

## EfVET Newsletter

June 2009

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## Message from the President (June 2009)

### Dear Members

Welcome to the June issue of the EfVET newsletter – the last few months has been extremely busy with EfVET actively involved in a range of strategic policy discussions with the European Commission relating to the new Strategic Framework for European cooperation in Education and Training. The Framework was adopted by the Council earlier this year and describes the policy framework moving forward to 2020. EfVET has been actively involved in this debate – in particular- through its work on behalf of EUCIS – LLL platform and in the EC/EUCIS Stakeholder Forum held in May 2009. Full details and the final conclusions of the Forum are available on the EfVET website. [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) or [www.eucis.net](http://www.eucis.net)

There are some important developments taking place following these early discussions: EfVET has contributed to a EUCIS position statement in relation to the framework.

The EC is currently considering the possibility of awarding EUCIS and its members (including EfVET) monopoly status within the EU budgetary process – hopefully awarding financial support to us to deliver in partnership the views of VET and Lifelong learning actors on policy development and implementation. We hope to hear very soon the result of discussions. It is currently with the Commission Committee process.

I was in Brussels this week attending a meeting with Helen Clark – Directeur Unit B responsible for the LLL programme implementation running the Leonardo, Grundviq, Erasmus, Comenius programmes and agreed that we would seek our members views on the current 5 year programme and seek the views of members in terms of what works and how we might improve the programme in the new 5 year programme commencing in 2010. Your views are very important to us and we will be circulating a questionnaire shortly to elicit your views. This will go to the Commission to coincide with their early discussions prior to formal consultation – please participate in the dialogue – it is important to gain your practice advice and guidance.

Equally watch out for the consultation on the Green paper on Mobility – formal consultation will take place shortly.

I am encouraged by the Commissions positive respect for EfVETs views and perspective and we have worked hard on your behalf to represent you as members.

This leads me to the Conference in October – full details are in the newsletter but also on the website. Please register as quickly as possible on [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org). The subject of Creativity and innovation in VET is highly pertinent and we are hoping to prepare a report to present at the EC symposium on the subject to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to which we have been invited to make a presentation. A big thanks to the Conference team and our partners in the Basque country, Spain for their co-ordination

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members to EfVET from the UK, Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine – a clear expression of broadening interest in our work and direction. I hope you have ther opportunity to meet them at conference or beyond to further collaboration and partnership.

Finally my thanks to my colleagues on the Executive and Steering committee for their unerring support and assistance in taking EfVET forward.

Warmest regards to you all



**Peter Hodgson**  
**President**  
president@efvet.org

## Méssage du Président (juin 2009)

### Chers Membres

Soyez la bienvenue à cette edition du bulletin d'EfVET. Les derniers mois, les membres du comité de pilotage et de l'exécutif se sont tellement occupés d'une série de discussions de politiques avec la Commission Européenne. Surtout concernant *le Cadre Stratégique pour la Coopération Européenne dans le domaine de l'Education et de la Formation Professionnelle*. Le Conseil a adopté ce Cadre qui décrit le Cadre qui se développera vers 2020. EfVET a participé à un Forum organisé par CE /EUCIS – LLL plateforme au mois de mai 2009 et vous trouverez les résultats de ce forum sur le site web d'EfVET – [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) ou [www.eucis.net](http://www.eucis.net) EfVET a contribué à la position politique d'EUCIS sur ce cadre.

La Commission Européenne est en train de considérer la possibilité d'accorder à EUCIS et ses membres (y compris EfVET) une position monopoliste pour représenter l'éducation et la formation

professionnelle et tous les acteurs de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. Nous espérons que la Commission pourra nous offrir de l'appui financier dans l'avenir.

A Bruxelles cette semaine j'ai assisté à une réunion avec Helen Clark – Directeur d'Unité B, responsable pour l'implémentation du programme LLL. Nous nous sommes mis d'accord de faire circuler un questionnaire pour vous consulter sur l'efficacité de ce programme et comment on pourra améliorer le programme qui commencera en 2010. Vos opinions seront présentées à la Commission pour influencer leurs discussions. Vos opinions sont alors très importantes.

Il y aura aussi bientôt une consultation sur un papier vert sur la mobilité européenne.

Je suis rassuré que la Commission a beaucoup de respect positif pour les opinions des membres d'EfvET et nous continuons à travailler dur pour vous représenter.

Vous trouverez dans ce bulletin des détails de notre conférence annuelle et aussi sur notre site web. Le thème de la conférence est "La créativité et l'innovation de VET" et c'est un sujet d'actualité. Nous avons l'intention de préparer un rapport que nous présenterons à un symposium de la Commission qui aura lieu le 27 octobre 2009. Vous pouvez vous enregistrer sur notre site web.

Je voudrais remercier notre équipe de conférence et nos partenaires au Pays Basque qui organisent notre conférence .

Je voudrais accueillir de nouveaux membres à EfvET du Royaume Uni, d'Arménie, de Chypre, de la Grèce, de la Turquie et de l'Ukraine. J'espère que vous aurez l'occasion de les rencontrer à notre conférence et travailler avec eux dans l'avenir.

Finalement, je voudrais remercier mes collègues de l'Exécutif et du comité de pilotage pour leur assistance continue.

Mes amitiés



Peter Hodgson  
Président

president@efvet.org

## **Due to late published Newsletter, the “Early Bird” rate is extended to July 14**

### **18<sup>th</sup> EfVET International Conference**

**Bilbao, Pais Vasco, Spain**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Venue:** Hotel Ercilla  
Ercilla 37 – 39  
48011 BILBAO

#### **Conference theme:**

#### **Creativity and Innovation in Vocational Education and Training**

2009 marks the European Year of Creativity and Education – unlike most European Year programmes – this theme reflects a key policy priority for the European Union over the next 10 years. The concepts of Creativity and Innovation will form a major platform across all aspects of European development. They will permeate policy decisions aimed at building the knowledge society, tackling both economic and social cohesion and active citizenship.

The promotion of creativity and enhancing the capacity for innovation through Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning is a key to the development of personal, occupational, entrepreneurial and social competences alongside the well-being of individuals in society. (Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council 2008).

Creativity and innovation manifest themselves in many aspects of learning. There is a need to promote awareness of their importance alongside entrepreneurship for personal development, creative self expression, acquisition of key competences conducive to innovation, transferable skills to address new skills for jobs and equity and diversity. These are some of the challenges facing education and training managers and practitioners.

What do we understand by creativity and innovation in VET and Lifelong Learning?

How do education and training systems encourage creativity and innovation?

Sharing good practice in creative and innovative teaching and learning

How creative and innovative are we? How might we harness these concepts as a means of improving Vocational Education and Training and Lifelong Learning?

Conference will explore these issues in depth, through keynote presentations and workshops.

We intend to draw up a final Conference report on our considerations and discussions following Conference to present to other Stakeholders and the European Commission with a view to contributing to the promotion of creativity and innovation in Education and Training systems.

There will be an opportunity to participate in workshops allied to the theme which will inform the final report on Conference.

### **Roundtables – for project dissemination:**

Conference offers European project partners the opportunity to disseminate progress, results and products of their Transnational Transfer of Innovation; Development of Innovation and other European initiatives – a key to successful valorisation of project outcomes and sustainability. To book a Roundtable to present your projects – please complete the separate booking form for roundtables. Please ensure you provide an outline of the project and details of your partnership when you book.

### **Mobility Marketplace**

Following the successful introduction of the marketplace at last years conference it is intended to continue this to stimulate and bring potential partners together to plan and develop new mobility links – either through Leonardo mobility or Erasmus programmes. This year it is envisaged that ‘mobility groups’ will be formed along occupational / skill sector lines (eg: those delegates interested in mobility links in the field of Engineering/automotive; those in the field of Health and Social Care; Business Administration and Informatics).

**Hotel accommodation must be booked using the Hotel booking form. Bookings can only be booked by those who have registered. Note: Accommodation costs are the responsibility of the individual**

For registration of conference and hotel please go to [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) - conferences

## **New members of the EfVET Steering Committee**

During 2009 the number of members has increased. We have even a new member from Armenia EEIG CJSC; Principal: DR Khazhak MOVSESYAN; Also from The Nederland, Landstede College; from Cyprus, KYsIEK; Excellia from Bulgaria; Institute of PDE EP, from Ukraine;

The Steering Committee has been enlarged by the National Representative of Rumania, Mihai Braslasu.



Mihai BRASLASU  
Associate Professor  
Head of the Department of Philology  
Faculty of Educational Sciences  
University of Pitesti, ROMANIA  
Doctor's degree in Philology (Literature)  
Partner in European Projects (Tempus, Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci)  
Former Deputy General Inspector of the Arges Schools' Inspectorate and  
former Headmaster

**Marian de Villanueva**  
**Confederación Española de Centros de Enseñanza (CECE)**  
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<http://cecedisseminateeurope.blogspot.com>  
<http://es.youtube.com/user/CECEinEUROPE>

## **EFVET IS LAUNCHING EUROPEMOBILITY VIDEO CONTEST !!!**

EFVET, as a leading partner within the Europemobility project, whose aim is to promote mobility and work placements abroad within Vocational Education and Training, is now launching **Europemobility Video Contest**.

Anyone involved in any mobility action regardless age, business sector, nationality or supporting measure such as Erasmus, Leonardo or other regional or national programmes, can now join the contest by posting on the web a short video describing the experience gained by being working or studying abroad.

# EUROPEMOBILITY VIDEO CONTEST

**Win €500,00  
& go to Bilbao  
with Europemobility**



The video must be within 1 to 3 minutes and it has to portray, in an attractive way, one or more aspects arising from undertaking mobility.

**Deadline for posting the video and the application: 30 June 2009**

For checking the Video Contest Terms & Conditions as well as applying online, visit our web site:  
[www.europemobility.eu](http://www.europemobility.eu)

The winner will receive prize of €500,00. The first, second and third best videos will also win a trip to Bilbao as the awards will be released within the framework of the EfVET International Conference, held in Bilbao in October 2009.

Europemobility initiative is supported by the European Commission within the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation, and it is based on the results of the MOVE-IT study.

Europemobility forthcoming initiatives are:

- mobility fairs and workshops, to promote mobility to students within VET institutions
- international community of practice, to establish an European network of mobility coordinators from the VET sector
- mobility market, to meet and identify mobility partners, within EFVET Annual International Conferences

- a guide, for students to learn what to do before, during and after going abroad
- tool free number, to provide information and contact details on mobility

If you would like to organize a joint mobility fair within your educational institution, join the international community of practice or take part in any other Europemobility activities, do not hesitate to contact us:

Europemobility – Raising quantity and quality of work placements in Europe

[www.europemobility.eu](http://www.europemobility.eu)

EfVET contact person:

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## **MOVET – Hydraulic, PLC and BUS Modules, from Taxonomy to Mobility**



MOVET is a two year Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project, started in October 2008 and supported within the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme of the European Commission, where EfVET is proudly contributing as dissemination partner.

MOVET is promoted by the Munich Technical University with a strong partnership composed by educational organizations in Germany, Denmark and Finland, together with key industry players, such as BMW, MTU, SWM, Cimcorp Oy from Finland and Vestergaard Company from Roskilde in Denmark, among many others.

After the kick off meeting in November 2008 and the steering partner meeting in Finland, Pori, last March, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>ve</sup> May 2009 a mid conference has taken place in Munich, to define the objectives, outcomes and characteristics of the training modules carried out in the 3 countries.

The partners have cooperated to develop a joint taxonomy table to be adopted to describe the main educational elements, expressed in learning outcomes, of three specific course subjects:



- **PLC**, module to be accomplished in **Germany**
- **Hydraulics**, module to be accomplished in **Denmark**
- **BUS**, module to be accomplished in **Finland**

The **taxonomy table** have been employed in order to enable partners to **better describe** the levels of competencies, with special reference to the **learning outcomes**, to be achieved by the students within the joint transnational educational process which take

part both within own educational system as well as via mobility initiatives and in particular by study abroad actions carried out within the partner organizations.

The taxonomy is also very useful to develop and agree upon a common credit transfer system based not only on working hours but instead on quality and complexity of the educational process. Partners here have to compare their different measurements and credit system reflecting all the well known obstacles that are making the adoption of **ECVET** so difficult for the European vocational training system.

As a result, the adoption of a taxonomy system boost the transparency among different educational systems and enables partners to adopt benchmarks mechanism, to compare and improve their training practices.

The challenge in this process is to combine and take into consideration the deep discrepancies which still characterize different national educational systems in Europe.

The benefit foreseen from this hard exercise is the possibility to “trust” each other and thus establish a strong cooperation and mutual exchanges among students and trainers.

The choice of adopting a taxonomy system is based on the overall objective of the project to promote, on a continuous basis, student exchanges, originally among the 3 partner countries, and then potentially to enlarge the network to other educational organizations dealing with the 3 profiles.

The May 2009 Conference in Munich have been focused on exchanging the information necessary to develop a **Memorandum of Understanding** to support the mobility initiatives to be implemented in the following school year.



the



The student' mobility is planned and it will take place between October and November 2009, providing selected apprentices/students to accomplish two modules of 3 weeks each in two different countries.

EfVET role in the MOVET project is focused on dissemination and valorisation of the project outcomes. Basically EfVET is engaged in making available to other European countries and organizations both the methodology adopted by the project as well as stimulate direct partnerships with the organizations involved in the MOVET project.

The next opportunity to meet the project promoters and learn more about the transnational modules and the mobility initiatives is the forthcoming EfVET International Conference, to be held in Bilbao, 21-24 October 2009.

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Leonardo da Vinci

## **MINT) Adapting, Improving and Disseminating an INnovation Management Training package through Blended Learning**

Innovation is vital to both enterprises and countries that need to transform new ideas rapidly into technical and commercial successes in order to maintain growth, competitiveness and jobs. Nevertheless, innovation is probably the least understood and controlled of any company's main processes. Due to this, businesses require continuous training in innovation in order to remain competitive. One way to accomplish this is through benchmarking innovation management techniques from successful enterprises to less successful ones. SMEs account for 99% of Europe's

companies and approximately two-thirds of employment, playing an important and essential role in the European economy and contributing to fostering the “innovation culture”. Given that SMEs are almost synonymous with the European Union, it is imperative that these organisations are supported and encouraged to pursue innovative processes and mechanisms. Rapid changes in information and communication technologies, as well as the recent enlargement of the EU have resulted in differing levels and approaches to innovation across Europe, which vary from one country to another, as well as across regions, industries and enterprises.

The team, together with a panel of experts, researchers and trainers, has developed a training package that includes face to face as well as online learning (blended learning) that has been pilot tested in the participating countries of the project (CY, UK, LT, IT, EL, ES, BE) to great success. The participants have thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and the pilot testing, and have networked well amongst themselves and are promoting our product amongst their peers, a true sign of success and user friendliness, usability and relativity! More information can be found on the project website ([www.mintproject.org](http://www.mintproject.org)). The final conference whereby the MINT product will be completed and officially launched, will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2009. All are welcome to attend the conference, and further details can be obtained from the project leader listed below:

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European Project Office,  
European Programme & Project Manager and Lecturer/Instructor  
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[www.intercollege.ac.cy](http://www.intercollege.ac.cy)  
[www.unic.ac.cy](http://www.unic.ac.cy)  
<http://www.eset.com>

## **Gender – IT: Fostering gender-mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector**

The **Gender-IT** project is a two-year initiative co-funded by the European Union’s Lifelong Learning Programme, under the Leonardo da Vinci Action. It is implemented by seven partners from Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The **Gender-IT** project aims to contribute to innovative and attractive VET practices in the ICT sector. Its specific objective is to build a sustainable multistakeholder network at a European level which will actively foster gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector.

Its operational **aims** are to:

- Create a comprehensive, virtual resource centre on gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector at European level
- Promote good practices and innovative approaches in VET for the ICT sector regarding gender mainstreaming
- Identify trends of gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector and resulting impacts on VET practice
- Raise awareness, inform and engage stakeholders and women
- Expand the network, exploit its results and set the basis for sustainability

For more information on the **gender-IT** project please visit our website at <http://www.gender-it.eu>. Should you have any queries, please contact us at [information@gender-it.eu](mailto:information@gender-it.eu) & [trakakis.a@unic.ac.cy](mailto:trakakis.a@unic.ac.cy).

## Leonardo da Vinci programme

The Leonardo da Vinci programme links policy to practice in the field of vocational education and training (VET). Projects range from those giving individuals the chance to improve their competences, knowledge and skills through a period abroad, to Europe-wide co-operation between training organisations.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc82\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc82_en.htm)

**Mr Costa Constanti**

European Project Office,

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## **Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner**

In this project, a train the trainer programme is being developed to provide subject oriented vocational teachers with the necessary skills to integrate key competences in life skills into their vocational areas. This transfer of innovation project builds on the European Civil Society Platform on lifelong learning's recommendations.

Trans-national project partners include Norton Radstock College as co-ordinator, Cebanc- Cdea (ES), CSCS (IT), Marijampoles Vocational Education & Training Centre (LT), IMCS Intercollege Ltd (CY), Pascal Education Ltd, (CY), Marijamoples Chamber of Commerce (LT), KEI IVAC Basque Institute for Qualifications & Vocational Training (ES), Bath Spa University and EfVET.

The team has completed a needs analysis to identify training needs and consulted with relevant organisations to develop standards for incorporation into national teacher training frameworks. The second project meeting took place in Cyprus in April when we tested a range of activities for the train the trainer pack.



For more information on project progress, go to <http://www.life-keyskills.info/> . We invite EfVET members to submit good practice examples showing how you have successfully integrated life skills into vocational teaching. Please e-mail [rosaleen.courtney@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:rosaleen.courtney@nortcoll.ac.uk)

### **International Development Officer – validation of non-formal and informal learning (IDOLearn)**

A survey and interviews with those involved in international development work in VET institutions have been conducted to identify the skill set and knowledge necessary to be effective. Thank you to those EfVET members who took part in the survey.

The next step is to use the survey responses to look at ways of assessing and validating informal and non-formal learning. A training package will be developed and piloted during the project. It is

hoped that the outcomes of the project will be useful to the VET sector and others involved in international work such as businesses.

The partnership includes members from Finland, Romania, France, Greece, Italy, Norton Radstock College (UK) and EfvET. The second meeting took place in March in Heidelberg, Germany.

For more information on project progress go to [www.idolearn.net](http://www.idolearn.net)



### **TACTALL – The Accessible City – Tourism for All**

This project builds on the experience and expert work being conducted to create 'The Accessible City' in Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain. Pistoia (Italy) and Bath (England) would also like to be involved in the Accessible City network and investigation continues on the possibility of a network throughout Europe.

There are plenty of disabled people who would not call themselves disabled; for example, a grandmother who is hard of hearing, a child with reading difficulties, someone who wears glasses. Impairments that can have an adverse affect on a person's day-to-day activities can include someone with a broken leg, a pregnant lady, an adult with learning difficulties and a person suffering from cancer.

The second trans-national meeting took place in Italy in May and work progresses on schedule to design a training course (workshops and distance learning) that will help to raise awareness and improve the skills of those working in the tourism sector, policy makers and those working within

the municipalities. Learning materials will be created during the next few months and the first pilot courses will run early in 2010.

Partners are co-ordinator Cdea (ES), Norton Radstock College (UK), Gruppo Adapta (ES), CSCS (IT), Neils Brock College (DK), Euro\_Contact Business School (H) and EfvET. Social partners include Pantagrue (IT) and Bath Tourism Plus (UK). This Transfer of Innovation project builds on learning methodologies tried and tested under the European Rural Tourism Development pilot project (2004-2007).



Press conference held in San Sebastian on the first Project Meeting.

### **QUAVETS – Quality improvement in Vocational Education and Training.**

This 'Partnership project' seeks to share good practice and extend opportunities for mobility to develop and share quality improvement strategies and standards across Europe. The partnership is currently researching quality indicators for 'skilled workers' in different vocational areas such as health and social care (nurse assistants); construction (painters); tourism (receptionists) and catering (cooks).

The group recently met in Iceland to discuss progress and agree competences in these areas, based on comparisons of qualifications. The aim is to identify the competencies that make workers 'ready for work' and reduce the gap between school based and work based systems.

The partnership includes: Iceland (co-ordinator), Norway, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal and two partners in the UK – ACER and Norton Radstock College.

More information can be found on the project website:

<http://www.idan.is/throunarverkefni/quavets/>



### **Modular e-course with virtual coach tool support**

The project continues following a recent meeting in Romania. The team are currently working on building the course materials, which will be made into 'e-learning objects'; these will make the learning materials more attractive to participants of the training course and will integrate in a technical way with the 'CoachBot' support tool.

Dissemination events play an important part of this project; each partner has been allocated a specific e-learning conference or event to attend. Norton Radstock College attended the first one – Paris in January 2009. It was early days for the project, so a presentation was not possible; a paper on the project was accepted and it was included in the online conference resources. Other partners will have more to report. A round-table at the EfVET conference is likely.

For more information, go to <http://www.forcom.it/coachbotproject/>

### **The Good School project - Sharing good practice in colleges across Europe**

Leadership and management in the VET sector is the current topic for debate in the Good School project. What does it take to be a good leader in the current economic climate? What skills do VET leaders currently need?

The project team are finalising a booklet covering key issues in education today which will help all those involved in the VET sector to find solutions to problems. The team includes partners from Marijampole VET College, Lithuania; CPH WEST, Denmark; Landstede VET, the Netherlands; ITE-CECE, Spain and Norton Radstock College, UK.

## **Adapting, Improving and Disseminating an Innovation Management Package through Blended Learning (MINT)**



With 2009 being the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, this project was particularly appropriate. MINT built on the INNOMAT project (2000), updating and creating new innovation management learning materials, creating a blended learning course for SMEs (workshops and distance learning).

The project is nearing completion, following pilot training in the UK and Cyprus. The participants on both courses found the learning highly stimulating, aiding the creativity of the SMEs. The level of networking following the course has remained high, with one business in the UK setting up a new business networking group, with the aim of self-support for members.

'Creativity is a driver for innovation and a key factor for the development of personal, occupational, entrepreneurial and social competences and the well-being of all individuals in society' – a quote from the EU innovation website. In order to remain competitive, businesses constantly need to review their innovation management techniques; support and encouragement was given to all participants on the pilot courses.

The remaining partners are currently running courses in their own countries; feedback will be available later in the project. Partners in this project are CECE (ES), IMCS Intercollege (CY) (co-ordinator), CSCS (IT), Atlantis Consulting (GR), Norton Radstock College (UK), EfvET (BE) and Marijampoles Vocational and Education Centre (LT).

A project meeting was recently held in Italy and included a dissemination meeting in Vinci (Leonardo's birthplace). The project final conference will be held in Thessaloniki early September.

### **Network Promoting E-learning for Rural Development - e-ruralnet**

This transversal project, promoted by the European Academy for Sustainable Rural Development, commenced in January 2009.

The project builds on the Euracademy Observatory and Eurovalidation projects and the aims and objectives are as follows:

1. Improve and expand the documentation of e-learning supply and demand in rural areas, initially started by the Euracademy Observatory [www.euracademy-observatory.org](http://www.euracademy-observatory.org)

2. Create a wide network of key stakeholders (e-learning providers, social partners, policy makers)
3. Launch a campaign of awareness-raising in the 11 participating countries and the EU more generally
4. Introduce new methods of guidance to help rural people to take advantage of e-learning



The main deliverable of the project will be to create a guidance tool using Games Based Learning (GBL) to familiarise users with the process of selecting and using e-learning products; and make available this tool to the network and any other interested organisation.

There are 13 partners, including EfVET - Euracademy Association–Project Promoter (GR), PRISMA-Centre for Development Studies (GR) –Project Coordinator, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Seinajoki Unit (FI), Nicolas Copernicus University (PL), University of Rostock (DE), Norton Radstock College (UK) Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Regional Studies (H), Mediterranean Institute for Sustainable Development (ES), EMMERCE EEIG (SE), Estonian Information Technology Foundation (EE), EduLearn, Software and Multimedia, Lda (PT), IBIMET (IT), Typical Mutations – Web Services LLP (GR)

The project website is available at [www.e-ruralnet.eu](http://www.e-ruralnet.eu)

#### ETAP for Tourism – **Innovative tools and procedures for validation of non-formal and informal learning in the tourism sector**



The aim of the project is to evaluate existing tools and practices for validation of non-formal and informal learning and to offer the most practical and relevant ones, based on the experience of the five European countries that participate in the project. The partners are Kaunus Chamber of

Commerce (LT), Vytautas Magnus University (LT), Kaunas Trade and Business School (LT), CDEA (ES), Norton Radstock College (UK), Tietgen Business College (DK) and VOX (NY)

The project is now nearing completion, with a final conference in Lithuania at the end of September. Using the model of existing UK Assessor Training, with a combination of Norwegian, Spanish and Danish practices in the field, assessors were trained in Bristol (UK) earlier in 2009, with the intention of training others (i.e. Train the Trainer).

Electronic competence testing tools were also developed for the tourism sector.

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Education and Culture  
Lifelong learning programme  
LEONARDO DA VINCI

## Double Dissemination Conference in the Netherlands

This is an invitation to you and your colleagues to hear about two very good Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation projects on the same day. Both projects have findings that you can use at your school/college to the benefit of students and teachers.

**Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2009  
10.00 – 15.00**

**at Landstede, Rechterland 1, Zwolle, the Netherlands**

If you want to participate, please send an e-mail to Udo Lut: [ulut@landstede.nl](mailto:ulut@landstede.nl)  
We need your name, institution with address, and whether you want a hotel (1 or 2 nights).

**DEADLINE July 17**

Zwolle is a very nice town north of Amsterdam. There are trains from Amsterdam airport every half hour and the ride is 1½ hour. A taxi to the school takes 10 minutes.

Below you can read about the projects we will disseminate

### **IOA project – International Operation Agent**

The IOA project aims at identifying the intercultural competence (IC) areas of those vocational teachers who are responsible for the international activities of their respective vocational institutes; designing criteria and tools for assessing this intercultural competence; and developing/transferring this competence into the competence of an “International Operation Agent” (described below) by designing and piloting a relevant internet based training module.

#### **WHY (Need + Impact)**

The scope of international activities is rapidly expanding in the vocational education and training institutes. It is a common European phenomenon that internationally oriented teachers end up taking care of the international activities in their respective institutes. However, they seldom receive any training for this “international operator’s” task. Surveys in Finland and professional discussions in Vocational Teachers European networks show, that as the work load of these teachers acting as international operators gets heavier, the teachers long for further education to meet the challenges of their broadened job description.

At the same time, on the organisational level, more teachers should get engaged in the international activities to share the important work. These newcomers need motivators and mentors. By identifying and recognising the existing intercultural competence of the current international operators, and by transferring this know-how into the competence of an International Operation Agent (a promoter) the vocational institutes could systematise and secure the continuity of the international activities. An internationally conducted project would also contribute to designing European wide frame and criteria for VET teachers’ intercultural competence.

#### **TARGET GROUP**

Vocational teachers who are engaged with international operations in their institutes.

#### **PARTNERS**

Coordinator: National Centre for Professional Development in Education, Finland

Core partners: Estonia, Finland, Greece and Netherlands

Operative partners: Belgium, Hungary and Latvia

Supporting partners: Continuing education centres, additional VET institutions and other supporters coming from all the partner countries

#### **RESULTS / PRODUCTS of the project are**

- A frame for vocational teachers international tasks and intercultural competence areas
- Criteria for vocational teachers’ intercultural competence areas
- “Job description” for a VET institutes’ future International Operation Agent
- Internet based Training module for developing intercultural competence, contents the following modules: Intercultural competence, International trends in work life and VET, Building international

networks and relations, Coaching and guiding students for international activities and Mentor skills.  
Web site: [www.ioagent.net](http://www.ioagent.net)

*Udo Lut, Landstede, the Netherlands*

## **The Good School – the journey from good to excellent**

### **Background**

Projects which deal with principles of best practice related to teaching and learning have difficulty taking root in the European VET training institutions essentially for two reasons: They require content knowledge and pedagogical skills that few teachers have, and they challenge certain basic patterns in the organisation. Neither problem can be solved independently of the other.

In some cases, our VET institutions violate what we know about how people learn most effectively and naturally. Learning situations can be ineffective because they reflect mistaken assumptions about how people learn. Some education and training is structured around the assumptions that

- learners are passive receivers of knowledge
- what is learned is atomized
- producing the right answers is the purpose of learning
- skills and knowledge are produced independently of their context

The project “The good school - the journey from good to excellent” represents a holistic approach to the educational challenge that is mentioned in the Lisbon strategy. It focuses on the need of an inclusive society, better organisational conditions of the training institution as well as the way teaching and learning is organised.

### **Aims and goals**

Five educational experts from Spain, Lithuania, Denmark, The Netherlands and the UK focus on classroom training but through a whole system perspective. EfVET is the leading part in organising the European dissemination. In concrete terms it is the objectives of the project to produce new strategies of best practise in five areas:

- New pedagogical strategies to strengthen the learning process
- New teaching strategies for teachers, new roles and tasks
- New strategies to build relations with the students
- New strategies to create/develop an attractive learning environment
- New strategies to develop a learning organisation and strong professional leadership

The above mentioned areas will be put into a holistic framework – named “the good school” representing a European based strategy to meet the needs of a competitive economy and an inclusive society.

The project targets directly European teachers, educational planners and members of the training institutions management. To the teachers and educational planners the project will deliver a pedagogical strategy based on a set of teaching standards that relates to the changing workplaces of Europe.

**Partners:**

CPH WEST, Education Centre Copenhagen West, Denmark

Formidlingscentret/Ole Holst, Denmark

EfVET Central, Belgium

ITE-CECE, Spain

Marijampoles P.R.C., Lithuania

Landstede VET-College, The Netherlands

Norton Radstock College, United Kingdom

Webpage <http://goodschool.cphwest.dk>

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