



European Forum
of Technical and Vocational
Education and Training

EfVET Newsletter September 2015

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Message from the President

Dear Members welcome back after a deserved break over the summer for many and to this, the September issue of the EfVET newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming 24th EfVET annual international conference taking place from 21st to 24th October in Pathos, Cyprus. I am delighted to say we have a very full and interesting programme awaiting delegates. We again, expect to welcome some 230 delegates from over 20 countries this year - already numbers registered exceed previous years.. So for those still considering joining us - please do not hesitate. Delegates will note a few changes in format from previous events although the fundamentals remain including extended Roundtables offering the opportunity to disseminate project developments and innovative initiatives. There is still remaining capacity for these so ,again please book a Roundtable as soon as possible via the conference website www.efvet-conference.eu or access via www.efvet.org, click photo and this will take you to the new conference website. On that note we hope you appreciate the conference website - a highly attractive addition this year which we are seeking to emulate for an updated main efVET home site in the near future.



Members were recently sent a message to request good practices within your institutions on the 6 topic areas of the conference workshops. This is an opportunity for you to sing your praises, using the template provided and share these either within the conference or within the publication to be produced on the topics. The latter will be shared across the membership and to wider stakeholders including the European Commission.

The Steering Committee meets next weekend (early September), and high on the Agenda is the future strategic direction for EfVET recognising that we now have the resources to invest significantly in generating new members, establishing a comprehensive drive to establish National Boards in all member countries. Equally the time is right for renewal and development. A new Communications strategy forms part of this package in order to become more efficient and effective in our service to yourselves. As part of this, the Steering Committee has been working towards appointing a full time Office Manager. After a recruitment drive and appointment process - 3 candidates were interviewed and I am delighted that Valentina Chanina has been offered the post, commencing in mid November 2015. Valentina currently works with EfVET for 70% of her time under a staff share agreement with EAEA. May I personally take this opportunity to welcome Valentina onboard full time. This represents a significant step forward for EfVET and will assist us in reaching our goals as we move forward.

Our work with VET4EU2 (formerly the joint VET provider network) and the European Commission moves forward a pace - with VET4EU2 now seen as a formal advisory Board to the Commission. Initiatives undertaken by the joint networks include the recent Riga Declaration presented by us to the European Council of Ministers for Education at the RIGA summit - reinforcing the reform programme for Vocational education and Training in Europe. you can follow this and other developments via our website. VET4EU2 is currently discussing the possibility of a European VET week supported by the Commission to raise the profile of VET across Europe.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues on the Steering Committee for all their hard work and commitment and to thank you all for your commitment to EfVET. I hope you enjoy the articles and project developments within this edition of our newsletter and look forward to another successful year - for those attending Conference - will see you there

Warm wishes

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET



24th Annual EfVET International Conference Paphos, Cyprus 21st-24th October 2015

We are delighted to invite you to the next EfVET Annual International Conference which will take place in Paphos, Cyprus on the 21st - 24th October 2015. The Conference will bring together practitioners, researchers and educators from around the world who are engaged in Vocation Training and Education. The conference will host delegates from more than 150 institutions and it will cover more than 72 hours, 30 roundtables and 6 workshops.

The conference venue is the Azia Hotel, at the welcoming town of Paphos in Cyprus. Paphos is a coastal city in the southwest of Cyprus. It has been selected as a European Capital of Culture for 2017.

This year's conference programme:

http://efvet-conference.eu/index_photo.html

This year's registration for the conference and hotel bookings will be done through the conference's website:

[Please click here to proceed.](#)

Luis Costa has appointed as a new Vice-President



The EUCIS-LLL has appointed Mr. Luis Costa of the ANESPO of Lisbon, Portugal, as its new Vice-President. He will succeed Geoff Scaplehorn who has held the position for the last 4 years.

EUCIS-LLL has received 4 applications while 5 seats were open, which means one seat will remain empty.

Voting:- *Luis Costa: elected with 17 votes in favour.*

He is the Executive Director of ANESPO - National Association of Professional Schools (Portugal), a member of the board of the Setubal Professional School and a member of the Steering Committee of EFVET - European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

He is also the representative of EFVET in the EU Thematic Working Groups on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and Early School Leaving (ESL).

In 2015 we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of EUCIS-LLL. An event will take place on 22 September, date of the official creation of the platform. For this occasion, EUCIS-LLL Secretariat, after the process was launched within the steering committee, has started to think about a change in our visual identity. The new name and logo of the platform will be presented today.

Finally, we also hope to publish a new EUCIS-LLL Manifesto of Lifelong Learning and launch a campaign "I'm still Learning".

A special thank you goes to Geoffrey Scaplehorn (EFVET) for their active contribution to the platform.

Riga Conclusions

EFVET was invited along with the other five Association members of VET4EU2 group to participate in the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Vocational Education and Training (VET), the European Social Partners and the European Commission which was held 21-22 June 2015 in Riga, organised under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in cooperation with the European Commission.

The VET Associations were invited to participate at the two sessions on 22 June. The morning sessions dealt with the new challenges and opportunities arising from the socio-economic and demographic changes and their impact on the labour market and having regard to the aims of the Comanahgen process on enhanced European cooperation in Vocational Education and Training and its recent review, the Bruges Communiqué with the objective to further deepen European cooperation in VET. The [Riga Conclusions](#) has been endorsed. During the morning session, The VET4EU2 group presented its [Riga Declaration](#). You can follow [this link](#) to see the VET4EU2 speech done by Margarida Segard (EVBB) on behalf of the group.

The Afternoon Session with representative of the business sector and apprentices was devoted to a further promotion of the European Alliances for Apprenticeships (EAfA) which has started two year ago in Leipzig. Presentation of success stories and communication tools as well as expectations from companies were discussed and presented, including new commitments on the part of businesses to strengthen collaboration between the world of education and the world of work.



The six Associations representatives: (from left) Matti Isokallio, EUproVET matti.isokallio@sataedu.fi ; Friedl Othmar, EVBB Othmar.Friedl@bfi-ooe.at ; Maria Margarida Segard , EVBB MMSegard@isq.pt ; Stelios Mavromoustakos EfVET mavromoustakos.s@intercollege.ac.cy ; Yves Grange, EVTA yves.grange@afpa.fr ; Marko Grdosic EURASHE, marko.grdosic@eurashe.eu; Alfredo Soeiro, EUCEN soeiro.alfredo@gmail.com.

Contribute to develop ESCO: participate to the online consultation!

ESCO, part of the Europe 2020 strategy, is the multilingual classification (in the 24 EU official languages) of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations. It will be a common reference terminology to exchange information between actors in the labour market and in the education and training sector. ESCO is expected to boost job matching services by increasing geographical and occupational mobility, reduce skills gaps and improve the functioning of the European labour market. Furthermore ESCO will help education and training providers to obtain high quality information on current and future labour market needs, as a basis for the further development of curricula and to increase the visibility of the qualifications they award.

The content of 16 sectors, including "EDUCATION", is currently being developed and will be submitted to an online consultation exclusively for experts next 14th of October, for a period of 8 weeks. We kindly invite you to participate and provide us with your feedback. You can already register to the online consultation platform by following this link

The European Commission develops ESCO in coherence with other initiatives and instruments at European and national level and in close collaboration with stakeholders from the labour market and education and training sector. It intends to launch the first version by the end of 2016.

For more information on ESCO
Contact information: education@esco-secretariat.eu

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



Business Competence in Europe.

EBBD+ - companies cherish soft skills acquired

Every year Europe grows closer together; in political, social and most importantly in economic aspects. These challenges require a readiness for mobility, extensive soft skills and business competence in order to be able to comfortably deal with international business questions.

Results from the project's survey and desk research show how much employers emphasize soft skills when looking for employees, such as verbal communication, teamwork, the ability to apply professional and technical knowledge in the work place, responsibility, work ethic, reliability, complex problem solving and thinking critically. They are looking for employees who are flexible resilient and adaptable.

The EBBD portfolio has been specifically designed with these soft skills and competences in mind: As (international) projects and simulations based on team work rank highly in the EBBD portfolio, content and language integrated learning (CLIL) and internships abroad are mandatory, EBBD students develop the above mentioned soft skills and competences during their educational programme. In the past this has not been obvious in the EBBD portfolio. One first result from the last project meeting in Vienna in May is the amended portfolio that clearly states the soft skills fostered by EBBD.

Graduates receive a harmonized and accredited European qualification going beyond the national framework for professions in the field of business administration, attested in an additional, internationally renowned certificate, which also serves as preparation for academic studies with a European focus.

The diploma is for all students in vocational education and training of upper secondary business education in Europe. The diploma requirements make it possible to take into account the needs of adult learners and enable the validation of non-formal and informal learning. Adjusting the EBBD profile from the previous project to the needs of adult learners is a challenge the project team is currently working on. A first version including adult learners' needs has been developed.

Besides contacting and acquiring institutions which are interested in offering EBBD, the project has created a platform for present EBBD students and EBBD graduates to share their experiences and show what competences they have acquired during the programme, especially during their internships abroad. Photos, interviews and a motivation movie give lively evidence of the student's commitment to their studies and the achieved competences. As the first EBBD graduates have been studying respectively working for two years now, we are hoping for additional experiences in working life or at university.

The page has already received 81 Likes and some posts have reached up to 247 people. You want to see yourself? Come and visit the EBBD Facebook site on <https://www.facebook.com/ebbdplus>.

Ute Schmitt
BBS Wirtschaft I, Ludvigshafen, Germany

Free long distance learning course for language and content teachers

One of the Pools projects "Clil4U" now offers a free online (long distance learning) course for both content and language teachers starting January 4th.

The first course started on September 1st with participants from across Europe. The January course will build on experiences, evaluation, and feedback from the first course.

Learn more about the course and register from:
<http://www.languages.dk/clil4u/index.html#MOOC>

Maximum 20 participants
Estimated effort: One week
Start of course: January 4th 2015
Course duration: Six weeks

The online Clil4U course is designed to help CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) teachers learn about the CLIL approach to teaching.

During the course you will be asked to:
Discover an aspect of teaching through CLIL.
Download a Learning Diary where you will be asked to perform certain tasks and keep an electronic record of them - your e-portfolio.

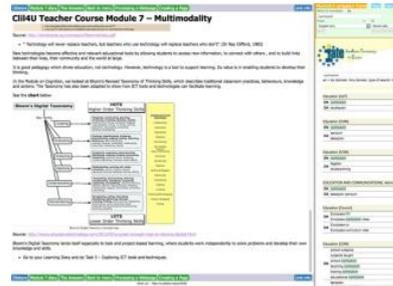
Build up a framework of the components of a CLIL lesson in a Pre-Assignment Planning e-Record (PAPeR).

Reflect upon what you have learnt, to be able to discuss your experiences with other teachers. To complete the course you need to work through ten online modules and for each module fill in a learning diary. The final part of the course is to prepare and submit a CLIL based lesson plan using the "Pre-assignment Planning e-Record". During the course the instructor is available for answering questions and giving feedback to learning diaries. Communication will mainly be based on email and Skype.

The course staff will be one or more instructors from SDE College (DK), Kroggaardsskolen (DK), Spanish Confederation of Education and Training Centres (ES), Educational Excellence Corporation Ltd. (CT), Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MT), Executive Training Institute (MT), University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (CH), and Istituto Comprensivo "Monte Grappa"- Bussero (IT).

On successful completion of the course the Clil4U consortium will issue a Course Certificate.

For more information please mail Kent Andersen
(ka@sde.dk)



StorySHOP

Since the StorySHOP trainers' training in Milan in March 2015, a group of trainers from Denmark, UK and Switzerland has been refining the StorySHOP educational material. This has been achieved by piloting the digital storytelling methodology into the daily educational programme.

The first piloting in Denmark with students was – according to the StorySHOP Handbook – implemented as a three-day event, and there are some difference between the trainers' and the students' experience whether this is sufficient or not. One thing seems to be quite clear: At the introduction, the technical terms (Storytelling, Turning point and so on) must be explained quite thoroughly and with the use of examples.

There were the obvious problems between the different technologies, different versions of operating systems and the internet connection speed in the classroom, when all students are online at the same time and the technology-literacy as a barrier for some students. In one class, 8 of 13 students had never worked with an iPad and the apps used in the StorySHOP Handbook which presented the teachers with some difficulties.

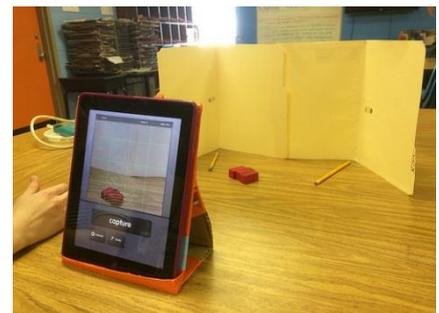


Concerning the stress issues and objectives of the project, some students had difficulties in seeing the connection between stress and the project even though they have no problem in seeing the advantages in Digital Story Telling as an instrument of sharing knowledge amongst one's colleagues. This may be followed up with presentations on and working with what stress is and how one can handle stress factors at the workplace. The knowledge the students achieve will give them a greater understanding of how stress can be prevented through Digital Story Telling and the StorySHOP project.

The sharing of movies proved to be a great idea. The diversity in the product lead to many interesting talk: Not only about the aesthetics of the movies, but also about the single student's learning and experience of the workflow, and especially the reflection from all the students on the project's validity in the educational work.

Some students said, that the work with Digital Story Telling as an added value can be used for documentation and information to relatives instead of more traditional forms of information.

The experiences from the piloting will be used for the revision of the StorySHOP Handbook.





The European project DTS-Dual Teaching System enters its final stage

In 2013, HETEL started to coordinate the DTS-Dual Teaching System project, co-financed by the European Union through the Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation subprogramme.

The project, which counts among its partners with Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa (Zarautz), ROC West Brabant College (Holanda), BFW (Alemania), CENFIM (Portugal), MPRC (Lituania) and Fondo Formación (Euskadi), aims to contribute to the implementation of dual VET as a way to reduce the high unemployment rate suffered specially by the South European countries.

During almost two years, the project team has worked studying and comparing the different VET systems of their respective countries, identifying good practices in those countries such as Germany or the Netherlands where dual VET has already a long tradition and it is one of the keys of the low unemployment rates among young people. Based on this, we have elaborated training materials addressed to VET teachers in charge of those students who carry out their training partially in companies, partially in the VET centre, so they will be able to develop their work more efficiently and to enforce the relation between VET centres and companies.

To ensure the good quality of the materials developed, all project partners have developed at least one evaluation session with teachers involved in dual VET. In the case of the Basque Country, those sessions took place in May 2015 in Zarautz, Vitoria and Mondragon and were conducted by Aitor Azpiroz, teacher in the VET centre Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa.

Likewise, during the project, teachers from several VET centres associated to HETEL have had the opportunity to participate in different study visits to some of the countries present in the project to Exchange good practices and compare the respective VET centres. The last visit took place in April 2015 and counted with the attendance of Mikel García (Mondragon Unibertsitateko Goi Eskola Politeknikoa), Jon Fernández Alday (Egibide) and Joxe Mari Irure (Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa). The three of them, together with teachers from the rest of the DTS partner organizations, travelled to the Netherlands to visit the Markiezaat College and several companies where students from the centre carry out part of their training. The most remarkable point of the visit was the verification of a high level of cooperation between the professional world and the VET world, which is enforced also from the regional government. Thus, for example to foster the implementation of the dual VET system, companies benefit from fiscal discounts and as a proof of the involvement of companies in training, great part of the machinery used in VET centres is given by business associations.

On the other hand, VET centres also obtain resources through the provision of services to companies, especially to SMEs, such as accountancy or through the renting of machinery or facilities.

This and other results of the DTS project will be presented by HETEL in October 2015 in Cyprus, with reason of the International Conference organized by EfVET (European Forum for Vocational Education and Training).

Tamara Rodríguez
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HETEL takes part in the VoCOL project to promote collaborative learning in VET

Taking part in international cooperation projects is part of HETEL's strategy and in line with this objective, our association is part of the VoCOL project consortium, coordinated by the VET centre Dundee & Angus College (Scotland). The partnership is completed by Institut Inpro (Czech Republic), Regio Vision (Germany), Intercultural Iceland (Iceland) and Bollnäs Kommun (Sweden).

Co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission, VoCOL is based on the application of collaborative learning in the field of vocational training. Collaborative learning goes beyond team work because it is based on the interdependency of tasks to be carried out so the group only achieves their objectives if every single member of the team achieves his/hers individually. This way of working helps the students to develop key competences such as communication, confidence, initiative, flexibility, creative problem solving and conflict management, among others.

In practice, VoCOL is based on the building of learning triangles formed by VET students, their teacher and an employer, so the employer share with the teacher his/her demand of competences for a certain job position and the teacher applies the collaborative learning principles to develop those competences among the students. The learning sessions are witnessed by the employer to see first-hand how students solve a situation given by the employer him/herself and check how their competences develop at the same time.

The VoCOL project was started in September 2014 and during the first 10 months has been focused on training VET teachers in the use of the collaborative learning methodology. Therefore, 20 VET teachers from the countries present in the project travelled to Iceland to participate in an intensive course. Four teachers from HETEL took part in this course: Xabier Puertas (La Salle Berrozpe), Joseba Ramos (Goierri Eskola), Amaia Uribezubia (Lea Artibai) and Ainhoa Corcuera (Egibide).

In parallel, the project partners have been working in the identification of good practices in the involvement of employers in vocational training and have carried out a survey to identify the main competences demanded by companies among VET graduates. The results of these activities were shared during the third project meeting, which took place in Bollnäs (Sweden) in June 2015. During those days, the partners also discussed the next tasks to be implemented in the rest of the project, such as the building of the learning triangles, the delivery of training to other VET teachers by those who have already received it or the elaboration of videos for the dissemination of the VoCOL methodology.



In our project Website, www.vocoltriangles.eu we will keep you updated with our progress.

Tamara Rodríguez
Responsible for International Projects of HETEL
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DISCO PROJECT - Second Chance Education for all For teachers, trainers and coaches working with the NEET-group.



The Disco project, commenced September 2014 is moving apace toward the development and launch of an on-line digital platform for second chance education without borders. The 3rd project meeting will take place in Bristol, UK in September 2015 with partners from NL,D,IT,PL,UK and EFVET.

The meeting will launch of the on-line platform <http://www.secondchanceeducation.eu/>. A review of existing good practices has been undertaken to date with others to be developed and tested as we progress over the timeframe of the project. Moreover, proposals were finalised to identify a variety of training the trainer opportunities across Europe in second chance learning to which teachers and trainers will be able to identify appropriate opportunities for continual professional development. All this associated with the aim of building an on-line community of practitioners able to discuss issues; identify good practices and access resources to support their work in second chance education and training.

The on-line platform is built around the creation of a knowledge and quality centre upgrading national developments to a European, transversal, setting: further education of teachers, qualitative benchmarking of schools, tools for working with beneficiaries and validation of international placements are at the heart of the center. The transnational mobility aspect of our target groups is currently in its planning phase.

Very shortly questionnaires will be distributed through partners including EFVET, through its members to populate the training database. We would appreciate if those organisations offering training opportunities respond to this initiative - so watch out for the questionnaire through the EFVET website and other channels.

The on-line platform will as we progress offer the following

An online grading system for good practices in second chance education to prosper European exchange of the best tools, methods and curricula

An online assessment tool for (continuous) organisational benchmarking and improvement of second chance education providers

A tailor-made e-portfolio tool to validate (international) placements in second chance education

An user-driven and demand led European community of teachers and trainers to share and create a European area of second chance education

A training database for continuous education for teachers/trainers to prosper competence development, increasing knowledge and sharing of ideas

A self-assessment tool for teachers/trainers in second chance education for personal reflection and professional development



Join our Community and follow us through:

[TWITTER](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[DISCO Website](#)

Methods project – final conference in Guadeloupe

Methods project - The final meeting took place in Guadeloupe from June 29th to July 3rd 2015. All the partners met to work on the project outcomes. We evaluated the work that has been done since the beginning of the project and we compiled a list of things to do until the end of September 2015. We were very efficient and productive working in groups so as to organise the final conference of the project.

More than 80 persons attended the final conference that took place on July 2nd 2015 at Gerty Archimède Vocational High School. They first had an overview of the project and the work done by each team during the 2 years. Then, they understood the advantages of using the methods to promote "Edu-tourism" in Guadeloupe. Finally, they participated in 2 work sessions in order to discover what it is possible to do with the methods. All the participants appreciated the conference and we got a lot of positive remarks and comments. Most of them promised they would use the methods in the language classes and even in other classes that do not involve languages.



Transnational Business Groups

«Now that the holidays are over and a new school year is coming, the Erasmus + partnership "Transnational Business Groups", gathering schools and organizations from Croatia, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey and with EFVET as leading dissemination partner, is finalizing the translation (Croatian, English, Greek, Portuguese and Turkish), and upload of the first three modules of the training course (Business Idea, Market Research, Communication Strategy) to the website.

This project will not only prepare an online free course, based on moodle, helping teachers and students on how to create and manage a new company, but includes an innovative approach –

after attending the course, each school will appoint students to play organizational roles (Marketing Director, Financial Director, Sales Director, ...) on international groups that will create and manage European companies. This way each group/company will have "workers" coming from different countries. The students will develop their management skills but also the international environment work, ICT, social and foreign languages ones.

The project site where more information can be found is <http://transnationalbusinessgroups.eu/tbg/>>

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New deadline for manuscripts: **1 December 2015.**