



# EFVET Newsletter

## September 2004

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### **Message from the President (September 2004)**

#### **See you in Tuscany**

I hope that all of you have enjoyed a very pleasant holidays and I am looking forward to meeting you in Tuscany where we will discuss “Best Practice in Competence Based Learning” and have lots of opportunities to learn from each other, to establish further cooperation and enjoy Tuscany. If you have not yet registered, please go to <http://www.efvet.org/conferences/index2004.html>

#### **Welcome to new members**

A warm welcome to new members. We will organise a special welcome meeting at the conference to shake hands.

#### **EU Policies**

The Dutch presidency is working on a Communiqué about further development of VET in Europe, to be discussed in several meetings in the Maastricht, December 2004, including a meeting of Ministers. A strong emphasis is probably put on the development of the European Credit System for VET (ECVET). EfVET is involved in the drafting process and 5 EfVET members will join the working conference on several issues. We keep emphasising the need for a better “Brand” of VET, better statistics on VET, the need for an easily accessible database of good practices and the creation of networks of institutions to develop and codify such good practises, to recognise that the need for teachers includes not only teachers but also learning-coaches in education and at workplaces and the complaints of members about the administrative burden of European Projects.

### **Redefinition of port-folios.**

Members of the Steering committee take care for several matters, named port-folios. Increasingly, members take part in workinggroups around such port-folios. The Steering Committee is in the process of redefining the portfolios, given the changing circumstances at many colleges, the enlargement of the EU and changing policy involvement. I will inform you in more detail at the Annual General Meeting that will take place at the Tuscany Conference.

Hans F. van Aalst  
President  
president@efvet.org

### **The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual EfVET Conference in Lucca**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you who have already completed the registration to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference. Currently we have 132 registered delegates from 16 different countries !!

I would like to share with you some updates about the Conference as well as some logistic and practical information.

The Conference Venue is “Il Ciocco International Conference Centre” which is located in the countryside, about 35 km north from Lucca. If you wish to have a look at their web site, use this link: [www.ciocco.it](http://www.ciocco.it)

The nearest airport to the conference venue is Pisa, [www.pisa-airport.com](http://www.pisa-airport.com), and we will offer a free shuttle bus on arrival from Pisa Airport to the Conference venue on the 27<sup>th</sup> and on departure, between Saturday afternoon 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>.

Once made your flight booking, write us the details in order to book your transfer. Please consider that we will be able to organise a limited number of bus transfers and these may not exactly coincide with your flight schedule.

In case of different travel arrangements, if you wish to use a taxi service, we advise to contact us in order to book taxi at fixed rate.

This year Conference is articulated, as in the past editions, in plenary sessions and in a number of parallel activities.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> you will be able to choose two workshops among six different options whereas and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> you have the opportunity to select one out of four different presentations.

By the end of September you will be able to access via the EfVET Official Web Site the full description of workshops and presentations contents and conductors and make your choice online.

On Thursday evening we have planned a Reception in Lucca which will give you the opportunity to meet the Local Authorities dealing with Vocational Education.

In this occasion you will also have opportunity to explore this wonderful town which is one of the Tuscany treasures. To know more about Lucca you can visit:

[www.luccatourist.it](http://www.luccatourist.it)

<http://luccapro.cribecu.sns.it/ENG/index.asp>

To book the bus transfer or for any other enquiry, feel free to contact our General Conference Secretariat:

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Looking forward to meeting you in Tuscany next month.

Stefano Tirati

## **EfVET as a Platform for members**

EfVET has continued to build on its services to and for members through strengthening its activities as a platform for members to meet and exchange professional experiences and share good practice. It is reassuring that many members are using the EfVET network to share methodologies and approaches to teaching and learning, identifying collaborations, promoting staff exchanges between institutions and indeed promoting student mobility.

The Steering Group are delighted that several members involved in establishing European Project partnerships to undertake innovative educational development initiatives have included EfVET as a partner with our role being to effectively disseminate project outcomes, results and products. Some 12 to 15 projects have recently gained approval and will shortly become operational. It is extremely pleasing to see many of these transnational partnerships also include partners from the new Member States – it is hoped that through this mechanism EfVET – its role as a network of and for practitioners will stimulate new membership within these countries and broaden our links. I set out below a few examples of successful projects with which we are involved.

The European Rural Tourism Development Project – a Transnational Pilot project partnership between Spain, UK, Italy and Bulgaria and Belgium (EfVET).

Trans-rural – A Transfer of Innovation project – a transfer of the Euracademy Learning Packages to formal Training systems in Europe – a partnership including Universities from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Greece and VET institutions and support agencies from Hungary, Greece, UK, Portugal, Spain and Rumania

European Middle Management Training project – A pilot project geared to transfer innovation in the field of Education Management with partners from Denmark, Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, UK, Poland and Lithuania

Full details of all the project activities will be made available to EfVET members via future newsletters and the members project pages on our website. In addition specific seminars and conference activity will be organised over the timeframe of the projects as part of our wider dissemination activities. We hope members will follow progress with interest and actively participate in the sharing of professional experience and good practice.

Our congratulations to all those members who have been successful in their project applications and we look forward to actively contribute to their successful fulfilment.

For further details on all these projects and EfVET's role within them please contact Wolfgang Stutzmann and Peter Hodgson – contact details can be found on the website under Steering Group Members.

Peter Hodgson  
Vice President, EfVET

## **News from European Training Foundation**

Since March ETF is publishing the regular Newsletter with the latest news from ETF. There has been published three Newsletters by now.

Please link into the Newsletter:

[http://www.etf.eu.int/WebSite.nsf/Pages/Press+and+Media\\_Newsletter ETF+Newsletter?OpenDocument&LAN=EN](http://www.etf.eu.int/WebSite.nsf/Pages/Press+and+Media_Newsletter ETF+Newsletter?OpenDocument&LAN=EN)

Leif Haar

### **Agora Thessaloniki conference LIFE COURSE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING to be held on 4 and 5 October 2004 at Cedefop's premises, Thessaloniki, Greece**

In the context of the knowledge society and lifelong learning, this 2 day Agora conference takes as its theme guidance and counselling over the life course.

Recent OECD, CEDEFOP, ETF and World Bank research has shown that guidance services continue to be mainly focused on those in secondary school and the unemployed. Adults in employment are identified as the group having the least opportunity to benefit from guidance. The conference will therefore focus in particular on workplace guidance and look at the obstacles and potential it offers.

Mr John McCarthy, the chair of the European Commission's Expert Group on Lifelong Guidance, will make a keynote speech from the European perspective to open the seminar and representatives from companies and Trade Unions involved in the provision of workplace guidance will present case studies, including projects involving lower-paid workers. Representatives of policy makers will highlight how public policy making can support and promote guidance in the workplace and the benefits to the individual, economy and society which can accrue from developing good quality workplace guidance provision.

The Agora conference will also look at the extent to which the lines which previously demarcated and fragmented guidance provision into different sectors are becoming blurred and moving towards an all-age, 'guidance in cross-section' approach.

The Agora will close by trying to identify key questions and issues for research and policy related to workplace guidance for the future.

Agora conferences are characterised by their participative approach and specific time for

exchanges of views and questions will be built into the conference programme.

The Agora conference should be of interest to all stakeholders involved in guidance in vocational education and training, especially researchers, practitioners, policy makers and the social partners.

The summer holiday period has delayed the finalisation of the full conference programme but it should be available in early September.

If you would like to take part in the conference, please click here:

<http://www.cedefop.eu.int/events.asp?Action=5>

## **Impressum**

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New deadline for manuscripts: 1st December 2004.