: 1) there will be European standards for internal and external quality assurance, and for external quality assurance agencies - these agencies must be reviewed within five years; 2) there will be an emphasis on subsidiarity (meaning that those external agencies established and recognized as national agencies should be regularly reviewed on a national basis); 3) a European register of quality assurance agencies including a Register Committee to regulate inclusion in the register; and 4) a European Consultative Forum for Quality Assurance in Higher Education will be established.

3. **Recognition of degrees:** Third, the ministers noted that 36 of the 45 countries have ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention, which helps to ensure fair recognition for a kind of qualification (including joint degrees). They called on national authorities and other stakeholders to recognize joint degrees awarded in two or more countries in the EHEA.

The ministers underlined the mutually supportive role of higher education and research to lead to greater economic and cultural development. The emphasis on research (including a greater emphasis on the third cycle/ doctoral level) should not detract from the quality of teaching and encourage a synergy between the higher education sector and other research sectors. In comparison to previous communiqués such as Berlin, where there is a heavy focus on equal access to education and other aspects of the social dimension, the Bergen communiqué features this dimension in a present but relatively diminished role.

Mobility of researchers and students remains a key objective of the Bologna Process, and ministers will intensify efforts to lift obstacles to mobility by facilitating the delivery of visa and work permits, for example. ACA was very pleased to see the ministers call attention to the need to collect clearer data on European mobility. The ACA [Eurodata](#) project, funded by the European Commission will contribute to the improvement of the issue. Further, the ministers stressed the need to enhance the understanding of the Bologna Process in other continents by sharing European experiences of the reform in hopes of a mutually beneficial dialogue. This global dimension of the Bologna Process is an important reflection of the increased attention dedicated to the issue, including recent studies and conferences on how Bologna will impact the wider world, (see the new publication [External Dimensions of the Bologna Process](#)). As the Bologna Process leads to the establishment of the EHEA, the ministers challenged the Follow-up Group to explore issues to support continuing development beyond 2010. The next Ministerial Conference will be in London in 2007.

(Source: [The Bergen Communiqué](#) ; [Framework for qualifications in the EHEA](#) ; [ENQA Quality Assurance report](#) ; [ACA recommendations for the Bergen Communiqué](#))

Source: ACA Newsletter May 2005

Leif Haar

## **The European Credit Transfer for VET (ECVET)**

The Copenhagen declaration set the priority of developing a credit transfer system for VET. An appropriate system is currently being developed to complement the ECTS process which has long been in existence for Higher Education. The ECVET project, involving, a group of experts, social partners and CEDEFOP, does not simply transcribe this HE credit system, but brings in research for original solutions adapted for VET to develop a credit transfer system compatible with the specificities of vocational education and training.

This project has to be seen as a way of increasing the mobility of workers, pupils, students, teachers and trainers within the European Union and moves us on from the previous emphases of equivalence of qualifications in the 1970s, correspondence of qualifications in the 1980s, qualification transparency in the 1990s and the construction of a European Reference Framework since 1999.

The overall aim of ECVET is to contribute concretely to lifelong learning. As well as facilitating and encouraging mobility, it should also include in its principles and organisation

all formal , non-formal and informal training, education and learning processes.. Therefore it should support individual development and employability. Its two main objectives are firstly to allow everyone to create and follow individual learning pathways and secondly, in the perspective of management of VET systems, should develop mutual trust between the stakeholders of national VET systems, encourage cooperation between respective authorities, education and training providers, teachers, trainers and learners within and beyond national frontiers. ECVET should thus contribute to the quality and attractiveness of VET systems. ECVET rests on three essential rules which are the pillars of its effective implementation:

- The objectives of a learning pathway, a training programme or elements of qualification are expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and competences to be acquired and mastered at a given reference level. They are agreed formally, assembled and organised in units. These are output-objectives.
- A maximal number of credits is allocated to a set of units, corresponding to a complete learning pathway, VET programme or qualification. This convention makes it possible to allocate to each unit (or sets of units) a number of credit points according to the relative weight of each unit. The transfer value of each unit may thus be defined in terms of credit points
- An agreement, documented in a ‘memorandum of understanding’ links the institutions which, implement a learner mobility experience based on the ECVET mechanism. This agreement formalises the zone of mutual trust between the institutions. It comprises the set of units which are the subject of learning in each national VET system and the characteristics of the training modules, the programme or the traineeship. This memorandum of understanding, along with other documents (eg Europass) secures the transparency of the individual mobility process, the learning outcomes and the acquisition of the corresponding knowledge, skills and competences.

It is intended that the piloting of an ECVET system will commence in the second half of 2005 and subject to formal agreement by the European Council, can be implemented extensively in late 2006.

A Russian Experience!

You will recall that, during the 2004 Annual Conference in Tuscany, our President signed a formal agreement with our colleagues in Moscow , committing EFVET to encourage members to develop links with VET institutions in Moscow and its environs.

It is my role, within EFVET, to work to implement this agreement and set up initiatives of cooperation between Russian and EFVET member college.

If you are attracted by such an initiative, please e-mail me on [geoff@acer.ac.uk](mailto:geoff@acer.ac.uk) outlining your interest and partner requirements.

Спасибо!

Geoff Scaplehorn / EFVET UK Representative

**IKASLAN**

IKASLAN is the association of public vocational colleges (60 colleges) from the Basque Country, its activities focus on initial vocational education and (continuing) training for workers as well as educational and occupational schemes for unemployed persons and workers threatened with unemployment. Our objective is to promote the personal and occupational development of the persons enrolled in our courses, by means of high-quality education and training provision.

Educational provision is oriented towards the actual demands of the labour market and it also provides orientation in a world in motion. The high level of our courses is maintained by means of an internal quality management system, continual further training of employees and a transnational transfer of know-how.

Most of our education and training courses are based on modular systems, so individually tailored, and thus highly efficient, forms of learning are possible. The formation is certified according to the international standard ISO 9001-2000 and some of our colleges have recently received the silver Q quality certification

We have been working on different international projects , mainly LEONARDO and SOCRATES, since 1993 and the projects developed were related to initial vocational education high level in the following fields:

- ❑ Health & Safety
- ❑ Business Administration
- ❑ Maintenance of Vehicles
- ❑ Electricity, Electronics and Telecommunications
- ❑ Mechanical manufacture
- ❑ Chemistry
- ❑ Computer science
- ❑ Maintenance and services to the production
- ❑ Image and Sound
- ❑ International Trade

For the last two years, we have been involved in carrying out work placement projects organized under the programme Leonardo. We sent more than 130 students each year to different countries for a period of 12 weeks.

We have just received the approval of the project to be developed from March to June 2006 and should like to contact with similar organizations to IKASLAN, Associations of Vocational Colleges, that could be interested in taking part in this experience. We would act as a sending partner but at the same time we would act as a receiving partner to organize work placements in the different sectors of Vocational Training.

If you are interested in being one of our partners or you need more details, do not hesitate to contact me.

José Luis Fernández Maure

International Projects Manager  
E-mail: maure@irakasle.net

## **Let EfVET Work for You...**

The enlargement of the European Union embracing the ten new member states, alongside the pre accession countries seeking to join in 2007 and beyond, offers an unparalleled opportunity to extend collaboration and partnership between VET institutions of the expanded European

Union. The value added of such enlargement enables us all, as practitioner institutions, to learn from each other; expand our understanding; share good practice in teaching and learning; adapt new technologies and bring a common understanding in our efforts to influence the European goal of a single transparent framework for Vocational Education and Training. Moreover, through EfVET as a practitioner network - offers the opportunity to build relationships and collaborative partnerships across Europe.

EFVET is playing an ever-expanding role in supporting Members European Education and Training projects as a disseminating partner.

We do this through the website, newsletter, links to other European Agencies and of course our Annual Conference. For more details please contact your national representative or our vice president – Pete Hodgson or [phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk), tel: + 44 1761 433161

An excellent example of our work is shown through the European Rural Tourism Development project set out below.



### **The partnership**

Cebanc-Cdea – San Sebastian – Spain – EFVET member  
Norton Radstock College – Radstock – UK – EFVET member  
CSCS – Pistoia – Italy – EFVET member  
Europartners Foundation 2000 – Sofia – Bulgaria – EFVET member  
IVAC – Pais Vasco – Spain – EFVET member  
Mendikoi - Arkaute - Spain  
Ibermatica – Vittoria – Spain  
Hebar Association – Bulgaria  
Bath Tourism Plus – Bath – UK

Viajes Montreal – San Sebastian – Spain  
EFVET – Belgium

### **Aim**

The aim of the project is to develop and pilot new learning materials and a new course in rural tourism development which will be delivered on-line to course participants via a virtual campus and blended learning.

The programme will incorporate a variety of learning tasks, including the research, design and promotion of new rural tourism itineraries incorporating case studies to facilitate the learning process. The learning programmes will ensure skills and knowledge of participants meet the needs of the rural tourism sector and new opportunities for employment within it.

### **Target Group**

The new learning programme developed within this pilot initiative is aimed at the following groups of participants

- \* Those owner/managers and employees involved in rural tourism activities, eg bed & breakfast, self catering holidays, agro-tourism
- \* Young people training in Leisure and Tourism
- \* Those people seeking to set up business within the rural tourism sector including the unemployed and those wishing to change direction.

### **Current work**

Partners are developing new materials: a bank of learning materials (using a variety of mediums- video clips, written material, case studies, tasks, assignments and activities) supporting links to other agency information.

## Next EFVET Conference

ERTD team will be presenting a roundtable at the next EFVET Conference to be held in Budapest on 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October on our project development.



### European Civil Society Platform for Life Long Learning.

EFVET has, since 2001, been working in partnership with EVTA, EAEA, Euro WEA, SOLIDAR under the banner of the European Civil Society Platform for Life Long Learning. The Platform has undertaken two primary activities at the behest of the European Commission:

- (a) Consulting on the Memorandum for Life Long Learning.
- (b) A project gathering best practice in the field of Basic Skills and Key Competencies.

Both with the view to informing the EC / EU of grassroots activities in key areas as part of their policy deliberations.

### Current / proposed activities

The platform is awaiting approval of a further project under the Grundtvig programme (June / July 2005) relating to Active Citizenship.

#### Formalising the Platform

The partner Networks have recently been working to formally constitute the Platform to manage the organisation and encourage other Civil Society partner to join. As such the Platform has prepared a Constitution and Internal Rules (see attached papers) to be constituted under Belgian law.

An Executive Team has been elected with representation from Network Partners.

EVTA, Tomasso Grimaldi	President
EURO WEA, Mel Doyle	Vice President
SOLIDAR, Jean Marc Roirant	Vice president
EFVET, Pete Hodgson	Treasurer
EAEA, Ellinor Hasse	General Secretary

Constitution and registration by Sept 2005

### **Membership**

European Civil Society organisations € 100  
Associate members € 50

Membership is open to all European Organisations with representation in a minimum of 8 member states – full details to be announced at a later date. For further information please contact our Vice President, Peter Hodgson on +44 1761 433161 or [phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:phodgson@nortcoll.ac.uk)

Website: [www.eucis.net](http://www.eucis.net)

Pete Hodgson

### **EfVET and Projects**

As you may well know more and more members include EfVET as a dissemination partner in their International projects.

For your information in future in each EfVET Newsletter will be some information about one or two of these and if you are interested and would like to have more information or would like to get involved, will give you the contact details.

In this issue we highlight 2 projects: VIRTEX and PICTURE.

For both projects you can get more information from Cor Koster: [koster@worldenough.net](mailto:koster@worldenough.net)

#### **Virtex**

VIRTEX wants to develop 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". The reason for this project is that acquiring actual work experience is one of the essential elements of the training which students in colleges for catering and hotel management receive. During such a work placement they learn - more so than at any time in college - to develop their communicative skills in contact with their supervisors, future colleagues and - most important of all - guests ("customers"). The people they come into contact with are quite often speakers of a foreign language, because the catering and hospitality industry is very internationally oriented. Also, more and more students tend to spend their work placement abroad, which puts an extra burden on their communicative skills. Unfortunately, there is little if any teaching material available that is specifically aimed at giving students linguistic preparation for this work placement. VIRTEX wants to provide them with the necessary preparation. The project makes use of the experiences gained in the production of an award-winning series of ICT-based lessons called "Talen naar werk" (Language to work with) for non-native catering students in the Netherlands, where the language used is Dutch as a second

language.

The partnership is composed of 11 organisations from 8 countries: NL, AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, LU, UK.

## **Picture**

PICTURE, a three-year Socrates project which started in October 2004, wants to make use of the contact possibilities of two categories of people (native and non-native speakers of a European language) in developing a language teaching module on intercultural communication which can be used – be it in different versions - in any kind of foreign/second language course in the EU, at any level, from university to vocational training, and from age 16 onwards. The core item will be a series of personal interviews with foreigners on intercultural aspects, which means that students have to actually use the language they are studying in practice. Students will be prepared for these interviews via CD-based stimulus material (film sequences of actual interviews and assignments). Hence the project title, an acronym of ‘Portfolio Intercultural Communication: Towards Using Real Experiences’.

Frans Schneider

## **Trans-rural – a transfer of innovation project**

The Trans Rural (Sustainable Rural Development Project) partnership

RKK – Norway

Norton Radstock College – UK (EFVET Member)

Brasov Chamber of Commerce – Romania

Euracademy Association (partners from Greece, Finland, Poland, Sweden, Spain et.al.)

EFVET – as a disseminating partner.

The Project Team has been busy developing learning materials and new courses in

- (a) ICT within sustainable rural development
- (b) Sustainable Rural Tourism Development.

Both courses are designed to meet the needs of rural small and medium sized enterprises. The pilot courses are currently in progress and participants delighted with experience of these tailored learning programmes.

The project will complete in October following the Project Conference to be held in Athens on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

EFVET will be well represented at the conference with our President, Hans van Aalst, a keynote speaker. Details of the programme and registration form are set out here.





**TRANS-RURAL: TRANSFER OF EURACADEMY LEARNING PACKAGES TO  
FORMAL TRAINING SYSTEMS IN RURAL EUROPE**

Leonardo Da Vinci - Accompanying measures  
Transfer of Innovation

**INVITATION**

to the

END-OF-PROJECT CONFERENCE OF THE TRANS-RURAL PROJECT

***“Trans-Rural: Flexible Learning for Rural Businesses”***

ATHENS  
6 SEPTEMBER 2005

The Conference is organised by the EURACADEMY ASSOCIATION and is co-funded by:

European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture,  
Leonardo da Vinci Programme



Dear Sir / Madam,

The TRANS-RURAL project partners invite you to attend their end-of-project conference,

**“TRANS-RURAL: Flexible Learning for Rural Businesses”**

to be held in Athens, Greece on 6 September 2005.

The TRANS-RURAL project aimed to transfer the two innovative learning packages developed by the Euracademy project (Leonardo Da Vinci, 2000-2003) on the themes of “Developing Sustainable Rural Tourism” and “Information Society and Sustainable Rural Development” to different local contexts and target groups across Europe, namely in the UK, Norway and Romania. To do so, both learning packages had their training products translated and adapted to cultural settings and reformulated to meet the needs of SMEs. Moreover, accreditation possibilities have been assessed.

The conference aims to:

- Present the project experience of adapting and piloting the Euracademy training packages and the efforts for their accreditation in the UK, Norway and Romania;
- Discuss the feasibility for their wider transferability and implementation across Europe;
- Contribute to the European debate on lifelong learning and recognition of qualifications, with special reference to rural areas and their sustainable development.

The conference programme is further detailed in the next page.

No participation fee is charged for the conference. Lunch and coffee during the conference will be offered to participants free of charge. The participants will have to cover the costs for their travel to Athens and accommodation (please see registration form enclosed).

#### **The TRANS-RURAL Partners**

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

e-mail: [info-association@euracademy.org](mailto:info-association@euracademy.org)

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2005

- 09:00-09:30 Registration
- 09:30-09:45 Opening and greetings
- Dr Fouli Papageorgiou**, President of Euracademy Association
- Ole Imsland**, Managing Director of Rogaland Training Centre (Project Promoter)
- Other (Greek officials to be defined)
- 09:45-10:45 **Keynote speaker 1: Name**, Title, CEDEFOP
- Title to be defined*
- Keynote speaker 2: Hans van Aalst**, President of European Forum for Vocational Education and Training (EfVET)
- Indicative title*** “The implementation of Education and Training 2010: the role of EfVET“
- Discussion
- 10:45-11:15 **Project presentations**
- Dr Fouli Papageorgiou**, President of Euracademy Association, Introduction
- The transferred Euracademy learning packages “Developing Sustainable Rural Tourism” and “Information Society and Sustainable Rural Development”*
- Peter Hodgson**, Norton Radstock College, UK Project Coordinator
- Indicative, please define*** *The experience from the transfer of the learning package “Developing Sustainable Rural Tourism” in the UK*
- 11:15-11:45 Coffee-break
- 11:45-12:30 **Ole Imsland**, Rogaland Training Centre, Norway Project Coordinator
- Indicative, please define*** *The experience from the transfer of the learning package “Information Society and Sustainable Rural Development” in Norway*
- Luisa Palos**, Brasov Chamber of Commerce, Romania Project Coordinator
- Indicative, please define*** *The experience from the transfer of the learning packages “Developing Sustainable Rural Tourism” and “Information Society and Sustainable Rural Development” in Romania*
- Questions, clarifications

12:30-13:30                      Discussion Panel 1: Learning Needs of SMEs in Rural Areas

Panel Members: *Define names please*

- Bath Tourism Plus
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Messinia, Greece
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brasov, Romania
- Rogaland Training Centre – *to be defined*

13:30-14:30                      Discussion Panel 2: Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Rural Development

Panel Members:

- Professor Andrzej Kaleta, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland
- Ulf Brangefeldt, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Dr Iren Kukorelli, Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
- Pia Kattelus, Seinajoki Institute for Rural Research and Training, Finland

14:30-14:45                      Conclusions – end of conference

14:45                                Lunch

If you are interested to participate in the conference please fill in the registration form enclosed and send it, as soon as possible in order to make the final reservations to the following address:

EURACADEMY ASSOCIATION

17, Empedocleous Street

116 35 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 2107525660, Fax: +30 210 7523669

Or contact us at [s.babalikis@prismanet.gr](mailto:s.babalikis@prismanet.gr)

**“TRANS-RURAL: Flexible Learning for Rural Businesses” Conference**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*PLEASE FILL IN THE TABLE WITH CAPITAL LETTERS / TYPEWRITTEN*

<b>Name of the participant(s):</b>			
<b>Organisation:</b>			
<b>Accompanying person(s):</b>			
<b>Contact details:</b>			
<b>Phone:</b> _____	<b>Fax:</b> _____	<b>E-mail:</b> _____	
<b>Please briefly describe your interest in lifelong learning and/or rural development:</b>			
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Own arrangements <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Amalia, Single room 90 EURO/night <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel President, Single room 77 EURO/night <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Amalia, Double room 110 EURO/night <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel President, Double room 87 EURO/night <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration accommodation is needed</b>			
5 September (Monday) <input type="checkbox"/>	6 September (Tuesday) <input type="checkbox"/>	7 September (Wednesday) <input type="checkbox"/>	Other days, please specify:.....
<b>Dietary or Vegetarian requirements:</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Pete Hodgson

**Impressum:**

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