

EfVET Newsletter – September 2010

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Message from the President (September 2010)

Dear Members

Welcome to our September 2010 newsletter. I trust you all enjoyed the summer break and return to work fully relaxed and re-invigorated for the new academic year. For many of us this year may be quite challenging addressing the impacts of the global recession and the battle against deficits – this brings increasing pressures to achieve more with less. The economic downturn, youth unemployment, increasing numbers of young people not in education or training ('drop outs'), pressures on Adult learning funding are all issues facing VET in the coming years.

Vet, however, is seen as a vital element in overcoming the 'downturn' and is a key to meeting the skills agenda of business and industry. We must continue to raise the profile of Vet and Lifelong learning to overcome the impact of social exclusion and disadvantage facing many of our citizens.

Having depressed you all – let me continue in an upbeat manner. EfVET is continuing to expand its influence in many directions. Firstly – we have been extremely active working with the Commission on policy developments within the strategy framework for 2020. In addition we have been invited to play our part in the preparations for the Bruges Declaration due in December through the Belgian Presidency.

In addition Efvet and EuproVET, having signed the collaborative agreement are working on a joint stakeholder position document to go forward to the Commission through our joint policy committee and associated networks EVTA and EVBB. Moreover EfVET members are participating in a number of working groups on key topic areas with other members through EUCIS-LLL. See www.eucis-lll.eu, I would encourage members to respond to these initiatives to ensure your voice is heard.

A quick note on Conference 2010 to be held in Lisbon 13-16th October see [EfVET Conference](#). The programme and theme are on the web. I am delighted to confirm that we have an excellent group of speakers including an address by Joao Delgado of DG EAC on Saturday morning – 16th October. This is looking like the best attended EfVET Conference for some time with some 185-200 delegates

expected. We have an excellent programme and I am looking forward to meeting everyone again in Lisbon on 13th October.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Steering Group for keeping me sane with an absolutely impossible workload – I am pleased to say that EfVET is alive and well, growing with increasing membership and extremely proactive in representing you as members. Thanks go to all on the Steering Committee for their help and dedication. Moreover – EfVET is extremely sound financially and is moving forward a pace. – not least because of the enthusiasm, support and 'can do' attitude of you our members.

Warm regards to you all and I hope to see you again in Lisbon, October 2010



Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

Message du Président (septembre 2010)

Chers Membres

Soyez la bienvenue à notre bulletin de septembre.

J'espère que vous êtes bien reposés après les vacances d'été et prêts à faire face aux défis de la nouvelle année académique. Les défis tels que la récession économique globale et la bataille contre les déficits. La récession économique, le chômage de jeunes, l'augmentation de jeunes qui ne participent pas à l'éducation ou à la formation, ou abandonnent prématurément des études (abandonneurs), la diminution de fonds pour l'éducation des adultes.

VET, cependant, est considéré comme le moyen clef de survivre cette récession et préparer les employés qualifiés pour répondre aux besoins des compagnies et l'industrie. Nous devons continuer à promouvoir l'importance de VET et de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie pour lutter contre l'exclusion sociale.

Pour être plus positif, EfVET continue à collaborer avec la Commission Européenne sur les développements politiques du cadre stratégique de 2020. Aussi, on nous a invité de participer aux préparations de la Déclaration de Bruges, prévue pour le mois de décembre.

EfVET et EUproVET ont signé un accord et collaborent à composer un document qui, avec les contributions des réseaux d'EVTA et d'EVBB, sera présenté à la Commission. Aussi des membres d'EfVET continuent à participer aux groupes de travail qui explorent des questions et des initiatives VET par l'intervention d'EUCIS-LLL (www.eucis-lll.eu)

Je dois faire mention de notre Conférence 2010, qui aura lieu à Lisbonne du 13 au 16 octobre 2010 – vous en trouverez le programme sur notre site web [EfVET Conference](#). Nous aurons beaucoup de conférenciers, y compris Monsieur Joao Delgado de la DG EAC le samedi matin. J'attends avec impatience de vous rencontrer tous à Lisbonne.

Je voudrais remercier mes collègues du comité de pilotage qui m'ont aidé à conserver ma santé mentale pendant une période de travail tellement chargée. Je suis fort content de vous assurer que l'EfVET est en très bonne santé, continue à se développer positivement et ses finances sont solides.

Mes amitiés

Peter Hodgson
Président
president@efvet.org

19th Annual EFVET Conference

13st – 16st October 2010



Improve Vocational Education and Training in Europe: We can do it! Even better!

Que fazemos, Lisboa, os dois, aqui,

na terra onde nasceste e eu nasci?

E de novo, Lisboa... (Alexandre O'Neill)

Lisbon, what both of us do,

where you were born and me too

And again, Lisbon... (Alexandre O'Neill)

For more **updated** information about program, workshops, round tables and hotel details please click:

PDF

PRINT

EMAIL

http://www.efvet.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=3&Itemid=18

Delegate fee after the 14th of July 2010

Member of EFVET, one delegate: € 650

From the 2nd delegate of the same member organisation
discount € 40, per delegate: € 610

Non-member of EFVET, one delegate: € 850

From the 2nd delegate of the same non-member organisation
discount € 40, per delegate: € 810

Partner fee: € 290

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon!

EQAVET newsletter – first issue

EfVET would like to draw your attention to the first issue of the EQAVET newsletter. The newsletter is a semi-annual publication providing an update on current developments in the field of quality assurance in European vocational education and training.

The first issue of the newsletter comprises:

- ▶ An editorial by João Delgado, European Commission Head of Unit; Vocational Training, Leonardo da Vinci
- ▶ An article by Sean Feerick, EQAVET Secretariat Director, on the principles of European networking to support quality assurance of VET
- ▶ An article by Keith Brumfitt, expert, on guidelines to support the implementation of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET
- ▶ An article by Maria Emília Galvão, expert, on the indicators to support the quality in vocational education and training
- ▶ And... other features: European VET, a policy overview; Communication from the Commission on VET; Did you know that... ? (on skills); and What's new?

The newsletter is available online in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#) language versions.

You can also [subscribe](#) to receive the newsletter by email

Leif Haar



EQAVET
NEWSLETTER Issue 0

Stakeholder's Forum in Education, Training and Youth

EfVET has been invited to the third Stakeholder's Forum to take place on 28-29 October 2010 by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture. This event represents a key opportunity for EfVET to influence the European Commission in the definition of its future priorities and objectives for the LLP, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus programmes. This will be done in the light of the EU2020 and the Youth on the Move initiative. It is an opportunity to take and one that we have to integrate in our own strategy for a stronger LLP. EfVET has participated in the previous 2 meetings and was represented by our president and vice president. The outcomes will soon after be published at the EfVET website where you can find the outcomes of the two previous meetings.

Stelios Mavromoustakos and Leif Haar

Protocol of Collaboration between EfVET and EUproVET

The protocol of collaboration between EfVET and EUproVET was signed during the 1st Annual Conference of EUproVET on June, the 9th in Brussels. EfVET was represented by the Vice-President, Stelios Mavromoustakos and Geoff Scaplehorn member of the Executive Team.

The protocol calls for the formation of a Joint Policy Committee with three representatives from each organisation. The first meeting of the Joint Policy Committee was held on June 10th at Hotel Bloom, Brussels. The minutes of the first meeting can be found on EfVET website under Links.

At the meeting was agreed that the collaboration will focus on the action points highlighted in the signed Protocol of Collaboration. The two organizations will work in a transparent and fair sharing of information in promoting VET to students and key EU stakeholders. It will aim to talk directly to the Commission to help ensure an effective influence on EU policy in the promotion of VET and VET providers.

The next meeting of the Joint Policy Committee will take place during the 19th Annual EfVET conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Stelios Mavromoustakos
Vice-President



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

The LIFE Train the Trainer Pack will continue to be available on the project website and is free to download in the education sector. The Pack helps teachers to embed life skills into their vocational teaching. New activities and amendments have been added and further activities and good practice examples are welcomed via the website.

The LIFE products will also feature in a case study on the online post 16 learning and skills sector website www.excellencegateway.org.uk

Research has shown that there is potential for the Pack to be included in national VET teacher training programmes and that it works well alongside other initiatives such as 'emotional intelligence'. Feedback from target groups has shown that the LIFE training helps towards improving employability, cultural awareness, foreign language, communication, literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

The final project meeting will be hosted by EfVET in Brussels in September. Trans-national project partners include Norton Radstock College as co-ordinator, Cebanc- Cdea (ES), CSCS (IT), Marijampole Vocational Education & Training Centre (LT), IMCS Intercollege Ltd (CY), Pascal Education Ltd, (CY), Marijampole Chamber of Commerce (LT), KEI IVAC Basque Institute for Qualifications & Vocational Training (ES), Bath Spa University and EfVET.

For more information, visit the website <http://www.life-keyskills.info/>
or contact rosaleen.courtney@nortcoll.ac.uk

International Development Officer Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Pilots of the IDOLearn assessment and training programme have been completed in all partner countries. The partnership includes members from Finland (Co-ordinator), Romania, France, Greece, Italy, Norton Radstock College (UK) and EfVET.

Pete Hodgson presents the IDOLearn certificate to Emily Hunt after pilot training in the UK.

The IDOLearn project conference will be held on **8th October 2010** at the historic Centre international d'études pédagogiques conference venue in Sèvres near Paris. Registration is available on www.idolearn.net .



The conference will showcase the outcomes of the IDOLearn project which seeks to recognise and validate informal and non-formal learning for those working on international activities. These outcomes will be set in the context of their contribution towards international development. There will be a mix of knowledge sharing, debate and networking.

Pete Hodgson, President of EfVET will be presenting at the conference.

Envolwe – Nature Based Entrepreneurs and VET Providers Learning and Working Together



Partners in the envolve project met in June to discuss progress with the piloting of best practice cooperation models. Different ways of working closely with nature based entrepreneurs are being tested to provide training opportunities for young people. A handbook of best practice is being produced as a source of ideas for engaging more closely with the employer sector on a win: win basis.

project met in June to discuss best practice cooperation

Project partners are: University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute (Lead Partner), The Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association and Yla-Savo Municipal Federation of Education from Finland; Eesti Maaulikool Estonian University of Life Sciences; Rogaland School and Business Development Association from Norway; Centro Servizi Cultura Sviluppo Srl, Research Centre for Cultural Development from Italy; Norton Radstock College from the UK; Euracademy Association from Greece and EfVET. For more information, see the website <http://www.luontoyrittaja.net/envolve/>



TACTALL – The Accessible City – Tourism for All

This project finishes soon and the final project meeting will be held in Italy at the beginning of September.

The pilot has been well received in all countries. In the UK, we have been delivering short courses to teachers as part of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and this is continuing. Also in the UK, the team is continuing to work with a national charity (Tourism for All) and helping them to change their online training course, to make it more engaging for learners.

All the project team are looking at how to integrate the learning resources created into mainstream training, or getting the courses accredited. The course created used common modules across all the partner countries, with some country specific units. Training was delivered using blended learning methods (workshops interspersed with e-learning) and the participants were encouraged to produce an Action Plan for their business or employer.

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 Pantagruel (IT) and Bath Tourism Plus (UK).

For more information, go to www.tactall.org .



Modular e-course with virtual coach tool support

'Clara' – the 'coachbot' avatar assisted participants in their online learning, delivered as part of this project.

The pilot courses completed in July or August (depending on the partner). The course was delivered with varying degrees of success. In Slovenia, even though the participants had to take the course in English, the success rate was high. In other countries, it was been difficult to get trainees in the Health and Social sector to pursue e-learning and equally difficult to get participants for the pilot training who also speak English, as the pilot program has been produced in English language only.

Useful lessons have been learnt and hopefully, the project team can suggest improvements in the methodology of the pilot to improve retention and achievement.

A final workshop is planned in Denmark in October, just before the end of the TOI project.

For more information, go to <http://www.coachbot.eu>

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



In order to improve and expand the documentation of e-learning supply and demand in rural areas, research is continuing.

The next project meeting and national workshop is planned in Covilha (Portugal) in mid-September. Recently, members of the project team attended the EDEN conference in Valencia, in order to disseminate the project and give a demonstration of the guidance tool using Games Based Learning (GBL) was given. This features a friendly character named Alfred; this aim of this is to perform a skills check with new users; the game produces a certificate that identifies the person's training needs.

Partners in this project are EfVET (BE), .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), iZone Knowledge Systems (PT), IBIMET (IT), Typical Mutations – Web Services LLP (GR).

The project website is available at www.e-ruralnet.eu. The training providers questionnaires are now completed, but we are looking for providers who can persuade their students to complete questionnaires – either as an e-learning student or a member of the control group (thos who have not participated in any e-learning). If you would like to assist with the research, choose your flag and go to the questionnaires part of the website. It should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

QUAVETS – Quality in Vocational Education and Training.

The final meeting of the project took place in Lithuania in mid-June. The partnership team worked well together to finalise most of the content for the final report – demonstrating that a significant amount had been achieved over the previous 2 years.

As part of the project four sectors had been chosen for research – Tourism, Construction, Care and Catering. A really positive aspect of the project was the contribution made by specialists from these sectors at various key stages. They helped design and analyse the responses to questionnaires completed by students, teachers, workplace supervisors and employers and also helped determine the strengths and weaknesses of school-based and work-based training routes in their particular sectors. The process used during this project is one the team believes forms the basis of a model that could be replicated in any sector, and this may form part of a future Transfer of Innovation project.

Whilst the team realised it may not be possible to accurately define the characteristics of a 'skilled worker' in each of the sectors that could be applied across Europe the team's work proved the value of the approach taken in creating a better understanding between partner nations of the similarities and differences between VET outcomes and the views of different stakeholder groups. The team also discussed the linkages to European quality indicators for VET, and other quality factors of specific relevance.

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/>

BMW apprentices on learning mobility with GOMOVET

Mr. Helmut Kroneder is Vocational Training Manager at BMW for "Production and Car Technology" in Munich Headquarters where a group of young apprentices have completed a learning mobility project in cooperation with VET providers and EfVET members from Denmark and Finland.



EfVET: "Helmut what is your view and evaluation of this mobility initiative?"

Helmut: "Our expectation was to enable our apprentices to accomplish abroad the same modules we do in house. Indeed it was quite an high expectation and I can say the learning outcomes of the educational modules attended abroad represent around 60% of our goals.

EfVET: "What has been the main challenge?"

Helmut: "I think overall this mobility initiative has been a success as we have faced many challenges. Comparing profiles and educational modules among countries is a difficult exercise. The apprentices we selected are industrial mechanics whereas other countries have involved students from mechatronic and industrial electricians which I guess have made things even more complicated for the trainers involved.

EfVET: "Do you think you had enough or would you go on with international learning mobility?"

Helmut: "We plan to continue to invest in learning mobility, next year we will send abroad a group of apprentices from mechatronic department. Overall we believe these initiatives are very positive and constructive, they boost the motivation and the development of our young workers. As they say: "they go as children, they come back as adults".



An international consortia of partners, led by Technical University of Munich, has successfully completed a challenging and indeed very interesting project focused on learning mobility for apprentices.

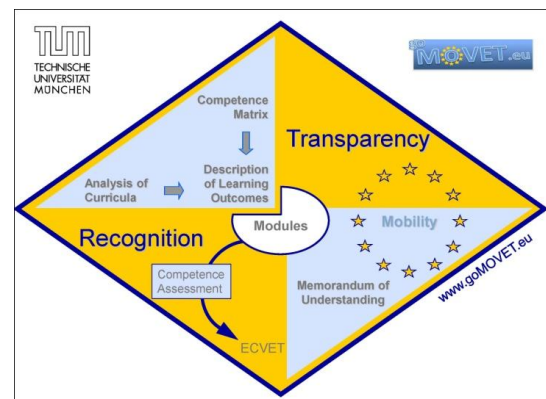
Main goal was to implement 3 modules of 3 weeks in cooperation among 3 vocational education providers in 3 different countries.

The first and probably most difficult phase has been for the educational providers and the trainers to meet and compare the characteristics of their curricula and agree upon a set of competencies, learning outcomes and activities for the joint modules as well as a set of reference for the evaluation of the impact of training.

Representatives from Germany, Denmark and Finland have hard together to compose a common and joint matrix, describing, in the form of a taxonomy table, the competencies and learning objectives for the following modules:

- PLC, programmable logic controller – to be implemented in Munich, Germany
- Hydraulics – to be implemented in Copenhagen, Denmark
- BUS technologies – to be implemented in Pori, Finland

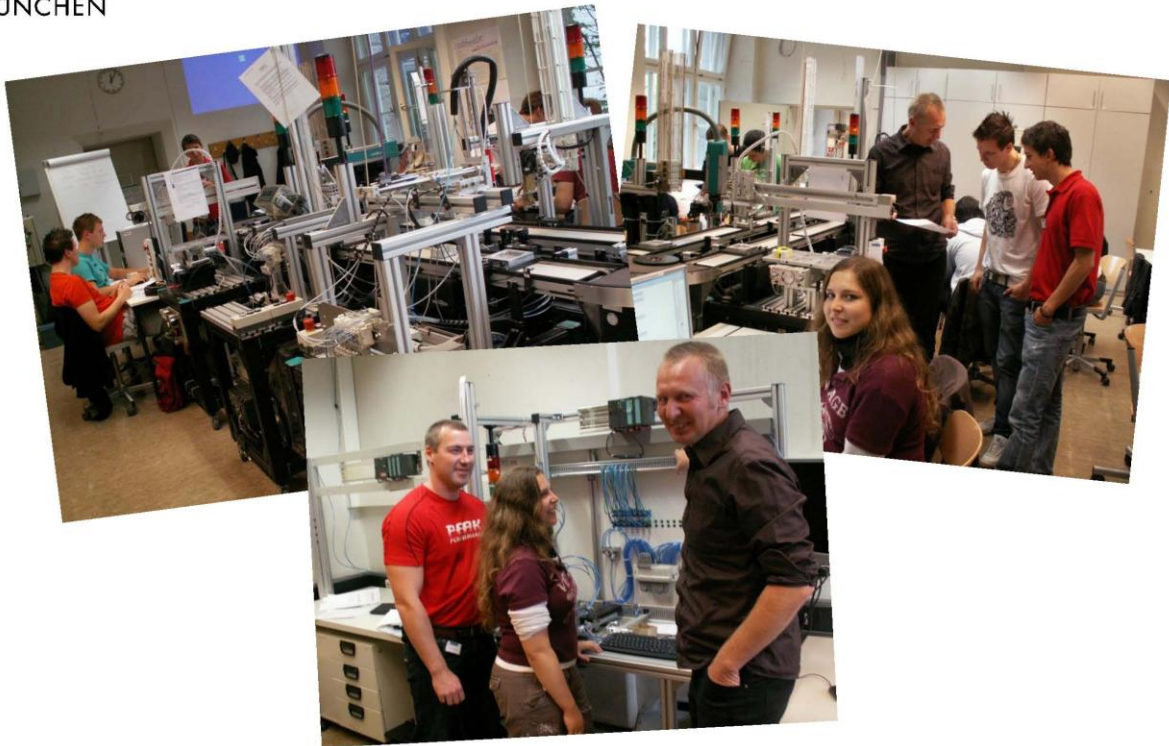
One of the main tasks has been to adopt a model for the recognition of the competencies acquired. The educational providers have chosen to follow the ECVET credit system. Trainers and researchers



have referred to the VQTS model (Vocational Qualification Transfer System) and used the expertise matrix for mechatronics engineers. They have also developed a taxonomy table with the support of the Department of Education at the Technical University of Munich.



PLC-Module in Munich



As a consequence, the examination has been based on the analysis of the performances of the apprentices against the set of learning objectives described in the taxonomy table. The apprentices have gone through three evaluation phases: a theory test, a practical test as well as a final technical discussion between students and technical supervisors.

The 19 trainees and apprentices who have been selected and attended the modules abroad have reported a very positive feedback. They feel very much enriched not only from the professional perspective but also from the personal experience and the friendships they have established.

EfVET had the pleasure to cooperate as dissemination partner and is now proud to be part of MOVET II starting from October 2010.

For more information, to contact the promoters or propose your organization as a partner in the new round of MOVET II:

EfVET, Stefano Tirati: stefano.tirati@gmail.com, [Download the MOVET Brochure](#), [Visit MOVET web site](#).

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New deadline for manuscripts: **1 December 2010.**