EfVET Newsletter December 2014

Message from the President .................................................................................................................. 2
Méssage du Président .......................................................................................................................... 3
Outcome of the 23rd EfVET Annual International Conference ......................................................... 4
EfVET Strategic Review – undertaken during the EfVET 23rd Annual Conference ...................... 5
Top tips for preparing an Erasmus + application as identified during the EfVET 23rd Annual Conference in Porto ........................................................................................................... 6
Meeting of the European Commission Platform for Multilingualism - Notes of the meeting ....................................................................................................................................................................................... 6
Annual ECVET forum: Trusting skills and qualification in the Europe of tomorrow – Vienna 30/31 October 2014 .......................................................................................................................... 7
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner ........................................................................................................................... 9
EBBD+ .................................................................................................................................................. 9
Developing ECVET in Practice ............................................................................................................ 11
RESILIENCE ....................................................................................................................................... 11
Connect-VET ....................................................................................................................................... 12
POOLS-3 Exploitation .......................................................................................................................... 12
StorySHOP pilot courses .................................................................................................................... 13
C-TEST ................................................................................................................................................ 15
FARAW ................................................................................................................................................ 15
Impressum: ......................................................................................................................................... 16
Message from the President

December 2014

Dear Members

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter. It was a real pleasure to welcome many of you to our recent Annual International Conference held in Porto toward the end of October. It proved to be highly informative and dynamic as always. Excellent speakers and a fantastic contribution from all delegates. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Conference team and those who volunteered to act as workshop leaders and rapporteurs.

It is always a positive to have so many members offering to participate actively in Conference. A particular thanks should go to Valentina from us all within EfVET for her dedication and commitment to ensuring the organisation runs so smoothly.

We invite you to join us at the 24th Annual International Conference to be held next October 2015 in Pathos, Cyprus. Your Conference team is currently preparing the programme and theme.

Geoff Scaplehorn has now completed the full Conference report, no mean task - thank you Geoff and this has been published on the website for all to access (www.efvet.org) and circulated widely to our colleagues across the European Education and Training Networks and also the Commission. Joao Santos, Acting Head of Unit, who spoke at Conference was particularly keen to see the outcomes of the workshops for use and circulation across the Commission as it will assist them in their review of actions toward ET 2020 Strategy.

Moreover it is highly valuable to the Commission to hear what is happening at grassroots level in terms of practice and collaborative developments. To this end it is our intention to circulate a pro forma template across the membership to gather ‘good practice’ examples which we will publish and distribute widely on the issues of collaboration and partnership between VET, Higher Education and Business enterprises.

Following conference EfVET colleagues have continued to participate in a series of Commission thematic and working groups - reports from which will shortly appear on the website.

Those of you at Conference had the opportunity to explore the Strategic direction of EfVET in the coming years - a valuable opportunity to hear from members. Your Steering Group is currently working on a broad ‘Strategic Review’. As part of this process members will be offered the opportunity to contribute ‘ideas’, comments, etc through our website - we are currently setting this forum up and will inform you all directly of this opportunity to share your views.
Meanwhile congratulations to those of you involved in KA2 and KA1 Erasmus + initiatives. EFVET plays a leading role in many of these acting as a disseminating partner - thus strengthening the impact and sustainability of project developments in to the future.

Finally I would like to offer my warmest wishes to all over Christmas and continued good health and happiness in to the New Year.

Warm regards

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

**Méssage du Président**

Décembre 2014

Chers Membres,

Soyez la bienvenue à notre bulletin de novembre. C’était un vrai plaisir de vous accueillir tous pendant notre conférence annuelle à Porto vers la fin d’octobre. La conférence était pleine d’information et fort dynamique comme toujours. Plusieurs conférenciers excellents et si tant de contributions fantastiques de tous les délégues. Je voudrais remercier notre équipe qui a organisé la conférence et tous ceux qui se sont engagés comme animateurs d’ateliers et rapporteurs. C’est toujours très positif que tant de membres sont préparés à participer activement à notre conférence.

Nous voudrions tous remercier en particulier, Valentina pour sa dédication et son engagement pour assurer le succès immense de la conférence.

Nous vous invitons à assister à la 24ième Conférence Annuelle Internationale qui aura lieu au mois d’octobre 2015 à Pathos en Chypre. Nous préparons déjà le thème et le programme

Geoff Scaplehorn a maintenant composé le rapport final de notre conférence de Porto et vous trouverez le rapport sur notre site web ([www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)). Nous le ferons circuler aussi partout en Europe dans notre réseau de VET et aussi à la Commission Européenne – surtout à Monsieur Joao Santos (Acting Head of Unit), qui était conférencier à notre conférence et qui voudrait faire circuler les résultats des ateliers aux autres collègues de la Commission, parce que ces résultats les aideront à formuler des actions pour reviser la stratégie ET2020.

D’ailleurs c’est de grande valeur pour la Commission d’entendre ce qui se passe vraiment dans le monde de VET et d’écouter les activités des parties prenantes à tous les niveaux concernant des développements collaboratifs. C’est maintenant notre intention de faire circuler une proforma aux membres pour faire une collection d’exemples de bonne pratique. Nous produisons pour dissemination une publication sur des questions de collaboration entre VET et l’enseignement supérieur et les entreprises.

Suite à notre conférence vos collègues d’EfVET ont continué à participer aux ateliers et aux groupes thématiques et vous en trouverez les rapports sur notre site web.

Ceux de vous qui ont participé à notre conference aviez la possibilité d’explorer la direction stratégique d’EFVET pendant les années à venir.Votre groupe de pilotage fait actuellement un compte rendu stratégique. Nos membres auront la possibilité de contribuer leurs idées,
observations et remarques au moyen de notre site web. Nous sommes en train d’organiser ce forum et nous vous informerons quand ce forum sera actif.

Dans l’intervalle, je voudrais féliciter ceux de vous qui participant aux initiatives de KA1 et KA2 du programme Erasmus+. EfVET joue un rôle fort important comme partenaire de dissemination.

Joyeux Noël à tous!

Mes meilleurs voeux

[Signature]

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

Outcome of the 23rd EfVET Annual International Conference

VET – safe port for youth and business!
Working together in Partnership – VET and Business collaboration

See conference files:

See the website for more information.

Leif Haar, EfVET
EfVET Strategic Review – undertaken during the EfVET 23rd Annual Conference

An opportunity to reflect on the future direction of EfVET as a voice for its members: Where should EfVET be within the next 5 years?

Increasingly dynamic, successful and effective in representing the teachers, trainers and learners in the IVET, CVET and VET in Higher Education sectors and forging stronger links with businesses, business support agencies and organisations in all appropriate sectors in the wider community. Consolidating, along with the other networks representing VET,

How best can we represent the views of members?

EfVET to continue influencing VET policy development.
EfVET can represent the views and experiences of VET practitioners and learners at all levels of society in all Member States.
Talk to ministers in Member States about the numerous stakeholders and encourage collaboration amongst stakeholders to cooperate.
Use the EfVET resources to help all out in international coordination in VET and development of quality VET in Europe and globally.

How should EfVET develop its membership and representation?

Exploration and sharing of existing capacity and expertise among members and disseminate this and link potential partners for project opportunities and student mobility for work-based learning, innovation entrepreneurship etc.
Help countries to develop mutual learning.
Use the EfVET resources to help all out in international coordination in VET and development of quality VET in Europe and globally.
Identify members directly to contribute to policy documents etc.

How can EfVET best reflect the views of members at Commission level?

Erasmus + threatens to hamper mobility not encourage it.
Regulations are causing problems. EfVET to request investigations into the issue of Insurance complications for learners involved in mobilities.
EfVET to continue influencing VET policy development.
EfVET can represent the views and experiences of VET practitioners and learners at all levels of the Commission and the European Parliament.
Promote EfVET activities and membership to all National Agencies and other agencies in Member States, so that the role of EfVET as a disseminating partner is well-known. Invite more National Agencies to participate in conferences
Publish a list of existing contacts in these countries.

What would members like to see as the priorities for our future development together?

Conferences must continue to be more interesting every year.
Invite more VET managers and employers to conferences.
EfVET could be described as a wheel – Sector partnerships linked to the centre?
Continue to increase the numbers of round tables at conferences but allow more time so that more round tables can be visited.
More strategies to recruit more members from countries not represented.
Widening membership – countries with large membership linked with countries with small membership or non-member states.

Page 5 of 16 EfVET December 2014
Raise profile of EfVET in non-member countries and its role in representing IVET, CVET and Higher Education VET and LLL. Publish List of VET projects and follow up non-member partners and encourage them to join EfVET.

All members to help develop EfVET – not the Steering Group alone. Open up a forum on the website and continue to update information regularly with references to the website in the newsletter.

Geoff Scaplehorn

**Top tips for preparing an Erasmus + application as identified during the EfVET 23rd Annual Conference in Porto**

*António Nunes* National Agency Portugal  
*Rosaleen Courtney & Marny Thompson*

**Successful KA2 Applications**  
**Getting organised**

- Call for proposals, priorities & deadlines
- Programme Guide
- Key Action Guide for Applicants
- Expert evaluator guide
- Application form
- PIC & mandates

**Meeting of the European Commission Platform for Multilingualism - Notes of the meeting**

October 17 2014 in Brussels

1. **Changes at DGEAC in the new Commission**

At the time of the meeting the future positioning of Multilingualism within the new Commission was under consideration. Subsequently, however it is now confirmed that the four officials with a brief for Multilingualism will be attached to the Language Learning Unit at DGEAC.

2. **Updates from the Multilingualism Policy Sector**

Report from the recent meeting of the ET2020 Thematic Working Group on Languages in Education and Training

Report from the Transversal Skills Working Group

Linguistic Support for Mobility – demonstration of the newly-developed on-line support for those involved in Erasmus+ Mobility projects.
Initially for Higher Education Students but to be expanded to VET students in 2015. Developed by a Belgian organisation, the website is offered in six languages – English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch – and comprises assessment of linguistic competence before the overseas placement, on-line support language training as required and linguistic assessment following the placement to measure progress.

The future publication of a compendium of EU-funded Lifelong Learning language projects. Members proposed that, instead of a printed publication which would have limited circulation, it would be more effective to upload the information on the developing discrete Multiculturalism Platform, with direct links to the websites of each project.

3. Multilingualism: Implementing policies at the European Parliament

Presentation by Hanna Klimek – Director of the Interpretation Unit.
As Members of the European Parliament have the right to make speeches in their native language, it is the role of the Interpretation Unit to offer interpretation in combinations in all the EU 23 official languages. There is a permanent team of interpreters, but many freelancers are used as required.

4. Cooperation with the European Centre for Modern Languages

Michael Armstrong gave an on-line presentation of the work and projects of the European Centre for Modern Languages direct from Graz, Austria. It was agreed that the Multilingualism Platform should work more closely with ECML in the future.

Read more...

Geoff Scaplehorn

Annual ECVET forum: Trusting skills and qualification in the Europe of tomorrow – Vienna 30/31 October 2014

Summary Report

The ECVET forum was organized by the European Commission with the support of the CEDEFOP and ECVET team. The forum was open to any interested member of the European ECVET network and interested parties. Over 250 participants and speakers representing the European Commission, national and regional authorities, labour representatives and VET providers took part. Mr. Antonio Silva Mendes, Director Education and Vocational Training DGEEC and Mr. Hanspeter Huber, General Director for International Affairs, Federal Ministry of Education and Women Affairs – Austria welcome and open the conference. The forum was very interactive and aimed to be a place for the exchange of views on how ECVET, along with other transparency instruments and principles (EQF, EQVET, ECTS, Europass and Validation of non-formal and informal learning) can contribute to support citizens develop vocational skills and have them recognized to study or work throughout Europe. To facilitate active participation and open discussions, the forum was divided into three thematic sessions with round tables and workshops supported by facilitators. Each participant was invited to attend two different workshops and the ECVET Market place.

The documentation of the ECVET forum will be made available at http://www.ecvet-team.eu/event/ecvet-annual-forum.
Dr Stylianos Mavromoustakos

ECVET Thematic Seminar «Learning Outcomes» Session2
Bucharest – 23 & 24 September 2014

Summary Report

The ECVET Thematic Seminar, which was organized by the ECVET Team, brought together 25+ participants and speakers from 20 Member States, representing national and regional authorities, VET providers as well as labour representatives, in order to discuss and exchange ideas about «ECVET and the labour market».

The main topics which were investigated and discussed in the seminar were as follows:
- Designing qualifications to meet the needs of the labour market
  - ECVET principles
  - ECVET technical specifications
- Designing training to meet the needs of the labour market
  - How could ECVET principles increase employers’ involvement in training?

Following a number of structured group discussions and presentations on best practices and European examples in the field of ECVET implementation, the seminar representatives agreed on the following outcomes:
- The ECVET tool and methodology could assist European VET providers in better understanding and responding to the needs of the labour market;
- The ECVET with the use of learning outcomes, based on knowledge, skills and competences, could bridge the gap between what the labour market needs and what VET providers teach;
- VET providers and employers need to work together in identifying the learning outcomes to ensure that VET qualification respond to the market needs of today and tomorrow.

The labour market benefits from the implementation of the ECVET tool were identified as follows:
- Qualifications are outcome oriented – which means are better understood by the labour market; Matching demand and offer becomes easier;
- Validation of informal and non-formal learning is now easier;
- The ECVET approach provide a high level of flexibility in training e.g. progressive achievement of a qualification, providing opportunities for progressive advancement on the job (professional advancement);
- Employers have access to better trained workforce that can adopt more readily to the industry demands of today and tomorrow.

You can now download the seminar presentations from the ECVET TEAM website by clicking on the following link:

Louiza Papaloizou
Intercollege, Cyprus
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner

Business Competence in Europe.

EBBD+

The EBB+ project is now started after the first partner meeting in Helsinki the 2nd October

A three year Erasmus+ project kicked-off on the 2nd of October in Helsinki. The project develops and disseminates the EBB diploma, a Europe-wide standardized business certificate of excellence. EBB+ is a diploma, which was developed within our previous Comenius project in 2010-2013. This kind of diploma was born because of the objective in many EU Countries, that the whole generation should get upper secondary education either in vocational education and training or in general upper secondary school.


This project seeks to provide the graduates of upper secondary vocational education and training the means to demonstrate their skills and competences in order to get employment or get admitted to further studies through the following results:

1. EBBD diploma is suitable for both adult and young students in Europe
   - The diploma has been developed to acknowledge non-formal and informal learning acquired by adult students
   - The technical requirements of the diploma have been tested to suit also adult students and the requirements have been revised according to the feedback of adult education experts.

2. EBBD diploma has been developed for the needs of working life and is recognized and valued by the working life in Europe
   - Learning outcomes of the diploma are based on working life competences which are valid widely in Europe
   - Qualifications needed in the working life of the future
   - Renewed descriptions of learning outcomes have been tested by worklife and improved according to the feedback

3. EBBD diploma improves the further education possibilities of vocational education graduates in Europe
   - The developed diploma covers the competences needed in order to qualify for a study place in the institutions of higher education.
4. The vocational education providers in Europe have the same understanding of the competences and learning outcomes
   · Workshops for the teachers about the best practices of assessing key-competences

5. The possibilities for learners to acquire the EBBD diploma are widely available in Europe
   · The vocational education providers know about the EBBD diploma
   · The accreditation process is simple for the applying schools

The project team will work together to achieve these results with the intention that they will be easily accessible and of benefit to VET and HE learners, colleges, organisations and businesses across Europe. More information: [http://www.eurobacdiploma.eu/en/](http://www.eurobacdiploma.eu/en/)

Jens Otto Petersen, Aalborg Handelsskole

The project number of EBBD+ is: 2014-1-FI01-KA202-000880
Developing ECVET in Practice

(DECViP) is a Leonardo da Vinci transfer of Innovation project aimed to test ECVET principles within the context of sharing innovative practice between partner countries. During this two-year project, running from October 2012 to September 2014, the partners have worked together with the aim to deliver practical tools and guidance through key project outcomes which other ECVET stakeholders can take forward. The project has been coordinated by ECVET NCP for England ECCTIS Ltd and partners have been: Ofqual (UK), 3s (Austria) and Sedu (Finland).

The main outcome of the project is a practical guide: Make it Count! How to organise European mobility using the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). The guide will be officially published in the final seminar of the project in London on the 25th of September 2014. Please, learn more about the project and about how to sign up for the final conference at the address: [http://www.decvip.eu/](http://www.decvip.eu/)

Kirsti Lounela
Manager of International Affairs

Vocational Education Centre Sedu | Koulukatu 41 | FIN-60100 Seinäjoki
[www.sedu.fi/english](http://www.sedu.fi/english) | +358 40 830 2246 | kirsi.lounela@sedu.fi

RESILIENCE

We were delighted that 130 delegates with an interest in developing resilience came to our seminar in November in Vienna. At the seminar, resources were presented including a selection box of exercises, guidelines, self-evaluation, personal profile interview and serious game developed by the project team to help individuals and groups develop their resilience skills. Experts discussed the benefits of resilience development in different contexts and discussions followed on how resilience training could be used in participants’ organisations in the 15 countries represented.

To download the resilience resources or for more information go to [www.resilience-project.eu](http://www.resilience-project.eu) The team includes Blickpunkt Identität, Austria (lead partner); Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria; Listaháskóli Íslands and Mimir-símenntun, Iceland; Norton Radstock College, UK; CSCS, Italy and Greek Academic Network.
Connect-VET

At the EfVET Conference round table in October, best practice models were discussed for cooperation between Higher Education, Vocational Training and SMEs. Different approaches are currently being piloted in 5 countries to create more effective links between education and working life, build up the expertise of VET staff and enhance the competitiveness of VET organisations as part of regional innovation systems.

Partners include University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland (Coordinator); CSCS, Italy; Norton Radstock College, UK; Rogaland School and Business Foundation, Norway; Estonian University of Life Sciences; CDEA, Spain; Lapland Naturals, Finland; Universita degli Studi di Firenze, Italy; Bath Spa University, UK; Estonian Rural Tourism Organisation; EfVET and European University Continuing Education Network.

For more information see http://www.luontoyrittaja.fi/558.html

POOLS-3 Exploitation

The POOLS-3 Transfer of Innovation project has moved into its second year, with importing partners now piloting CALL inservice courses for teachers of Catalan, Czech, and Irish languages. To keep up with the project on social media you can follow the blog - http://pools3.wordpress.com/ - or “like” the Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/projectpools3. Here, for example, you can get news and pictures of Stucom’s first workshops in Barcelona.

Or you can try out some of the software for yourself. Would you like to watch an amusing Czech video and learn some of the language at the same time? Try this Ciilstore unit: http://multidict.net/cs/2246 Visiting the bank has never been such fun!
In the meantime the Irish team have been using Clilstore to document their recent visit to the Scottish Hebrides. Here two speakers discuss Hallowe’en traditions: http://multidict.net/cs/2355

Truly, the possible applications of CALL tools are endless!

StorySHOP pilot courses

**StorySHOP - Storytelling for Social and Health Care Workers Professional Identity Development** is a Leonardo Transfer of Innovation project, aimed at developing a training programme based on digital storytelling addressing healthcare workers in Europe. The consortium which is implementing the project consists of six organisations: three of them are vocational training institutions, namely, Århus Social- og Sundhedsskole, in Denmark; Norton-Radstock college, in the UK; SUPSI / DEASS, in Switzerland. Associazione seed, also based in Switzerland, is a not for profit association, involved in education, ICT and development.

Well At Work is a team of job psychologists, experts in well-being in the workplace, based in Milan, Italy.

EfVET is the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.
The main objective of the project is to produce a training programme and a set of training resources, aiming at enabling participants to avoid burnout and increase their capacity to face the most stressful and difficult situations of the daily professional experience. The main outcome of the project is a handbook, illustrating a digital storytelling based learning methodology addressing healthcare professionals and their trainers, and it was tested during two pilot courses organised at the University of Applied Science of Italian Switzerland (SUPSI / DEASS).

A group of students and a group of workers were guided through a digital storytelling process, guided by staff members of seed association, SUPSI / DEASS and Well At Work, focusing on their professional experience.

All participants were introduced to specific features of stories, identified turning points in their life as healthcare workers, told a story about them and rendered it in digital format.

The results were astonishing! All participants produced really deep, emotional, personal stories based on their professional experience. Moreover, all the videos were expressive, of good quality and able to deliver a strong and clear message to the audience.

The reaction was definitely positive, from all involved people: participants had the chance to share their experience and thought with a group of peers, getting feedback and insights from them. Furthermore, the activity allowed them to reach a better understanding of their own history and identity as professionals, overcoming some difficult situations which had been left unsolved for a while.

We also received precious suggestions about how to improve the methodology, handbook and additional training materials we have so far developed.

Digital stories produced during StorySHOP pilot courses can be viewed on the project YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRgtq_pXfQewnhRPRFEIwKA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRgtq_pXfQewnhRPRFEIwKA)

More information about the project can be found on the project website: [http://storyshop-llp.eu/](http://storyshop-llp.eu/)

Representatives of StorySHOP partner organisations during the first project interim meeting, in Lugano, Switzerland, in June 2014.
C-TEST

Online course on Renewable Energy fully ready, Training Day Manual available!

The C-TEST project has come to an end, time to present our main project results!

Online course

All 8 courses on renewable energy and related topics are supported by videos, quizzes and practical exercises. Topics include: Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Water Energy, Biomass, Geothermal Energy, Waste Management & Recycling, Energy Efficiency, and Environmental Awareness. Free access to the course is available after registration. The course is now available in 5 languages: English, Dutch, Slovakian, Hungarian and Swedish. They are presented as an integrated e-learning course via www.c-test.eu.

Training Day Manual

Our manual will provide you a step-by-step guide to organise a training day for students on Renewable Energy Sources and their application in practice. The manual is aimed at vocational school teachers who would like to explore outside the class room. The students will gain valuable experience on applying the learned materials into practice together with the employees who can educate them on real life experience in this field. The manual is available for download on our website.

WWW.C-TEST.EU

FARAW

Collaboration, co-operation, team work are key words in the world of work. Workers need to understand work processes and their role in it. For students of vocational education it is important that they are aware of this and learn to understand the work processes are dependent on people and their ability to communicate.

COMPREHAND is a tool that assists teachers and students to analyse work processes and the importance of communication in these processes. By using scenarios or real life examples provided by students from work placements, work processes are re-enacted and modelled using different coloured cards. This gives students the opportunity to visualize these processes, see the role they play in achieving a result and also where it might go wrong.
COMPREHAND was developed by the Johannes Kepler University in Linz Austria for the business world. As part of the project of the Leonardo da Vinci TOI project FARAW ROC Midden Nederland adapted COMPREHAND after extensive testing with students of different vocational areas and of different levels resulting in a flexible method both in complexity and in duration.

More information can be found on www.FARAW.eu

----

**Impressum:**

**Webmaster:**
Stelios Demosthenous, Intercollege Cyprus, e-mail: demosthenous.s@unic.ac.cy

**Editor:**
Leif Haar, e-mail: lha@brock.dk

The EFVET Newsletter is published electronically on the EFVET website and sent to members by e-mail.

New deadline for manuscripts: 1 March 2015.

*Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*