



EFVET Newsletter

July 2003

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Message from the President

Welcome to our new members

I am happy to start with a word of warm welcome to our 20 new members who joined EfVET since March 2003.

I hope that you will enjoy our Forum and participate in our work and exchange of good practices! We would welcome a short note from you about your College and work in the forthcoming newsletter! You can send it to Leif Haar (leha@tietgen.dk).

The Cardiff Conference: *European Vocational Qualifications in a New Europe*

The next conference will be in Cardiff and it is now time for registration on our website. We have again improved the format of the conference, based on comments on our last conference in Sevilla. This is a major event on VET in Europe and a welcome to the VET colleges in the forthcoming new member states. I hope that all members will participate and all candidate countries will be represented.

On the conference, we will invite you to assist in establishing the membership of our new colleagues. For details see our website at:

<http://www.efvet.org/conferences/index2003.html>

You will also find there the "registration form", the "hotel booking form" and if you would like to do a round table session: the "round table booking form".

The EU Parliament Event

From March 25 to 28 this year, EfVET clarified the crucial role of TVET to Members of the European Parliament.

During 4 days, students and teachers from several colleges in Europe and EfVET representatives were present at an exhibition at the EU Parliament Building in Brussels and spoke to many MEP's and their assistants. The event was highly appreciated.

You may have a look at my presentation at the reception on our website: www.efvet.org/documents/Europees_Parlement_tekst.pdf

It has been agreed that we will meet a number of MEP's on TVET-issues informally on a more regular basis. I am currently working this out.

I would like to thank our co-sponsors:

Association of Colleges (AOC), from the United Kingdom,

BVE-Raad, from The Netherlands,

Adulta, Institute for further Education, from Finland,

Tekniske Skole Ishøj, from Denmark,

Norton Radstock College, from the U.K.,

ROC West-Brabant, from The Netherlands.

Our thanks also go to CEDEFOP for their assistance in providing key-data.

The EU Working Groups for the implementation of objectives for education and Training

EfVET and EVTA members participate in the working groups to implement the concrete objectives for education and training. Their work is complex and time-consuming. You may find their names and progress reports on our website. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact our representatives in the working groups.

www.efvet.org/documents/EU/WorkGroupsExperts.pdf

Steering Committee meeting

On June 13-14, the Steering Committee has met. You may find the minutes on our website as soon as they have been approved

A final word:

I trust that you appreciate being a member of EfVET.

From the Treasurer

The Data base

At the last AGM in Sevilla I was happy to announce that the database is now complete again

To keep it that way I urge you to inform the Central Office of any changes in the information we need for that database.

This can be done in two ways:

- If you have a web page on our web site, please check whether the information is still correct. If changes are needed please use the following procedure:

Go to:

www.efvet.org/members/edit_page.htm

put the changes in the e-form that will be on your screen and submit the form as prescribed.

If you don't have a web page on our web site, please send the change of information in writing to the following address:

EFVET Central Office, Rue de la Concorde 60, 1050 Brussel, Belgium,

or by e-mail to:

efvet.central@skynet.be

Only if you stick to this we can guarantee that all the information you are entitled to as a member will be send to you.

The membership fee for 2003

The invoices for the membership fee for 2003 were sent out in the beginning of December 2002. Reminder invoices were sent out by the end of February of this year. By the time you receive this newsletter nearly a quarter of the members still have not paid, while the rule, set by the AGM's in the past, states that payment should take place within 30 days.

Having to send reminder invoices is costly and money lost for our budget.

Therefore the members agreed in the AGM of Sevilla last year that the second reminder for payment will have € 10 added for administration costs. These second reminder invoices with the added administration costs will be send out in the week 3rd of June.

The membership fee for 2002

There are members who still have not paid the fee for 2002, a total sum of nearly € 10.000

The Steering Committee has decided to take action by employing firm which is specialised in international debt collections: MondCollect BV. The (very expensive) costs for these collections are for the member involved. We will give these members a last change to pay without the intervention of the debt collector by sending them a last reminder, with the added administration costs, also in the 3rd week of June.

Frans Schneider, Treasurer.

Policy on Internationalisation

The steering Committee has adopted a policy on International Cooperation

Context

EfVET's mission

EFVET is the unique European wide professional association of providers of technical and vocational education and training. Its members include both private and state schools (colleges), other establishments working in TVET, ministry departments,

national associations and consortia, validating bodies and individual specialists in TVET.

Its mission is to champion and enrich TVET through trans-national cooperation by building a pan-European network of institutions and practitioners, which will:

- * promote quality and innovation in TVET by facilitating trans-national cooperation and the exchange of examples of good practice through the creation of partnerships and (thematic) networks between providers in Europe and beyond,
- * provide a forum for debate on issues relating TVET at regional, national, European and worldwide levels and to represent the views of its members to national governments and to the European Commission,
- * help members to make contact with E.U. institutions.

European policy on internationalisation

Within this mission statement it makes sense that EFVET should not only be involved and pro active in the E.U. policy for the member states, but also be involved and pro active in the European policy of:

- * expansion of the Union with the future member states: pre-accession countries,
- * strengthening the member states' capacity to compete in the international market with the countries outside the (future) E.U. and worldwide.

It was therefore decided by the Steering Committee and approved by the AGM in Helsinki in 1997 that EFVET would introduce a "portfolio internationalisation".

Content

The content of the portfolio involves the following:

- * to market EFVET as the unique European association of providers of technical and vocational education and training,
- * to establish links with similar associations, national associations and consortia, ministry departments, private and state (schools) colleges, other establishments working in TVET, validating bodies and individual specialists in TVET,
- * to explore market opportunities for the members of EFVET,
- * to act as a facilitator for members,
- * to act as a dissemination partner in projects in which members will be involved, in the pre-accession countries, the countries outside the (future) E.U. and worldwide.

Opportunities for members

Being part of a worldwide network, EFVET gives members a prime opportunity to export their TVET expertise, technologies, etc. to assist countries such as China and former E.U. member state colonies (A.C.P. countries), within E.U. programmes or programmes run by organisations such as the World Bank, etc.

Getting a memorandum of collaboration with the American association of community colleges (AACC) and the association of Canadian community colleges (ACCC) will provide the members with priority to be involved in inter-institutional collaborative

programmes with the U.S.A. and Canada. The same counts for collaboration with other Associations, including those who are member of the World Federation.

Since EFVET is uniquely placed to offer multi-national consortia or partnerships, it helps the members to access most of the E.U. funded programmes of which the requirement is the involvement of several member states. This can be very attractive to pre-accession countries or (developing) countries seeking to reform/modernise TVET. It gives them the possibility to look at the different E.U. TVET systems.

If a member is involved in a project, EFVET can act as an approved disseminating partner.

Project plan and monitoring

The policy on Internationalisation will be worked out in a yearly plan of activities and reported in the Portfolio-report Internationalisation. The Steering Committee will approve both documents.

Portfolio holder,
Frans Schneider.

EfVET and the new LEONARDO call

The deadline for application for pilot and language projects this year in the LEONARDO call for proposals is October 3rd. I would like to encourage all EfVET members to include EfVET as a partner in their bid. EfVET's major role in the project would be the dissemination of the project and its results through website, newsletter and conference.

Furthermore the partnership can use the EfVET office facilities in Brussels for a meeting and benefit from a special rate at the 4-star hotel Floris next door to the office. EfVET is currently involved in two LEONARDO projects and the partnership highly appreciates the advantages of the above mentioned opportunities.

For further information please contact Wolfgang.Stutzmann@t-online.de .

EfVET promote European Vocational Education and Training to the EU Parliament

In March 2003 EfVET were invited to present the work of VET Institutions across Europe to the Members of the European Parliament (MEP's). The event took the form of an exhibition outlining the work and contribution Vocational Colleges within Europe have made toward the wider objectives of the European Union in terms of tackling social exclusion, widening participation, improving the opportunity for employee and student mobility and our work toward making Europe a truly skilled and innovative 'knowledge society' able to compete in the global economy as an effective force for the future.

Students from Finland, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands and the United Kingdom participated in the 3 day event, held in the Parliament in Brussels – the students were from diverse backgrounds, age and ethnic mix offering MEP's an insight in to range of education and training offered to individuals as part of the Lifelong Learning Agenda.

The highlight of the event was a presentation and reception for MEP's hosted by the President of EfVET, Hans van Aalst. He reflected on the Cinderella perception of VET in Europe and emphasised that VET was perhaps the most important contributor to the economic and social development of Europe as a Knowledge Society.

Simon Murphy, MEP for West Midlands, UK having initiated the event has subsequently begun to work with EfVET representatives to form a discussion forum on VET issues from interested MEP's and EfVET member representatives.

This offers the opportunity for EfVET and indeed yourselves to raise the profile of VET in Europe and to influence and advise MEP's on VET in to the future. For further information on the process and future discussions in this 'all party forum' please look at the web site www.efvet.org

The event was organised with the assistance of BVE Raad of the Netherlands and the Association of Colleges, United Kingdom.

A big thanks to all who contributed to making the event a great success, especially the students in attendance – excellent ambassadors of VET in Europe.

Pete Hodgson
Vice President, EfVET and UK National Representative

EfVET DK & SE conference in Malmö, SE April 2003

It is a tradition that EFVET-DK launches a national conference on "hot" themes every spring.

This year we decided to join forces with Sweden in order to get more active members in this country. In spite of the distance, a few Danes came all the way from southern Denmark! But unfortunately many of the regular attendants did not show up – probably because of the distance to Malmö. Anyhow, we met with 35 very motivated people and had a great conference.

A summary of the conference will soon be available on www.efvet.org. Hans van Aalst's speech may be found as a power point presentation at www.efvet.org/news/news.html

The programme was aimed at managers, teachers and counsellors working in vocational colleges including the Social- and Health colleges and the Production schools.

Programme:

Hans van Aalst: "The role of VET is crucial for the economic development and social inclusion in Europe"

Hans van Aalst was elected president of EfVET in 2000. He is currently the Managing Director of Knowledge Management, Research and Development of the KPC Group, The Netherlands. He worked for the OECD in Paris on *The future of schooling* and *The knowledge economy*, among other things. Between 1991 -1995 he chaired the office of the National Council for Education in The Netherlands. Well known and ground-breaking are studies about learning for innovation in business and the vision of the office on the future of Higher Education.

Lise Thomsen: "Multi-culture as business development"

Sweden has had great success running an Equal-programme in which students of a non-Swedish ethnical background have been put into specific jobs with special effort of apprehending the business-relevant language. Lise Thomsen is a business consultant.

Hanne Christensen: "Pro-Erhverv prevents drop-outs"

"Pro-Erhverv" is a consortium of Production schools, VET-colleges and the Youth Guidance System in Fyn's County. Having defined the way of co-ordination, it is much quicker to tackle potential drop-outs from the VET-colleges. Many of these benefit from a period at a Production school, where they get special subjects in order to give them a better background to manage an ordinary education. Hanne Christensen is project manager at Odense Technical College.

Kerstin Strand and Maria Skoog: "Second Chance Schools"

In Denmark they have the Production schools, in Sweden they work on the unique European Second Chance-model of giving drop-outs a new chance. Kerstin Strand is international co-ordinator in Östergötland County, and Maria Skoog is counsellor at a Second Chance School in Malmö.

Helle Holm: "How do we attract students to the Social- and Health care education?"

Copenhagen county develops new ways of attracting students to the Social- and Health care area. Means like credits and flexible education are very popular. Helle Holm is project manager and employed at the Nursing College in Herlev.

Hans van Aalst: "Benefits of membership in EfVET"

EfVET is not only a networking organisation, but is used by the EU Commission as an NGO. One of the main goals of the Commission in 2003 is vocational education. How can your school influence the decisions of the Commission?

Birgitta Johansson, EFVET-SE and Louise Rosthøj, EFVET-DK

The EU Working Groups for the implementation of objectives for education and Training

As mentioned in the message from Hans van Aalst EfVET is represented in the 8 workinggroups, which have started their work mainly last year except few groups. You will find the representatives of EfVET in other NGO's in the 8 workinggroups on the following link

www.efvet.org/documents/EU/WorkGroupsExperts.pdf

I represent EfVET in the group "Making the best use of resources", which has started their work in February 2003. There has been held 2 meetings. The focus of the work now within the workinggroup has mainly until now been to select areas for the exchange of good policies:

- How to encourage private (enterprise) investment at tertiary level and for non-formal education and training.

- How to achieve effective distribution of means in the light of the objectives for education (incl. Lisbon objectives) and the education benchmarks adopted by the Council.
- How to achieve equitable distribution of available means and to facilitate access in the field of higher education.
- Implementation of quality assessment in formal education.
- Public-private-partnerships in higher education and in vocational education and training.
- Improvement of the efficiency of the use of resources in education and training.

The work of the workinggroup will be finalised in 2004 with an interim report. We hope that we soon can bring the outcome of the 8 workinggroups so far at the EFVET website.

Leif Haar

Impressum

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

New deadline for manuscripts: September 1st 2003.