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Message from the President June 2017

Dear Members, welcome to the June issue of the EfVET Magazine.

Time flies, and we are already facing the summer holidays. But before that deserved resting days, let me share with you some important events that took part recently, and some coming up in the next weeks.

Last week we were represented at the European Alliance for Apprenticeships High-Level event in Malta. It was organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Maltese Presidency, to mark 4 years of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships under the motto “Celebrating success and looking ahead”. We have been present at the EAFA from the very beginning, when our Secretary, Rasa Zygmantaite, signed the Pledge on behalf of all VET providers. Also last week, in Tallinn, the Life Long Learning Platform celebrated its Annual General Assembly, in which EfVET Portuguese representative, Luis Costa, was re-elected as treasurer. Congratulations to Luis and thank you for the great job.

Next week, from the 11th to the 14th June 2017, Da Vinci College and Markiezaat College will be organising the annual TA3 Conference (Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance) in the Netherlands. TA3 is an alliance of American and European Community and Technical Colleges (from Denmark, Northern Ireland, Finland, The Netherlands and the Basque country). This years’ theme is interesting and inspiring: “Crafting new learning environments: Be an entrepreneur of your own future”.

June is a very busy month for the Working Groups of the European Commission too. The same dates as the TA3 Conference, I will be in Brussels for the Working Group on VET meeting. And the following week, the Platform of European Association of VET Providers will meet in Brussels as well, to discuss the latest policy developments on VET, define the next mandate of this group and look into the future of VET. In the last message I wrote you about our request to have a seat at the EQF. We have received a positive answer, so in mid-June our Vice-president, Stelios Mavromoustakos, will attend the next meeting on behalf of VET4EU2.

And apart from those above mentioned events, our staff and members are travelling across Europe to participate in project meetings, seminars, round tables... It would be impossible to list all the events, so I would like to thank all of you for your commitment and effort to make EfVET more visible and known.

But June also means for us the period in which we launch our conference. Thanks to the fantastic work of the conference team (Alicia, Valentina, Leif and Panagiotis), from last week the website is ready and the registration open. This year we will explore how to bring the worlds of work and education closer, with the theme “Work & Education aligned to the future”.
The programme and all the details are available at http://efvet-conference.eu/. Remember to register as soon as possible; there is an early bird fee till the 31st of July. And don’t forget to book your round tables as well. These are a fantastic opportunity to disseminate all your projects and activities.

Finally, let me remind you our new website www.efvet.org was also launched. More modern, interactive, full of interesting information. We need your contributions to feed the page with all the events, projects, news, documents you may want to share with EfVET family. So please don’t hesitate to contact our communication team in Brussels for this purpose. I wish all of you a very happy summer, and please, don’t forget to register for the conference in Thessaloniki... The best VET Conference!!!

Once again, thank you for your contribution to make EfVET stronger.

Warmest regards.

Santiago García, President, EfVET

26th Annual EfVET International Conference 25th – 28th October 2017, Thessaloniki, Greece

We are pleased to invite you to the next EfVET Annual International Conference, which will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on the 25th – 28th October 2017. 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.

You can now register for the conference and the “Early Bird” until July 31st!

Full details of the programme and theme: http://efvet-conference.eu/home

Conference Team
Council adopts revision of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning
22/05/2017

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The purpose of the EQF is to improve the transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications. The EQF was originally created in 2008 as a common reference framework of eight European generic levels of learning, which serves as "translation grid" between national qualifications systems.

"The EQF is a success story. In the almost ten years since it was established, it has helped to make qualifications more transparent - and therefore more comparable - across Europe," said Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. The adoption of the revision today ensures the continuity as well as a further deepening of the EQF so it can keep up with future developments.

All types and levels of qualifications are covered including qualifications from higher education, vocational education and training and general education, but also qualifications awarded by the private sector and international sector organisations.

In addition to adopting the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, a progress report on Europass was discussed.

For the education points at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on Monday 22 May, the Commission was represented by Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, together with Commissioner Navracsics, who has Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in his portfolio.

Annual Convention for inclusive growth 2017

This year, the one-day event focused on the social inclusion of young people and the solutions that exist for them to reach their full potential.

Marianne Thyssen, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility opened the Annual Convention focusing mainly on the importance of the forthcoming European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). She stressed three key objectives of the Pillar: Equal opportunities access to labor market, fair working conditions and social protection and inclusion.
And adding, that the EC needs to ensure that everyone is protected and have covered and contributes to the social protection.

One of the main challenge is to combat the youth poverty, and a complement which is helping to that is the youth guarantee, which has managed to reduce unemployment from a peak of 20% in January 2013 to 17.7% in January this year, according to the EC sources. Another initiative will the "Occupational Placement portal" that it will start to work as from June 2017.

The Maltese Minister of Education, Evarist Bartolo, recalled to the audience the importance of investing in human beings. Likewise, he stressed, the importance of making sure that the economic growth is well accompanied by an inclusive growth and linking to personals and social justice. He suggested to modify the PISA model, as right now, it’s only a competition between countries and those who are doing well on this model don’t have inclusive education systems, in his opinion. During the speech, he referred to the migration crisis stressing that in 2050 the young people in Africa will outnumber the one in Europe.

The first plenary discussion counted with the participation of:

- Martin Berthelsen, from SAND- The Danish national organization for homeless people, who shared his personal testimony;
- MEP Maria Joao Rodrigues called for a Social Right Pillar credible and strong, and including and stronger protection of labor rights and workers’ fundamental rights;
- MEP Eva Maydell, stressed that today to be digital savvy is not enough. “The way out of poverty is not only finding a job but knowing how to constantly acquire new sets of skills”, she added;
- Justin Gest, Assistant Professor (George Manson University), highlighted how we need to be more inclusive on the new multicultural society and recognize the dignity of migrants and their skills, and jobs;
- Carina Autenruber, VP of European Youth Forum, who put on the core of the debate the relevance of young people who must to be included in EU debate in order to reconnect Europe, this is fundamental.

In March 2016, the European Commission launched a broad public consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The Commission is expected to present a new communication and recommendation on the European pillar of social rights on 26 April in a package with other proposals for more Social Europe.

The afternoon session was split in between workshops which revolved among inclusion of young people, people with disabilities, or how to combat youth poverty.

- W1 – Opening up quality pathways for young people: the most important is that young people get access to information and opportunities, and to introduce certificate of recognition system when young people participate in conference or working experiences;
- W2 – Investing in children and breaking the cycle of disadvantage: As it is well-known, child poverty today is still a challenge and is needed to collaborate with parents and families in order to overcome it;
• **W3 – intergenerational fairness and combating youth poverty**: Social policy should be developing at the same speed as the new ways of employment, invest in lifelong learning programmes and non-formal education to include second chance programs available for harder to reach target groups and we need to end age discrimination to access to social protection and to apprenticeships;

• **W4 – Addressing social inclusion challenges of young people in urban areas**: Local authorities and NGOs do great work with young people, policy makers should listen them. This workshop included a nice remark "Let’s allow young people to dream bigger and we can only allow them to do that if we can be part of it and make the dream possible for them”;

• **W5 – Addressing social inclusion challenges of young people with disabilities**: Two interesting ideas: the needed to access the information where they could find job opportunities and to establish role models for them, raising awareness of what they are capable.

Last **panel discussion** wrapped the whole day session by:

• **Georg Fischer**, from DG Social, who believes that the social protection can be a game changer, which is very related to social pillar right as today the social protection is unbalance in different member states;

• **MEP Javi Lopez**, who spoke about his own experience as young politician. “We need more social policies and to put in the core of our macro-economic coordination social standards and figures”. And he stressed the relevance of a legal framework between personal and work life, parental leave, equal treatment, social protocol to ensure fundamental rights to take an economic freedom;

• **Michele LeVoy**, from the Social Platform, asked to end the system of unpaid internships and ensuring the quality of them and the possible access to apprenticeship, as if young people are working under the same conditions their revenues should be the same;

• **Liliy Harizanova** – social tea house Varna European Youth Capital – BG, explained their own experience in Bulgaria working with local economy, and government in order to combat exclusion and giving a second chance to that youngest that they are lost.

Concluding remarks were given by The EC Vice-President, **Mr Dombrovskis**, in charge of the Euro and Social Dialogue. He focused his speech more about growth than about inclusion but we he still remarked the work of the New Skills Agenda in rethinking education and the way we work, and supporting lifelong learning programmes as a key action. The EC will present the reflection paper on social dimension of Europe following up the white paper presented last month, the scope is to present approach the social issues in the sense of societal.

**Alicia Gaban** – EfVET Communications Officer
EfVET coordinates a working group in CEDEFOP’s initiative on promoting quality in VET delivery

On the 18th of May EfVET hosted in its Brussels’ office the first meeting of the sub-group 2 “Learning providers and the EU Mobility” in the project, implemented by CEDEFOP on quality in VET delivery. Rasa Zygmantaite, Secretary of EfVET was invited to coordinate the work of this group, where she is involved together with other EU experts and participants from other VET provider associations. On behalf of CEDEFOP the work of the whole initiative is coordinated by Tina Bertzeletou, an expert from the Department for VET Systems and Institutions.

The aim of the expert group is to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the existing mobility schemes. Further on a compendium of good practices and of key problems identified in Erasmus+ programme countries will be produced and shared in the large VET providers’ community of Europe. Since the group comprises representatives from education (VET and HP VET), businesses, intermediary organizations and other EU VET associations, the experts will be able to analyse mobility as one of the key factors to ensure quality education in VET/HP VET from different perspectives. In other words, this community of practitioners in mobility will be feeding in the information from the grass-roots level.

As its ultimate goal the expert group will prepare a list of suggestions and recommendations for the Commission to improve all sides of mobility action in Europe and in each member state. Since the work of the group is scheduled until 2020, these suggestions shall be taken to the new programme funding period.

A large team of EfVET representatives are involved in the work of the Group 2. They are Alfredo Garmendia, national representative of Spain, Tibor Dori, national representative of Hungary, Jon Harding, national representative of the UK and Inge Jakobsen, international coordinator and lecturer from Koege Business College, Copenhagen.

The “Learning providers and EU mobility” group is one of the three groups, established by CEDEFOP together with VET4EU2 VET provider associations’ platform and other experts in the field. The other two groups, where EfVET experts participate are “Learning providers and the challenge of technology enhanced learning (TEL)” (EfVET is represented by Pangiotis Anastassopoulos, national representative of Greece) and “Learning Providers and Migration”, where EfVET is represented by Niina Puumalainen from EfVET/FI, Ylä-Savo Municipal Federation of Education.

Background: An expert group was created by DG EMPL in 2015 as a Platform for European Associations of VET providers, composed by six European Associations (hereafter 'Platform').

CEDEFOP, which participates in the Platform, plans to complement the Platform by setting up a VET practitioners’ Community to further structure its cooperation, discuss and disseminate its work and useful results with a broader audience of VET providers.
The role of these two bodies would be respectively, to provide strategic guidance and feed into general Commission policy while the Community would: produce concrete practical guidance for practitioners, identify good practice and make use of European activities and results, with a focus on selected themes.

Following participants’ agreement on the CEDEFOP proposal for the follow-up of the Workshop on “Promoting quality in learning delivery: the way ahead” (1), the Community will comprise at this stage three thematic sub-groups: one sub-group per theme to be analysed. As already confirmed (2), three themes were selected to work on between 2017-20, all focusing on providers’ priorities and having them as point of entry: Learning providers and the challenge of technology enhanced learning; Learning providers and EU mobility; and Learning providers and migration. The themes should reflect the European VET priorities and be anchored in the work areas of CEDEFOP.

Rasa Zygmantaite

**EfVET celebrates the 4th Anniversary of European Alliance for Apprenticeships in Malta**

On the 30-31st of May Malta hosted the high level event of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Rasa Zygmantaite, EfVET secretary participated to represent the organization.

The event, organized by the Unit for Skills of the DG EMPL of the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Employment of Malta was part of the agenda of the Maltese Presidency for the EC.

It was a good occasion to celebrate the success of the Alliance in 4 years of its existence and to set new objectives and goals for the coming years. New members joined the Alliance and signed the Pledge on the 2nd day of the event. They represent the widest spectrum of stakeholders across Europe: from EU member states (e.g. Bulgaria, Serbia, Iceland, Portugal, etc.), regions and cities in the EU countries, social partners (e.g. Latvian and Maltese Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Airbus, etc.), to youth organizations and different types of NGOs. July of 2012 was the year, when the European Alliance for Apprenticeships was established and the movement for implementing the apprenticeship culture across Europe started. EfVET was among the first ones to join the alliance by signing the Pledge on behalf of the Platform of the EU VET provider associations (now it is the VET4EU2 Platform).

The delegates listened to the testimonies and many success stories of young people who found their career pathway with the help of the apprenticeship training in companies. These stories are a source of inspiration for the Alliance to develop and expand, covering different areas of education for the young people: from VET based apprenticeships/practical training periods in companies, Erasmus+ mobility, HE students in high-tech companies, and of course helping the

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(1) The proposal on the follow-up was endorsed by participants by 5 December 2016
(2) The conclusions on the discussions during the workshop on Promoting quality in learning delivery: the way ahead that took place in Thessaloniki on 15-16 September 2016 were enriched and endorsed by participants by 9 November 2016
NEETs to discover their talents and help to integrate into the working life and become active citizens.

Although we are still at the beginning of the road and, as Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of the EUROCHAMBRES noted, the achievements can still be compared to a drop in the ocean, it is obvious that the results are worth the efforts. According to Mr. Detlef Eckert, Director for Skills, DG EMPL, we now have the critical mass to ensure that the “drop” can grow to become the ocean.

Rasa Zygmantaite

**Lifelong Learning Platform Annual Conference and General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia.**

The Lifelong Learning Platform held its Annual Conference “Education in a digital world” in Tallinn, Estonia, on 31 May and 1 June 2017.

One of the first visible issues is the skills gap between labour market needs and the digital competences learners have; the additional digital skills required mean low skilled jobs are being replaced by medium to high skilled jobs; qualifications delivered by educational institutions do not correspond to the qualifications sought after in the labour market.

Gathering some more 60 delegates in education and digital, the conference was the opportunity to share good practice during the Digital Fair and Digital Fishbowl from all over Europe.

The outcomes of each workshop were handed over to a group of architects who interested them on a maquette, presented to the audience in the final plenary.

The General Assembly held it’s on the 2 June 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia. Members were gather to discuss the general direction of the Lifelong Learning Platform, and were also proceed to the election of the new Steering Committee members, together with the welcoming of new few members in the Lifelong Learning.

EFVET has been an active member of Lifelong Learning Platform from the beginning, and this year Mr. Luis Costa (Director Executive of the ANESPO) and from our Steering Committee was appointment Treasurer, which will provide further visibility and civil society standing for the EfVET. Therefore, the close cooperation between the two associations will continue. It brings together more than 40 members from different lifelong learning sectors.

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

Final meeting of project group EBBD+ in Helsinki major success

The Erasmus+ KA2 project "European Business Baccalaureate for all (EBBD+) has almost come to an end. During the final meeting at the Helsinki Business College in Finland the members looked back to the achievements of the last three years with great satisfaction, as all the goals originally envisaged, have been achieved. It is obvious that this was a great relief for the Finnish coordinators of the project, who have spent a mere three years on properly organizing the course of the project, motivating the project partners and making sure that deadlines were adhered to.

The label of excellence EBBD now has a strong foothold in Europe with partners in Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, various states of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain and Greece. An important issue from this moment onwards is sustainability. All too often beautiful projects have been carried out under the auspices of Erasmus+, but their sustainability is at stake from the very moment the project funding and cooperation ends.

For this reason an association – EBBD e.V. - has been called to life. This association will make sure that sustainability is guaranteed for many years to come.

How does this work? If a school wants to be part of the network of schools that provide EBBD, it has to register as a member of the association. The board of the association will then check whether the school is a potential EBBD-member. This depends on a number of parameters, which can be found on the website of EBBD. If a school is eligible for membership, the accreditation procedure can be started up. After payment of an accreditation fee, the associate member can upload files into an accreditation tool that demonstrate the capacity of the applicant of fulfilling the demands of the EBBD-certificate. A member of the association, resident in the same country as the applicant, will check the application and advise the applicant accordingly. After accreditation, the applicant will be given a certificate of accreditation, a sign to be put on the wall of the institution, access to files on the website, such as learning materials and a certificate for students as well as an embossing die to validate the certificates. Accreditation is valid for three years.

After that period a school has to be re-accredited again and then the accreditation period is valid for five years. Institutions have to be a member of the association and pay a – symbolic – membership fee. For that fee they will be given the opportunity to participate in annual meetings, organized in various countries of the EU, and to share their experiences with other members within the network.
Student and teacher exchanges within the network are strongly emphasized and endorsed by the board of the association. Furthermore, the association sees it as its task to not only disseminate the benefits of this European diploma, but also to inform its members of new developments within the relevant fields of education. These activities will take place during the scheduled annual meetings of the association, for which timely invitations will be sent.

The association is registered in Bielefeld and is subject to German law. The board consists of a chairperson, a 1\textsuperscript{st} and a 2\textsuperscript{nd} vice chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer. Every three years the board has to be re-elected, and new members can be nominated by the members of the association.

The current board of EBBD e.V. has the utmost confidence in these procedures, which will provide the necessary tools to guarantee sustainability for the EBBD-concept. Already EBBD-courses are being taught in no fewer than eight European countries and in various federal states of Germany.

Application requests are coming from many schools at the moment and their number is growing. As soon as the EBBD-certificate is recognized not only by educational institutes, but also by the work field and the ministries of education in the various countries, we can speak of a sustainable result. That moment is not there yet, but now, only such a short time after the end of the project, the expected results are promising: EBBD is here to come and stay!

Peter Ketelaars
Chairperson of EBBD e.V.

*The project number of EBBD+ is: 2014-1-FI01-KA202-000880*
From LifeOnline to Master your Future!

The LifeOnline Project has entered its second phase of its 3 year development programme and the team has just completed its 4th project meeting held in Helsinki; hosted by Helsinki Business College and Haaga-Helia University of Applied Science. The Finnish partners were joined by the Lead Partner Bridgwater and Taunton College (UK), Politeteknika Txorierri (ES), Cebanc (ES), Srednja Sola Za Gostinstov in Turiziem and the Maribor Tourism Bureau (SL) and EfVET (EUR).

The meeting followed the testing and piloting of the LifeOnline Learning programme which involved some 30 young people and several LifeOnline tutors from the partner institutions in bilateral transnational LifeOnline mobilities, working and training together, delivering the LifeOnline learning materials - both online and using blended learning pathways.

The purpose, beyond training the young people in the development of skills and competences for life and work, was to fully evaluate the structure, content (learning materials and resources), and assessment methodologies associated with the learning programme to identify what works; what could be improved and how the project can adapt and improve the final programme to be launched in December 2017 in its final form.

The experience of the learners; the teachers; the employers/businesses involved in supporting the pilot mobility are currently being collated into a comprehensive evaluation report, following which the team will be adapting the course and in addition developing new learning resources, video and case studies to support the programme.

Learners were clearly inspired by their experience and using the LifeOnline materials judging by their comments so far - these included:

“I gained a lot from the Communication module and found new confidence.”
“It was a good introduction to the module, easy to understand and it got me thinking about careers and life skills”.

One learner is looking to return to Bilbao take up an internship in a local primary school.

The LifeOnline project aims to develop a new online learning programme to support the delivery of Life Skills including employability and entrepreneurship.

The Course has been badged under the banner of ‘Master Your Future’ and is built around 5 modules:

- Kick Start your Global Journey
- Communicate Like a ‘Pro’
- Manage your Career
- Master the art of Teamwork
- Think like an Entrepreneur

The course content is supported by a comprehensive course manual, aims/objectives, skills, competences and learning outcomes along with a teachers and user guides supporting the delivery of LifeOnline in to the future.

Plans are afoot to recruit over 60 new learners following the LifeOnline training programme during the project timeframe and ultimately to roll out the programme to support teachers to deliver the programme within the European VET sector. The programme will be in all partner languages: English, Slovenian; Spanish; Finnish and Basque.

To find out more go to our website: www.lifeonline.education
(please note this will be soon updated to a new platform)

Follow us on:

Facebook: LifeOnline: Key Competences and Life Skills@lifeonlineproject

Twitter @Lifeonline2015

The EfVET website: www.efvet.org

or contact Bridgwater and Taunton College erasmus@bridgwater.ac.uk

Pete Hodgson, EfVET
Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship

Europe needs more entrepreneurial citizens: creative, confident individuals who innovate to solve problems and convert ideas into value across enterprises, organizations and the public sector. The concept of entrepreneurship as a key competence is well established as a Europe-wide need, as laid out in the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

However, innovative best practice is only recently emerging. The project is launched in September last year and project partner are:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Lisburn, United Kingdom
- CEBANC, San Sebastián, Spain
- Stichting Incubator, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands
- Roscommon LEADER Partnership, Roscommon Town, Ireland
- Feltech Software Innovation Ltd., Loughrea, Ireland
- TEC, Technical Education Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, Denmark
- EfVET, Brussells, Belgium

The Kick-off meeting was held Lisburn, Northern Ireland in November and the second partner meeting was March 1st – 2nd in Roscommon in Ireland.

The Erasmus+ project Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship has been designed with a clear objective: increase the proportion of VET students acquiring an entrepreneurial mind-set and engaging in early stage entrepreneurial activity.

We will do this by raising awareness and improving the pedagogic capacities of VET policy makers and educators, and facilitating improved collaboration with other actors in the entrepreneurship ecosystem. As such, the operational objectives of the project are:

- Develop a needs and opportunities analysis stating the case for an integrated, cross sector approach to student entrepreneurship education in the VET sectors.
- Create 5 Regional Alliances to bring together 60+ stakeholders from VET, private and public sector to state the need and opportunities for student entrepreneurship in their particular region, map existing hard/soft entrepreneurship supports, learn from emerging best practice and devise individual and collective Regional Action Plans.
- Jointly develop a Student Entrepreneurship Support Toolkit and pilot at least 10 innovative entrepreneurship support activities across 4 HEIs. (Eg. Business plan competitions, one stop shop, mentoring, apprenticeship style entrepreneur training etc.)
Widely disseminate project outputs and findings via a multilingual project website and comprehensive dissemination strategy.

**All partners are doing a call for best practice initiatives in May/June, that if there is anyone, who would like to submit a best practice example they could contact the project partner in their region/country.** See above!

The website www.studentstartup.how is under construction, but will be launched by the end of June.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Leif Haar, EfVET

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**EAPPREN - Capacity Building for Intermediary Organisations through e-learning**

The EAPPREN project partners met this week for their 2nd Transnational project team meeting to plan the Development process and curriculum for a training programme which focuses on building capacity amongst Intermediary Organisations to take an active role in promoting and supporting high quality Apprenticeships in the partner countries and beyond.

The partnership is drawn from a number of EU member states (Latvia; Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Spain and EfVET, that brings together Federations of Industries, Chambers of Commerce, Business support organisations and Vocational Education and Training providers.

It is well recognised that collaboration is a must in the drive to expand opportunity and learning through Apprenticeships. VET providers often struggle to connect with SME’s in this regard and there is often a mismatch between the curricula development and business need. SME’s struggle in terms of allocating time and resources to participate in the learning process. Intermediary Organisations are considered to be an important conduit and meeting place to promote such necessary collaboration

‘In todays world qualified Apprentices will make Industries and all business enterprises more competitive. This project is aimed primarily toward those countries where the Apprenticeship framework is in the early stages of development and we are confident it will assist in our capacity to move forward’

N. Kotsonis, General Director of The Federation of Enterprises and Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece
The main aim of the project is to develop a training package to support the bringing together of SME’s, VET providers and support organisations such as Federations, Chambers of Commerce; Municipalities; Voluntary agencies to promote and expand the take up of Apprenticeships offering a toolkit and good practice examples to give Intermediary Organisations the opportunity to build their capacity to engage in the delivery and expansion of high quality Apprenticeship provision.

In addition to the new training package the partners are creating an innovative on line matching tool to bring both prospective Apprentices and SME’s together.

Follow our development as we design the EAPPREN training programme, test and refine before fully launching the final product.

For more information visit www.eappren.eu

Pete Hodgson, EfVET
In addition, CAPE aims to bring together good practices in employer engagement from across Europe and through the establishment of employer forums and networks, and through the encouragement of VET providers and second chance schools for improving dialogue with enterprises.

- To train teachers to develop Career Management Skills in learners – with special emphasis on learners at a greater risk of Early Scholl Leaving (ESL)
- To train teachers to improve links with employers
- Bring together good practices in employer engagement from different European countries
- Encourage VET & second chance providers to improve dialogue/activity with employers
- Develop resources for careers advice and guidance

**Project Key Outputs: Practical Tools for VET Teachers and Trainers**

- Needs Analysis Report Per Country (Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, Hungary, Romani, Poland)
- Guide to Good Practice in Careers Advice for NEETs
- Training the Trainer Programme
- Trainers Handbook
- Careers Curriculum Framework
- Handbook of Teaching & Learning Resources
- Guide to Effective Employer Engagement
- E-Learning Platform [http://cape-project.eu/index.html#header3-4b](http://cape-project.eu/index.html#header3-4b)

The project runs from September 2015 until August 2017 and will provide teachers and trainers with a curriculum framework, handbook of resources and a guide to employer engagement.

More information: [http://cape-project.eu](http://cape-project.eu) or contact Barbara Brodigan. [mailto:barbara.brodigan@euriocon.eu](mailto:barbara.brodigan@euriocon.eu) for further information.

Leif Haar, EfVET
GROWMAT

Accessible tourism is about making it easy for all people to enjoy tourism experiences. People who live with disabilities (and their families), older people who are less mobile and even younger people with pushchairs – all of these have access needs and seek different experiences. The European population is rapidly ageing: by 2050, the number of people over 65 will be 3 times what it was in 2003. Many of these people are very active and want to travel, they want to take the opportunities offered to them in their retirement; there will be others for whom mobility is a problem – accessible tourism will address these needs. Older people often want to travel out of the main holiday season, when it is quieter (and often cheaper) – this is another area where new and existing businesses can consider growing their market share. Catering for older people’s needs, understanding what activities they might enjoy – and what is different from those of young families.

This project will target this huge market, with potential for entrepreneurs and start-up businesses, as well as growth areas for existing businesses. Students of hospitality and tourism and other studies which include customer service will also be part of the target group.

The project will create:

• training courses
• an online network
• AccAdvisor – an online accessibility evaluation tool
• FairAccess – basic certification scheme

The project team at first meeting in San Sebastian

Partners in this project include CDEA (Spain), Errotu (Spain), Bridgwater and Taunton College (UK), Age UK BANES (UK), T2-Consulting (UK), p-consulting (Greece), Maribor Tourism School (Slovenia) and EfVET (Belgium). Another partner, Haaga-Helia (Finland) will use their expertise in co-design. The team has experts who already work with older people and people with disabilities.

Marny Thompson
One of the biggest problems for older people is that a large percentage of them do not know how to use computers, the internet and other forms of technology. Many aged between 65 and 74 have never used the internet. Many are nervous and unsure; children and grand-children may try to help, but don’t always have the time or patience to really help the older person learn to do it for themselves. Surprisingly few care workers and volunteers are able to help them.

This Erasmus+ project will develop a training program, based on the concept of independent living, that will make more old people able to live a more independent and autonomous life. The course and website created will be for trainers/teachers of care workers, volunteers and the older people themselves.

The project team has recently conducted some research in each partner country; the most important part of this proved to be the Focus Groups (care workers, teachers, volunteers and the older people themselves). This enabled us to gain really pertinent information for the training courses and website (online learning) that the project will create.

Findings included the need to train the trainers in how to work with elderly people, how to help older people retain any knowledge they have learnt and that the social aspects of the learning time is important to the older people (both active and less active elderly).

Older persons seem to be keen to learn, providing they learn at the correct pace for them, that the trainer is patient and allows the learner to learn (rather than do it for them – which is often the case with children and grand-children who try to teach). A lot of elderly people start by being very nervous about technology of any kind, but once they gain confidence they are very avid users of tablets and smartphones – it helps them to be independent.

The team recently held their second transnational meeting in Bristol UK; a very productive meeting where the findings were discussed ready to move to the next stage of the project – a Joint Staff Training in San Sebastian (ES), where the course curriculum and contents will be co-designed together with some older people who will participate.

Marny Thompson
INTGEN - Intergenerational Mentoring for Entrepreneurs
Entering the home straight!!!!

The Intergenerational mentoring training course and the Entrepreneurship e-learning training programme entitled ‘How to be Entrepreneurial’ are now successfully running in the four partner countries of the INTGEN initiative. We are now entering the home straight, refining the product as we learn more each time it has been piloted and are delighted with the outcome. Several partners are running additional programmes having built a sound network of mentors drawn from the business community and those with long standing experience. This KA2 project is entering its final phase having developed two new learning programmes - one aimed at training mentors who are keen to share their experience and knowledge (entrepreneurs in their own right) with young prospective entrepreneurs and an online programme building entrepreneurial competencies amongst up and coming entrepreneurs - not all of whom are young people but those seeking to change career or direction.

The project has stimulated collaboration between generations and brought greater understanding and appreciation of the value of working together - learning from each other.

As one of the INTGEN mentors said:
‘I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to help some new entrepreneurs realise their aspirations. The Mentoring course has been a great help to me in the process of mentoring in how to guide and support new budding entrepreneurs’
‘Some of the business ideas coming forward are truly creative and have good prospects for future development and growth - I hope to be a part of this process in the future and welcome the opportunities to help others’

Mentor training session in action
The INTGEN project has not only developed the two training programmes but has facilitated a network of mentors wishing to continue to be actively engaged. The project is also continuing to build the resource and learning material bank through encouraging participants in the training programmes to prepare case studies which will continue to build the resource bank for use in future INTGEN programmes.
The project formerly finishes in September 2017 but from the experience the partners will continue to support and build the bank of Mentors and deliver the INTGEN programme as an integral part of Entrepreneurship curricula. The Courses and resource bank are open source and can be used or adapted by others across Europe.

Come and join the INTGEN Community where real life begins. See you there

For more information on INTGEN visit [www.intgen-eu.com](http://www.intgen-eu.com)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/803559226347408/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/803559226347408/)

Marny Thompson
Promote WBL

The Promote WBL partnership are making great progress in developing tools and learning resources for VET teachers, trainers and professionals across Europe. Following our recent phase of research and engagement with various stakeholders that work in, and with, the VET sector, we have been able to use this data and greater understanding of the challenges ahead to produce our framework for an online learning programme.

During our recent cross-partnership meeting, held in Matera, Italy, on 4th-5th April 2017, the strategic team analysed these findings and together evaluated areas to focus on for our online course to best support individuals and organisations working in the industry to produce high quality work-based learning opportunities for young people.

Using transferable, entrepreneurial skills as a core strand of the learning programme, we will be developing modules that can help VET teachers and other professionals to improve their capacity in engaging with employer organisations, developing meaningful relationships with business, identifying and improving entrepreneurial skills in young people and helping to plan for positive progress for both learners and businesses.

Our plan is to start developing the content of the programme over the summer of 2017, ready to test and pilot in autumn. The ambition is to produce a course that has real impact for the VET sector and helps institutions to produce great quality opportunities for both industry and young people, developing the workforce for today and the future.

You can find future updates by checking for regular news items at http://www.promotewbl.eu/. You can get involved in the conversations and share your own practice (and learn from others) by joining our LinkedIn Group – https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8583272
For more information visit http://www.promotewbl.eu.

Pete Hodgson, EfVET
HETEL presents secondary education students the internationalization possibilities of VET through the e-MOTIVE project

Vocational education also offers students international experiences. On the 4th of May, HETEL presented, together with Euskaltel Konekta Foundation, the Erasmus+ project e-MOTIVE to show this reality to 80 students in upper secondary education.

The project is an international experience implemented on a higher VET programme on mechanical manufacturing design where students and teachers from VET centres associated to HETEL (La Salle Berrozpe and Egibide) and from an Italian VET college have worked together to design, solve, present and evaluate a given challenge in this field (the design of a wind turbine).

The process followed during the project is gathered in e-MOTIVE methodology. With it, HETEL has aimed to show that internationalization does not necessarily involve physical mobility and working in an international context is possible also from one’s school.

You can access more information on the project in these links: http://e-motive.vet/ and https://youtu.be/C-8yP2Y12tA

Tamara Rodriguez, Hetel
**Impressum:**

Webmaster: Alicia Gaban, ag@efvet.org

Editor: Leif Haar, lha@brock.dk

Layout: Vivi Back Lundgren, vbpe@tietgen.dk

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