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Message from the President (June 2010)

Dear Members

Welcome to this our June 2010 newsletter. I trust you find the articles, news and project progress reports of interest. I hope those of you travelling to project meetings and partnership meetings across Europe have managed to avoid the disruption to travel. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your point of view, I spent some 7 days ‘enforced’ stay in Madrid following my trip to Barcelona for the EUCIS-LLL General Assembly in April and then just made it home from Lithuania in May arriving 20 minutes before UK Airports were closed again.

Since I last addressed you all in the March newsletter, EfVET has been involved in several seminars and stakeholder forums with the Commission – particularly representing the Education and Training sector across Europe in the Commissions policy development and strategy up to 2020. This has included representations to the Commission on the future Lifelong Learning programmes and the development of ‘Youth on the Move’. You will find reference to the discussions held by the Commission in association with the Spanish National Agency on this event later in this newsletter. Marian de Villanueva represented EfVET. Leif Haar would also have been there had it not been for the threat of disruption from volcanic ash.

EfVET remains active and on the Steering committee of EUCIS-LLL and held its General Assembly in April. The organisation is moving forward with more than 20 European Education and Training networks already members - full details of the EUCIS workplan for 2010 and several policy reports and position statements relating to EC strategy are available via the EfVET website (click on EUCIS in the menu).

Colleagues from the Steering committee are working with Ruud Bolsius on reviewing our vision and mission with a view to strengthening our marketing and awareness raising. This is crucial if we are to draw in new members and broaden our representation. The results of their work will be shared with you all at Conference

Finally – I am looking forward to meeting you all at our Conference in Lisbon in October – note the date change to 13-16th October – our original dates coincided with a major global conference in Lisbon. I do hope it does not cause to much inconvenience. We have an excellent programme –
lots of interactivity. Registrations and hotel bookings can now be made. I encourage you to take advantage of the early bird discount available until the end of July.

On a final note I wish to thank my colleagues on the EfVET Steering Group for their continued assistance and work in moving EfVET forward. To you all as members I wish you a very pleasant summer and for those taking a break – enjoy and refresh.

Warm wishes to you all

Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

Message du Président (juin 2010)

Chers Membres

Soyez la bienvenue à notre bulletin de juin 2010. J’espère que vous trouverez les articles, l’information et les rapports de projets fort intéressants. J’espère aussi que ceux de vous, qui ont dû voyager pour assister aux réunions de projets et de partenariats, avez évité des problèmes de transport aériens récents. Malheureusement ou heureusement, d’après votre point de vue, il m’a fallu ajouter sept jours à ma visite à Madrid à la suite de l’Assemblée Générale d’EUCIS-LLL à Barcelone en avril. Puis en mai, je suis arrivé au Royaume-Uni 20 minutes avant la fermeture des aéroports britanniques.

Depuis notre dernier bulletin en mars, EfVET s’est engagé à plusieurs colloques et forums d’intervenants, organisés par la Commission Européenne, en particulier, contribuant nos opinions, comme représentants du secteur VET, au développement des politiques et des stratégies de la Commission pour l’année 2020, y compris l’avenir des programmes Lifelong Learning et “Youth on the Move”.

EfVET continue à jouer un rôle important comme membre actif du comité de pilotage d’EUCIS-LLL et a participé à son Assemblée Générale en avril. EUCIS-LLL consiste actuellement en 20 réseaux VET. Vous trouverez les détails du programme de travail d’EUCIS-LLL pour 2010 et un nombre de rapports et de réponses aux consultations qui concernent le développement de politiques européennes sur le site web EfVET (Cliquez EUCIS sur le menu).

Nos collègues du comité de pilotage d’EfVET travaillent avec Ruud Bolsius pour réexaminer notre vision et notre mission pour améliorer notre marketing et nos activités de promotion. Ceci est essentiel, si nous voulons augmenter le nombre de membres d’EfVET et élargir notre représentation en Europe. Nous partagerons avec vous les résultats de leur travail au cours de notre conférence en octobre.

Finalement j’espère que pourrez vous reposer pendant les vacances d’été.

Mes meilleurs vœux

Peter Hodgson
President
president@efvet.org

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**Improve Vocational Education and Training in Europe:**

**We can do it! Even better!**

*Que fazemos, Lisboa, os dois, aqui,*

*na tera onde naceste e eu nasci!*

*E de novo, Lisboa… (Alexandre O’Neill)*

*And again, Lisbon… (Alexandre O’Neill)*

Delegate Fee

"*Early bird fee*" Delegate fee until the 14th of July 2010

Member of EFVET, one delegate: € 610
From the 2nd delegate of the same member organisation discount € 50, per delegate: € 560
Non-member of EFVET, one delegate: € 810
From the 2nd delegate of the same non-member organisation discount € 50, per delegate: € 760
Partner fee: € 290
Delegate fee after the 14th of July 2010

Member of EFVET, one delegate: € 650
From the 2nd delegate of the same member organisation
discount € 40, per delegate: € 610
Non-member of EFVET, one delegate: € 850
From the 2nd delegate of the same non-member organisation
discount € 40, per delegate: € 810
Partner fee: € 290

For more information about program, workshops, round tables and hotel details please click: http://www.efvet.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=3&Itemid=18

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon!

EQF Newsletter April 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that the first issue of the EQF Newsletter is published and attached to this email. It has been produced, in response to numerous requests, by DG Education and Culture, supported by Cedefop and the European Training Foundation. It aims to reach and inform a broad audience of stakeholders and to encourage and support discussion and debate on the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework at the national and European levels.

The EQF Newsletter will be published three times a year. If you wish to subscribe or contribute in English, French or German to the EQF Newsletter, please register by sending an email to the following email address: eac-eqf-newsletter@ec.europa.eu.

Best regards,

Gordon CLARK
European Commission - Directorate General for Education and Culture
Lifelong Learning: horizontal Lisbon policy issues and international affairs
Head of Unit
Unit A/1 : Lifelong learning: contribution to the Lisbon process
Tel: + 32-2-296.29.29, Fax: + 32-2-296.42.58
Email: Gordon.Clark@ec.europa.eu
EUCIS-LLL - Information Note - EU2020

Please read more about the latest news from EUCIS-LLL in the attachment of this Newsletter. Among the news: EUStrategy 2020

Information-EU2020.pdf

EUCIS-LLL
Audrey FRITH
Director
audrey.frith@eucis-lll.eu
www.eucis-lll.eu

LLP annual conference, Barcelona, 19 May 2010

"Lessons from the Lifelong Learning Programme" by Jan Truszczynsky, Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission

- LLP as a main tool for reaching the social inclusion goal
- new budget proposal for the commission -> start of new projects hopefully 1st of JAN 2014
- crisis has hit and unemployment -> social exclusion risk but also budget restraints which will affect EUs ability to combat the situation;
- especially worrying: 20% youth unemployment which the EU can’t afford
- for this reason, Education and Training enjoys more importance in the EU2020 strategy than ever before, also visible in the flagship initiatives Young Mobility and New Skills for new Jobs:
  - modernized educational systems
  - formal and informal education

GOALS
  - Until 2020: early school leavers reduction under 10% (now 15%)
  - until 2020: 40% graduating from High Education

- these targets are discussed and to be accepted in the June council
- EC proposal to implement Young Mobility -> excellence and LLL, higher rates of youth employment
- LLP has a big role to play to implement Young Mobility and should play a bigger role: LLP will be modernized, adapted to future requirement and challenges and hopefully expanded

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European Commission vision on new programmes for 2014 on:

- Next programmes must support even wider group of youth to be mobile -> extension to non HE groups -> all the youth should have an opportunity of learning abroad
- More teachers should be mobile and acts as promoters of mobility
- Going beyond mobility in order to modernize all education and not only High Education: building strong LLL programs -> EQF, ECTS, ECVET tools to be used and improved
- Building on the experience of LLLP 07-13
- New Programmes must support EU2020 goals excellence and equity and with this: cooperation with Erasmus mundus, Tempus, Marie Curie
- Third sources: catalyzing contributions of the wider society and of business

Marius Rubiralta: DG of University of the Ministry of Education
Education and Training is the only programme we have to support the Education &Training concept and combination which is timely in terms of today’s economy (knowledge-based)

Strategic framework for European cooperation to support Education &Training 2010 goals in supporting cooperation between member states and commission
- make permanent learning is a priority -> to prevent unemployment; role of teaching and learning in LLL to improve employability, social integration and individual development; focus on those exposed to the risk of social exclusion; promoting learning among adults; making learning more attractive with more technologies; promote value of knowledge! Better connection between non-formal, informal and formal learning and education and training
- Quality: more teachers education; more quality also means more benefits of LLL to employers; priority with High Education in terms of offering opportunities to students for key skills (for instance languages) and also to update them; to be measured in competences; particular attention to key skills

High Education quality as excellence:
- Teaching
- Research
- transfer of knowledge and technology to society at large and the university social responsibility -> social dimension: make society friendly, inclusive, international
- Equity, social cohesion, active citizenship
  - Needs to be a balance between action on social cohesion (equality) as well as transforming knowledge into social welfare to improve the economy
  - Balance also between education and training

Reinforce creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

During the workshop, David López – Vice-President of the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL), presented best practices and wrote a position paper based on internal consultation since June 2009

Main findings:
- Positive impact but
- Some problems with its management
- Plan to increase the budget 2014-2020
- Maintain a trans sector approach to LLL

Marián de Villanueva, Member of EfVET EC and SC
Confederación Española de Centros de Enseñanza (CECE)
Spanish Confederation of Education Centres

Monday, June 21, 2010
Issued by «gender-IT consortium»

Are you a woman and ICT professional? Here’s your chance to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Tell us your ‘ICT’ story and be a role model for other women to take up ICT professions**

Why not share with other women your first hand experiences on the benefits and problems of working in the ICT field and become a role model encouraging other women to take up ICT professions.

Tell us your story! Give other women some tips!

The only thing you have to do is **simply sign in and join the discussion forum at the official EU co-funded project gender-IT.**

Get involved! Join our network!

Your experience can affect other women. So, why wait? Simply click here


The **gender-IT** project is a two-year initiative co-funded by the European Union’s Lifelong Learning Programme, under the Leonardo da Vinci Action. It aims to contribute to innovative and attractive VET practices in the ICT sector in order to cover the existing gender gap with women accounting for less than 20% of computer systems designers, analysts and programmers in the EU27. Its specific objective is to build a sustainable multistakeholder network at a European level which will actively foster gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector. **gender-IT** has been developed by a transnational consortium specifically set up for the purpose of implementing the project. It involves seven (7) actors from six (6) EU Member States with complementary expertise. Namely, Intercollege (Cyprus) which is the project leader, the University of Tartu (Estonia), ITEC Continuous Vocational Training Centre (Greece), MILITOS Emerging Technologies & Services (Greece), Scienter Espana S.L. (Spain), Emmerce EEIG (Sweden) and Inova Consultancy (UK).
More information on the gender-IT project is available online at http://www.gender-it.eu
Should you have any queries, please contact us at information@gender-it.eu.

Georgia Charalambidou
Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus

women@business

FOSTERING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Newly launched European project focuses primarily on “fostering entrepreneurship among female university graduates” and secondarily “fostering the entrepreneurial mindsets of young people outside the educational environment” in Cyprus, Greece, Estonia, Italy and the UK.

The women@business project is a 15th month initiative co-funded by the European Commission’s Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013, under the Directorate General Enterprise and Industry. It is implemented by six partners from Cyprus, Greece Estonia, Italy and the UK.

It aims to support entrepreneurship on three levels enhancing the principle of ‘learning, doing and reflecting’. As such, the project is designed to enhance theoretical entrepreneurial knowledge, to offer practical first-hand experience, and to create the appropriate circumstances for effective reflection and the provision of proper direction and guidance in entrepreneurship.

The project objectives are:

- to create the correct conditions for young female graduates and young women from ethnic minorities or immigrant backgrounds, to be encouraged to pursue entrepreneurship
- to produce an innovative model of a full consultancy package to promote entrepreneurship that can be replicated on a European level, and sustained after the conclusion of the project
- to trigger discussion amongst decision makers and lobbyists towards simplifying procedures for potential entrepreneurs to be encouraged and assisted in this field

women@business has been developed by a transnational consortium specifically set up for the purpose of implementing the project. It involves six (6) actors from five (5) EU Member States with complementary expertise. Namely, the Intercollege (Cyprus) which is the project leader, the NGO ETNA (Estonia), OESYNE (Greece), Militos Emerging Technologies & Services (Greece), APID Imprenditorialita Donna (Italy) and Inova Consultancy (UK).

Work is underway to produce the project’s deliverables.

For further information, please visit our website at www.womenatbusiness.eu

Georgia Charalambidou
Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus
EFVET IS LAUNCHING EUROPEMOBILITY VIDEO CONTEST !!!

EfVET, as a leading partner within the Europemobility project, whose aim is to promote mobility and work placements abroad within Vocational Education and Training, is now launching 2010 Europemobility Video Contest.

Anyone involved in any mobility action regardless age, business sector, nationality or supporting measure such as Erasmus, Leonardo, Youth in Action or other regional or national programmes, can now join the contest by posting on the web a short video describing the experience gained while working or studying abroad.

The video must be within 1 to 3 minutes long and it has to portray, in an attractive way, one or more aspects arising from undertaking learning mobility.

**Deadline for posting the video and the application: 30 June 2010**

The detailed Terms & Conditions as well as the application procedure are available online, on the Video Contest web site: [www.europemobility.org](http://www.europemobility.org)

The official web site of the Europemobility project is accessible here: [www.europemobility.eu](http://www.europemobility.eu)

The winner nominated by our International Jury will receive the prize of €500,00.

The winner nominated by the online voters will receive the prize of a Netbook.

The second and third winners of both categories will win a recognition prize.
The first, second and third winners of both categories will win a trip to the Award Ceremony.

Europemobility initiative is supported by the European Commission within the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation, and it is based on the results of the MOVE-IT study.

Europemobility forthcoming initiatives are:
- mobility fairs and workshops, to promote mobility to students within VET institutions
- international community of practice, to establish an European network of mobility coordinators from the VET sector
- mobility market, to meet and identify mobility partners, within EfVET Annual International Conferences
- a guide, for students to learn what to do before, during and after going abroad
- tool free number, to provide information and contact details on mobility

If you would like to organize a joint mobility fair within your educational institution, join the international community of practice or take part in any other Europemobility activities, do not hesitate to contact us:
Europemobility – Raising quantity and quality of work placements in Europe
www.europemobility.eu

EfVET contact person:
Edi Fanti
edi.fanti@gmail.com
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner

The LIFE project team met in Vilnius, Lithuania in May to review the results of piloting the Train the Trainer Pack. The Pack has been received with enthusiasm in all partner countries and was seen to be particularly relevant to current needs. New activities and amendments have been suggested by teachers and these will be added to the LIFE website so that it continues to be developed. The team are currently exploring the potential for the Pack to be included in national VET teacher training to ensure that the initiative has a lasting impact.

A VETPRO initiative linked to the project has involved visits to partner countries by teachers from Lithuania, Cyprus and Spain to see how life skills are embedded into vocational teaching and share experiences from different countries.

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

Trans-national project partners include Norton Radstock College as co-ordinator, Cebanc- Cdea (ES), CSCS (IT), Marijampole Vocational Education & Training Centre (LT), IMCS Intercollege Ltd (CY), Pascal Education Ltd, (CY), Marijampole Chamber of Commerce (LT), KEI IVAC Basque Institute for Qualifications & Vocational Training (ES), Bath Spa University and EfVET.
International Development Officer Validation of non-formal and informal learning

A pilot of training and assessment methods for International Development Officers is currently taking place in partner countries. The partnership includes members from Finland (Co-ordinator), Romania, France, Greece, Italy, Norton Radstock College (UK) and EfVET.

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

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

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

Partners in the envolwe project are currently piloting best practice cooperation models. In the UK, eight nature based entrepreneurs are working with teachers using a map activity to identify ways in which they can work together and provide more opportunities for student placements and work experience.
Project partners are: University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute (Lead Partner), The Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association and Yla-Savo Municipal Federation of Education from Finland; Eesti Maaullkool Estonian University of Life Sciences; Rogaland School and Business Development Association from Norway; Centro Servizi Cultura Sviluppo Srl, Research Centre for Cultural Development from Italy; Norton Radstock College from the UK; Euracademy Association from Greece and EfVET. For more information, see the website http://www.luontoyrittaja.net/envolwe/


**TACTALL – The Accessible City – Tourism for All**

The pilot training is now just about completed, with just the Italian partner finalising their pilot.

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

The project team recent met in in Copenhagen, where they were shown how the City of Copenhagen is making places accessible to all.

Partners are co-ordinator Cdea (ES), Norton Radstock College (UK), Gruppo Adapta (ES), CSCS (IT), Neils Brock College (DK), Euro_Conact Business School (H) and EfVET. Social partners include Pantagruel (IT) and Bath Tourism Plus (UK).

For more information, go to www.tactall.org.
Modular e-course with virtual coach tool support

The course has been tested with ‘Clara’ – the ‘coachbot’ avatar who will assist and guide participants, testing their skills at the start and end of the course. Piloting is taking place with trainees in the health and social care sector.

All the partners have current trainees; an experimental group using Clara for help and guidance, and a control group who just do the course without Clara. It has been difficult to get trainees in the Health and Social sector to pursue e-learning and equally difficult to get participants for the pilot training who also speak English, as the pilot program has been produced in English language only.

The project team met in Tallinn for the most recent meeting.

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

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

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

A second national workshop took place in March, at the University of Tartu, in Parnu, Estonia.
The 13 partners met in a snowy Tallinn (Estonia) in March. The project is progressing well.

A demonstration of the guidance tool using Games Based Learning (GBL) was given. This features a friendly character named Alfred; this aim of this is to perform a skills check with new users; the game produces a certificate that identifies the person’s training needs.

Partners in this project are EfVET (BE), Euracademy Association – Project Promoter (GR), PRISMA - Centre for Development Studies (GR) – Project Coordinator, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Seinajoki Unit (FI), Nicolas Copernicus University (PL), University of Rostock (DE), Norton Radstock College (UK) Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Regional Studies (H), Mediterranean Institute for Sustainable Development (ES), EMERCE EEIG (SE), Estonian Information Technology Foundation (EE), iZone Knowledge Systems (PT), IBIMET (IT), Typical Mutations – Web Services LLP (GR).

The project website is available at www.e-ruralnet.eu. If you are a training provider and would like to assist with the research, choose your flag and go to the questionnaires part of the website. It should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

QUAVETS – Quality in Vocational Education and Training.

Sector representatives from Tourism and Construction joined the team at the March meeting in Evora, Portugal. They helped analyse the responses to questionnaires completed by students, teachers, workplace supervisors and employers and determine the strengths and weaknesses of school-based and work-based training routes. The team were able to summarise the outcomes and identify many of the characteristics of a ‘skilled worker’ in each of the sectors. They also discussed the linkages to European quality indicators for VET, and other quality factors of specific relevance.

The final meeting of the project is due to take place in Lithuania in mid-June. The team are confident that this will be well used to finalise most of the content for the final report – that will quite rightly be showing how effectively the partners have worked together to achieve a significant amount over the last 2 years.

The partnership includes: Iceland (co-ordinator), Norway, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal and two partners in the UK – ACER and Norton Radstock College.

More information can be found on the project website: http://www.idan.is/throunarverkefni/quavets/
Comenius School Partnership 2008-2010

In April five partner schools from Finland, Denmark, The Netherlands, France and Italy finished their third Comenius project with a show of historical dresses in Rennes, France. The project was called: European Citizenship. Cultural Heritage of the 18th-19th Century. Fashion and Liberation.

See more photos on http://eu-citizen3.cphwest.dk

Louise Rosthøj, EfVET-DK

Training programme International Operation Agent (IOA)

Improve your International Competences

In 2006, six European partners started the pilot project International Operation Agent. The most important aim of the project was to develop a training course for teachers in VET who are active in the field of internationalization. These teachers are called International Operation Agents. Based on a survey the partners developed and piloted a internet- based training course, consisting of 6 modules: 1. Intercultural Competence, 2. International trends in VET, 3. Building International Networks, 4. Project Competence, 5. Coaching and guiding students, 6. Mentor skills.

From this pilot project there arose the need for a new project. This need focuses on designing a training course for the same end-users, but operated on a more international level. More explicitly: There is a high demand among VET teachers acting as International Coordinators for an IOA training course which offers the possibility for international interaction including knowledge and best practice exchange. Therefore, Landstede/NL asked the two Finnish partners (a VET organization and a continuing education centre) and three new partners, respectively from Spain and Lithuania (VET organizations), to assist in a new project, which will develop the existing IOA training programme and transfer it to a more international product.

In November 2009 the three existing partners and three new partners started with the further development of the training course.

The aims of the current project are:
1. To set up a new method for an international (in addition to national) training course—operated on an international level and in an international setting—with teachers from the partner countries.
2. To design a new module "International Strategy of VET-organization" for this training programme.
3. To design a guideline for mentors to practice IOA-mentoring.
4. To further design the self-assessment tool—an instrument to identify the competences and level of knowledge of the trainees.

In September 2010 the partners start with piloting the renewed training course and self assessment tool. In January 2011, there will be an international meeting with all piloters from the partner countries. The piloters will share their experiences regarding the training course and will participate in workshops about issues regarding the IOA training course.

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The partners of the project are:
1. Landstede (contractor) - The Netherlands
2. Educode - Finland
3. SATAEDU - Finland
4. Marijampole VET Centre - Lithuania
5. Politeknika Ikastegia Txorriere - Spain
6. Usurbil - Spain

The training course is already available online at www.ioagent.net.

**International training in Malta**

Landstede, a school for vocational education in the Netherlands, ESE (www.ese-edu.com) and ETI (www.etimalta.com), two leading language schools in Malta, offer you a training course to improve your international competences. Are you involved in internationalisation? Are you an International Co-ordinator, a co-ordinator for international work placements or a project leader of an international project? This training course is especially for you!

You will receive practical support for:
- improving your English language skills
- improving your intercultural competences
- coaching and guiding students abroad

The course in Malta runs for one week (Monday to Friday) and includes an English language course and workshops about the subjects of the IOA training programme. The course schedule is from 9.00 - 12.30 and from 13.30 - 17.00, and consists of two daily sessions. In one session you will follow an English language course (Business English), given by an experienced teacher from ETI. The required level of English is B1. In the other session there will be workshops which are related to the IOA training:
- Intercultural competences
- Project management
- Coaching and guiding students

The workshops will be led by Nick Breiger, a renowned trainer on Intercultural Competences, and Udo Lut, an experienced trainer on Internationalisation.

At the end of the week you are expected to write and present a project plan, which includes all subjects of the IOA training.

**Date:**

1 - 5 November 2010

In June Landstede will distribute a mailing about this training course.

For more information, please send an e-mail to Udo Lut, ulut@landstede.nl

Udo Lut
International Co-ordinator
Landstede Group
P.O. Box 1
8000 AA Zwolle
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 88 8508081
Fax: +31 88 8508044
Impressum:

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

Editor:
Leif Haar, Niels Brock, Copenhagen Business College, 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 September 2010.

We wish you all a nice summer break.