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Message from the President June 2016

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

I hope you find the newsletter full of interesting developments across Europe. I would like to begin my message by welcoming Ute Schmitt and Marloes de Vries to the Steering Committee. Ute joins us as the new German National Representative and Marloes, similarly as National representative of the Netherlands. We look forward to meeting them formerly at the next Steering Committee meeting in July. A big thank you to our outgoing representatives, Dr Jorg Will and Toon Theunissen who have contributed to our development and growth over recent years. I hope they will attend Conference in Valencia this year so we can thank them formerly for their work with EfVET.

The Steering group has been working very hard on its strategic direction over the past months, recognizing that EfVET needs to progress in the light of our members discussions at the 'Innovation camp' at last years Conference. There will be a session at Conference this year for further interaction' From Innovation camp to Implementation' - we look forward to members contributions to this debate.

In addition let me take this opportunity to welcome and introduce Alessandra Tella our Intern from Italy who has been highly active in supporting Valentina and EfVET in our work

Conference 2016:

Whilst on the subject of Conference - Registration for the 25th Anniversary Conference is now open; it takes place from 26th - 29th October in Valencia, Spain. Early bird discounted Conference fee available unto the end of July so please do not hesitate to register, come and join us. Don't forget to book the hotel accommodation at the same time and if you wish to run a roundtable (always popular for delegates, please do so).

EfVET and the European Commission/ Joint Vet Provider Network
Your Steering group representatives continue to be highly active on several fronts working alongside the Joint VET Provider Networks (EfVET, EUproVET, EVTA, EVBB, EUCEN and Eurasishe). Your representatives on this Advisory Board to the European Commission are myself and Stelios Mavromoustakos. We meet regularly with representatives from DG Employment; CEDEFOP and ETF (see article of our work relating to policy implementation at European and National level. Of particular interest is the collaboration on the first European VET Skills Week to take place in early December 2016. There will be a range of VET celebration events in Brussels including a revamped Business Forum with EfVET playing a substantive part in proceedings. The
This week will include sessions with MEP’s and Parliament to raise the profile of VET. Moreover in the coming months EfVET will be looking to you our members to join us in VET related National, regional and local events. Your National Representatives will be actively promoting this to you all and other stakeholders. So do get involved.

Colleagues on the Steering Group have been actively engaged in a raft of working groups relating to the development of ECVET; EQAVET (represented by your Vice President, and other initiatives. Some details are given within this newsletter but also more information can be found on www.efvet.org. Rasa Zygmantaite represents EfVET on the ‘Sherpa’ group (Committee) of the new Pact for Youth and the Board of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Stefano Tirati has recently returned from CEDEFOP where he was actively engaged in discussions on transnational mobility.

A new range of Policy Working Groups have been created by DG Employ and DG EAC. These will meet regularly over the next few years. Santiago Garcia, EfVET National representative for Spain has been selected to sit on the Working Group for VET. It is important to note that representation has been shared by the Joint Provider Networks. Full details will be formerly announced shortly but members are encouraged to share their views and comments on developments across all working groups.

Membership: I am pleased to see a number of initiatives by EfVET to promote and extend membership. A few months ago I joined the Italian National Board at its launch and this proved to be a highly stimulating event out of which a number of new members have joined us. Equally EfVET supported a VET fair held in Finland and jointly badged the occasion. On a recent visit to Greece for a project, our National representative for Greece, Panagiotis Anastassopoulos invited me to meet the Federation for Enterprises and Industry in the Peloponeses and Western Greece. I welcome them as a new member. There has been and continues to be a lot of interest amongst the Business Community in working with EfVET in coming years. Broadening our membership to such new members will no doubt promote closer collaboration on all fronts.

As I write this I am heading for Madrid to participate as a Judge and Speaker at the European Skills for the Future awards. This at the kind invitation of JAEurope and Hyundai. Following the participation of over 15,000 young VET Students in national competitions to identify upcoming budding entrepreneurs, the 15 National finalists come together at European level. I will be joined by DG Employment, Corporate CEO’s and Social partners. Find out more on www.skillsforthefuture.eu

I hope this newsletter stimulates you all to promote VET, its attractiveness and quality, and share good practice across the EfVET family. Moreover, I hope you join Conference this year to celebrate EfVET and its 25th Anniversary International Conference

Warmest wishes and I hope you all enjoy a well deserved summer break.

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET
25th Annual EfVET International Conference Valencia, Spain, 26th–29th October 2016

We are pleased to invite you to the next EfVET Annual International Conference which will take place in Valencia, Spain, on the 26th – 29th October 2016. 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.

Full details of the programme and theme will be available on www.efvet-conference.eu. Early Bird Fee until 31st July 2016.

Leif Haar

Marloes de Vries, new Dutch national representative at EfVET Steering Committee

Hi there, I would like to introduce myself having replaced Toon Theunissen since May 2016. Since 1985 I have had a career in vocational education. Starting in 1985 from being a teacher to becoming a schoolmanager and later on managing director in the city of Rotterdam Albeda College and ROC Zadkine I ended up in my recent position as member of the Executive Board of Da Vinci College Dordrecht. Da Vinci College populates 9000 students for intermediate vocational education and approximately 1000 students for private higher education.

Vocational education, change management, focus on innovation in relation to technology and education are key words in my day-to-day business. From teacher training college to management studies and finally master studies in change management I have applied knowledge and experience to my field of interest, namely intermediate and higher vocational education. I participate in several bodies of knowledge in the area of technology, trade and now ! internationalisation on a regional, national and European level. Improving the quality of education as well as preparing our students to become excellent workers being of great value to the labour market is what I work for each day.
Leisure time is spent with either activities such as running, diving, sailing on the Mediterranean, English literature and or last but definitely not least my husband and two grown up daughters.

Ute Schmitt, new German national representative at EfVET Steering Committee

My name is Ute Schmitt and our national board elected me as national representative in the EfVET steering committee.

I studied Business administration and German language and have been teaching in upper secondary vocational education for more than 20 years. I am also vice principal at the vocational college Berufsbildende Schule Wirtschaft 1 in Ludwigshafen. In this position I am responsible for our college’s educational programmes and all kinds of European international projects, including teacher and student mobilities and strategic partnerships connected with the Erasmus + programme.

EfVET has played a major role in helping to develop our international profile providing a perfect platform for finding partners and projects during EfVET conferences we attended. Hence I am looking forward to contributing to EfVET with my work in the steering committee.
Election of Executive Officers - Call for nominations for EfVET Executive Officers, September 2016

In line with the regulations set out in the EfVET Constitution, I hereby give notice that the current holders of 2 Executive officer roles- the president and the treasurer- will have served their period of Office in September 2016.

Hence, the elections of September 2016 will be held for the 2 Officer posts:
President
Treasurer

The Steering Committee is, therefore, seeking nominations from members to fulfil these posts.

Read more...

Peter Hodgson
President

The Mobility Scoreboard

EfVET has been invited to attend the presentation of the Mobility Scoreboard developed by CEDEFOP and provide comments by contributing to the panel of the event held in Thessaloniki on 3rd June 2016. The Mobility Scoreboard will officially be launched within the EU VET week in early December.

In preparation of this event, EfVET in cooperation with Europemobility Network, launched a public online survey to gather expert views on mobility the usability and usefulness of the Mobility Scoreboard. We wish to thank those who have filled in the online questionnaires and to confirm that views and comments, particularly related to language preparation and relevance of citizenship in mobility, were presented during the event and well received by the audience.

The Mobility Scoreboard for IVET is an online tool conceived to assisting policy-making in international learning mobility in IVET. It provides a
comprehensive analytical overview of progress made by Member States against the Youth on the Move recommendations, by comparing data on a wide range of indicators and benchmarks.

In CEDEFOP perspective, the Mobility Scoreboard should help VET Associations like EfVET to push for national policy reforms by providing qualitative data on state-of-play, by comparing members states against common benchmarks. It is not meant to be a “beauty contest” as James Calleja director of CEDEFOP stated, but rather a structured analysis of progress accomplished, mainly at country level rather than at regional level.

Read more....

Stefano Tirati  
Executive Board Member  
stefano.tirati@gmail.com

Lifelong Learning Platform General Assembly & Annual Conference in Bratislava

LLL-Platform General Assembly was taking place on 30 May in Bratislava, Slovakia. LLL-Platform is a non-profit umbrella organization, which bring together 39 European networks active in the field of education and training. Since 2005, EfVET as a full member.

The Platform welcomed 3 new members (SIRUIS network, Cities des métiers International Network and World Organisation of the Scout Movement). The General Assembly elected the Steering Committee, confirming Luis Costa (EfVET) as Treasurer and welcoming Gina Ebner (EAEA), Brian Jurczik-Arnold (EEE-YFU), Jean-Marie Dujardin (EUCEN), Marie Oja (EUROCLIO).

All LLL-Platform members have a possibility to branch out even more and learn from the other stakeholders in the field, exchanging, sharing, and strengthening their capacity on a peer-learning basis.

On 31 May and 1 June 2016, the Lifelong Learning hosted its Annual Conference in Bratislava, Slovakia. Imagining the future is not a dream, it is about facing today’s challenges and those of the future. Gathering some 150 experts and practices from all over Europe to learn from each other and build creative solutions.
The Learning community cannot be imagined on the basis of what goes on in the classroom. The traditional space for learning in the classroom, this learning also takes place at home, outside school when taking part in activities such as theatre, music, etc.

At the conference we shared and imagined together what tomorrow’s society will be made of and how education can be the key to overcome obstacles.
https://lllplatform-ac2016.org

Read more.....

Towards a shared version of apprenticeship: joint conference of the European social partners

On 26th and 27th of May took place in Brussels the joint conference of the European social partners to present the outcomes of the respective projects carried out by ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) and the employers (BusinessEurope, CEEP and UEAPME) in the field of apprenticeship.

The first session was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of ETUC project on a quality framework for apprenticeships and the employers’ project on the cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes. After this presentation, a panel discussion with employers’ representatives tried to highlight the necessary elements for this quality apprenticeship scheme. The panellists underlined the need of a common effort and shared responsibility in order to develop a quality and cost-effective framework.

For the rest of the first day the participants were split in two parallel sessions, to discuss about topics such as apprentice compensations, learning outcomes and qualifications. The discussions were very lively and useful, with a fruitful interchange of experiences and sharing of good practices. Once more, it became clear the different situation in each country and the importance of consider apprenticeship as a strategic issue, not just a short-term measure to fight youth unemployment.

The second day followed the same schedule: a panel, this time with the trade unions’ representatives and two parallel sessions on cost-effectiveness and employability of apprentices. In this sense, there were a general agreement on the need to foster the acquisition of transversal skills and the right skills the labour market demands.

Before the closing of the conference, a joint video by the European social partners was presented (https://www.businesseurope.eu/video-gallery/towards-shared-vision-apprenticeships ). And then we had the pleasure of listening to Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. In her highly motivating speech, she remarked that apprenticeship is one of the key focus priority actions
for EU because Europe’s economic success is linked to the matching of the skills offered in training and the needs of employers.

Thus we need a more respectful, attractive, understandable and transparent system of apprenticeships. She announced as well the release of the new skills agenda in June. At the end, she encouraged all social partners to carry out concrete actions on the ground, not just to talk about high principles and finished her speech by stating: “Let’s make sure that the enormous amount of talent and creativity in Europe is to be put to the best use”.

The concluding remarks from the organizers were clear: strong social partners are required to develop a quality and cost-effective apprenticeship network, and for that purpose the organizations have to be more representative and active.

Read more about the conference at https://www.businesseurope.eu/news/towards-shared-vision-apprenticeships

Santiago García Gutiérrez
Member of Steering Committee

**ET 2020 Working Groups**

Last 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} of February the new Workings Groups for the period 2016-2018, inside the Education and Training European strategy for 2020 (ET 2020), gathered for the kick-off meeting at the European Commission in Brussels. The Working Groups are designed to help Member States address the key challenges of their education and training systems, as well as common priorities agreed at European Level.

In this period there are six Groups:

- Working Group on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (WGC)
- Working Group on Digital Skills and Competences (WGDSC)
- Working Group on Adult Learning (WGAL)
- Working Group on Vocational Education and Training (WGVET)
- Working Group on the Modernisation of Higher Education (WGHE)
- Working Group Schools (WGS)

EfVET was selected to participate in the WGVET in the person of Santiago García, member of EfVET Steering Committee.

In the opening session, with the experts from the six groups together at Charlemagne Building, Tibor Navracsics. European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, described the situation regarding education in Europe, and underlined that “today’s education is tomorrow’s society”. Chiara Gariazzo. Director Europe 2020, Country Analysis, Erasmus+ coordination, explained the groups’ mandates and the ET2020 six priorities for 2016-2020:

- Relevant and high quality knowledge, skills and competences developed throughout lifelong learning, focusing on learning outcomes for employability, innovation, active citizenship and well-being.
- Inclusive education, equality, equity, non-discrimination and the promotion of civic competences.
• Open and innovative education and training, including by fully embracing the digital era.
• Strong support for teachers, trainers, school leaders and other educational staff.
• Transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications to facilitate learning and labour mobility.
• Sustainable investment, quality and efficiency of education and training systems.

After lunch, every group started its work. The WGVET theme is “Teachers and Trainers in Work-based learning and apprenticeships”. The introduction to the group was made by Joao Santos, Deputy Head of Unit for VET, Apprenticeship and Adult Learning, DG Employment. He made a quick review of all the initiatives related to VET at European level. During the rest of the afternoon and the following morning the participants learned about the results of the previous group on VET and discussed about the new group mandate, the workings methods and roadmap, and the expected outcomes:
• Policy guidance
• Reference tools
• Sustainable networking.

At one step of the discussion several groups were set up, in order to deal with different topics: partnership schools-companies, future challenges, provision of continuing professional development and standards.

The WGVET continued its task via webinar last 27th of April, to prepare the second meeting, due to take place on mid-June in Brussels.

Santiago García Gutiérrez
Member of Steering Commitee

**Internship at EfVET**

I chose to carry out my internship abroad not only to get credits for my Master’s Degree, but to build on the knowledge I acquired during my studies and to familiarize myself with the activities of an NGO within a European framework. EfVET and all its members gave me the opportunity to develop my awareness of VET, contribute actively and support the team in projects management.

By performing many tasks such as attending conferences, arranging and taking part in meetings and events, disseminating EfVET programs,

I improved my language and organizational skills.

Besides, working together with partners from different European countries in order to reach the same purpose, taught me the importance of connections and effective communication.

The real closeness to EU institutions and the cooperation with them enhanced my sense of belonging to a single transnational entity.
I would like to thank especially Valentina Chanina and the Steering Committee who recruited and led me during all this traineeship path, allowing me to learn good practices step-by-step.

At last but not least, the friendly, positive and innovative environment fostered my professional growth.

I wish everyone such challenging and edifying experience.

Alessandra Tella

**Cometa Formazione awarded by ETF**

Cometa Formazione, for its School-Enterprise program, has been recently awarded by ETF as a “3-stars” good practice in training for youth entrepreneurship. Ten training programmes, identified as ‘good practices’ from ETF partner countries and Europe have been chosen. The programmes were selected following the ETF’s call for good practice in 2015, based on criteria drawn up by ETF and a wide range of training institutions. In particular, ETF pointed out:

- The combination of working and learning and commercial aspect of all activities, based on the task to produce a product or service that is commercially sold.
- The very personalised learning path for each student: ratio of teachers to students is currently 1:3
- The establishment of a pedagogic resources centre where teachers/mentors and entrepreneurs work closely together.
- Customised career guidance: after graduating, each student knows what he likes to do in terms of vocation and if he or she wants to become a young entrepreneur or not

The award ceremony has been organized during the Policy-Practice Forum 2016, an opportunity to bring together policymakers and training experts specialised in youth entrepreneurship, women’s entrepreneurship and the internationalisation of SMEs. The aim of the Policy-Practice Forum was to learn from each other and determine how both groups can benefit from one another's knowledge and know-how.

Cometa Formazione took part in the event, sharing with the other good practices, the distinctive elements of its training. The School-Enterprise program (three disciplines: catering, furniture and fashion, led by a Master Craftsman) offers experiential learning as a means of connect young people with the world of work and introducing a real job experience to the classroom which has a positive impact on students’ attitudes to both work and study.

The School-Enterprise program provides training and education also to students who are particularly at risk from dropping out of school: the big challenge for excellence in VET is to generate social inclusion: targets students with disabilities, unemployed young adults and young immigrants are part of the beneficiaries.

paolo.nardi@puntocometa.org
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner

Second chance education.eu

Digital Second chance Opportunities project- is an online knowledge and quality centre where digital assessment tools, good practice and training in second chance education can be shared and will be made available to practitioners, policy makers and all involved in second chance education.

On the [http://www.secondchanceeducation.eu](http://www.secondchanceeducation.eu) you can find a good practice, Mobility section and professional development. Database currently contains 30 training possibilities for teachers, trainers and other educators. It is an on-going resource including a variety of relevant up-to-date training topics and courses with embedded practice, feedback and follow-up support. It comprises both successful online courses, such as the Flipper Classroom Webinar on how to find and use online resources or how to use mobile devices as added value in learning situations, and offline courses such as How to cope with bullying in your learning group, in which an experienced teacher offers information and an opportunity to ask questions.

The courses involved teachers in learning activities that are similar to the ones they will use with their students, with encourage the development of teachers’ learning communities.

The Final Conference: “Cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes “

Some EfVET members attended final conference “Cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes took place in Brussels on 15 March 2016. It was a panel discussion, where Mr. Santiago Garcia (member of the Steering Committee) said that schools together with local enterprise and VET providers, should better promote to students and parents. And also Member States needs to adapt VET systems in view of improving the quality, flexibility and permeability of education and training systems.

An important lesson to achieve well-functioning apprenticeship systems throughout Europe is that companies need to get back the costs that they have invested by the time an apprentice completes their training. This was one of the main conclusions discussed by Mr. Maxime Cerutti, Director of Social Affairs.

There needs to be an openness at national level to adapt structures to companies needs and to better enshrine employer and, where appropriate, social partner involvement in the governance of apprenticeship systems. At the European level, the Commission needs to strengthen its approach to promoting mutual learning between national stakeholders to help effect systemic changes and to raise levels of engagement that will, ultimately, foster the supply and quality of apprenticeships.
Life Online Project

This project aims to contribute to Europe 2020 Strategy, Rethinking Education & Youth Guarantee by helping to address the high rates of youth unemployment and skills gaps. This is a 3 year project which will run from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2018.

Project partner Cebanc, based in San Sebastian, Spain hosted the 5 day C1 staff training event from 2nd May 2016 to 6th May 2016.

During the C1 staff training event, teachers and trainers involved in the project came together to plan and exchange ideas on how best to use the projects e-learning materials while utilising the ECVET system. The employment sector was represented by ForMento also based in San Sebastian to make sure that the employer needs were met by the project.

Using the e-learning materials, they discussed the most effective and practical ways to deliver the employability course unit including preparation for before, during and after mobility. This included how to organise and manage learner mobility and continued professional development for the teachers involved.

The ideas from the C1 event will be used for the Teachers Guide (Intellectual Output 4) and the Pilot Plan (Intellectual Output 5).

The expertise and experience of the teacher representatives from the six partner organisations will be shared between Higher Education and VET and four countries to provide valuable knowledge exchange.

The 2nd transnational project meeting also coincided with the C1 training event.

Further Information about the project can be found on the official project website: http://lifeonline.education/home or via the Bridgwater College website Bridgwater College - Life Online Project

For more information please contact:

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External Funding & Bid Manager EU
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CAPE Project

Partners in the CAPE project (Careers Advice and Pathways to Employment) held their 2nd transnational meeting and public event in Nicosia Cyprus 26th & 27th May.

The meeting was hosted by InterCollege Nicosia with partners attending from Euricon (The Netherlands), EfVET (Belgium), CECE (Spain), Anespo (Portugal), CESIE (Italy), Fenix (Poland), FSZK (Hungary) and Scoala 5 Piatra Neamt (Romania).

The CAPE project is a KA2 Strategic partnership, funded by Erasmus+, and is focusing on improving career choices and options for young people in vocational training and second chance learning by embedding careers advice and guidance into the curriculum.

CAPE is developing a training programme for teachers and trainers that will enhance their links with employers and career guidance professionals and support the development of careers management skills in young people. The project runs from until August 2017 and will provide teachers and trainers with a curriculum framework, handbook of resources and a guide to employer engagement.

Contact Barbara Brodigan barbarabrodigan@euricon.eu for further information.

Share, Improve, develop: today’s excellence for tomorrow’s HVET

Representatives of partners from Italy, Germany, Romania, Sweden, Croatia and Netherlands were hosted by WESTSACHSISCHE HOCHSCHULE SWICKAU at their recent meeting.

We visited the Volkswagen Bildungsintitut GmbH institute, its premises and its workshops and laboratories.

With over 110 staff and over 1.000 students per year, the Institute is one among 6 similar excellent training centers in Germany, delivering apprenticeship and dual training not only to its mother firm, but also to over 60 companies. As well we visited the many workshops, like industry (industrial robotics, digitalized engineering, measuretronics, driving robots, sensors, etc.), electronics, car body shop, car repairing, engine testing, metal sheet cutting, CNC machinery, ect....

The visit gave also partners the chance to learn more about several features of training and further training programmes, and about the local economic and employment system and situation.
Multiplier event have been run later in the afternoon, this event coincides with project outcomes, but also allow dissemination and assist in common interactive activities, and a Q&A final session.

For more information follow us through: http://www.projectshine.eu

Intergenerational Mentoring for Entrepreneurs (INTGEN)

“Entrepreneurship: Hints & Tips” - an INTGEN project multiplier event - took place successfully at Patras (Greece) on 19/05/2016 during the fourth transnational project meeting, so that partners could attend. There were 91 participants - entrepreneurs, teachers, mentors, representatives of Federation of Industries and local authorities etc

Peter Hodgson, EFVET President, gave the keynote address. Other speakers were entrepreneurs themselves, from the tourism sector, production (manufacturing sector) and commerce. All speakers presented their own experiences from their entrepreneurial lives: how to face everyday problems, the Greek economical environment, FAQ’s on general strategic planning.

What really made the difference to this event were the open workshops after the presentations, where teams were created based on the business sector interest of the attendees. The participants analyzed their own scepticism, asked their own questions and shared with the speaker-moderators their fears as well as their optimism.

Specifically three workshops took place with the following agenda:
“Entrepreneurship and mentoring in the field of Tourism”
“Entrepreneurship and mentoring in the field of production – manufacturing”
“Entrepreneurship and mentoring in the field of commerce”

Attendees presented their findings to the audience: main and common conclusion of the three workshops is that entrepreneurship has to do not only with new, fresh, innovative and dynamic ideas but mostly with the vision and the risk that each person takes. It is important that people who are interesting in creating their own companies find and exploit the opportunities presented and to acquire the entrepreneurial mindset. A very important element for the acquisition of basic entrepreneurial knowledge, was considered by the participants the mentoring process, as they believe it can contribute significantly to the acquisition of entrepreneurial mindset.

So, our project continues. Work is in progress on the online entrepreneurial course, this will be completed and tested during the summer. A common course, with some legal and cultural differences, will be translated (into Spanish, Basque, Greek and Finnish) and will be ready for delivery September/October 2016. The course will be blended (including workshops).

Mentoring has already started in some cases, in others, the partners are waiting until the online course is ready.
ESII - European Expert in Social Innovation Incubation

ESII is a two-year project aiming to promote in Europe a new professional curriculum, namely the European Expert in Social Innovation incubation (ESII).

Social innovation processes rely on the inventiveness of citizens, civil society organisations, local communities, businesses and public servants. They are an opportunity both for the public sector and for the markets, so that the products and services better satisfy individual but also collective aspirations. However, this inventiveness needs to be directed and guided towards market-relevant initiatives, to become social businesses, i.e. enterprises with a positive social impact.

Who can offer this guidance and facilitation service? The European ESII, a professional in virtual incubation, that provides expert consulting and tailored workshops to help social entrepreneurs and innovators build the skills, strategies and networks they need to succeed.

Organisations working as consultants, training providers, incubators for traditional business, should get prepared to support also social entrepreneurship and scale up social innovation initiatives, in light of the primary role that social business plays in the economy and in society. That’s why the project intends to deliver a training course to become ESII.

The direct target group includes all existing incubators, chambers of commerce, consultants and business support service providers, as well as students in business and economics, which will benefit from a free training course to help them acquire skills and competences recognised at European level for the experts in social innovation incubation.

Indirect target groups are all the stakeholders that may exploit the outcomes for training activities and internal staff professional development: VET providers, universities, local authorities, traditional businesses (that may be interested in creating links and synergies with social enterprises).

ESII is promoted and implemented by a transnational consortium of 7 organisations from 5 European countries: Eurocreamchart (lead applicant), SFC – Sistemi Formativi Confindustria s.c.p.a. (Italy), Fondo Formacion Euskadi (Spain), University of Greenwich (United Kindom), Make a Cube (Italy), Wes Bic (Ireland), Ruse Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bulgaria).

For more information about the project:
http://www.esiiproject.eu/
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AppSkil

The AppSkil project forms the European ICT Sector Skills Alliance, which aims at improving the level and quality of education, skills and employment in the mobile apps industry by anticipating the future skills needs and responding to labour shortages. The AppSkil project is funded under the Erasmus+ programme and is planned to be completed by the end of October 2017.

The challenge
Most mobile apps developers have up-to-date software development skills and technical excellence. However, many of them lack advanced design skills to make the mobile app attractive and easy to use, as well as managerial and customer oriented skills. Thousands of mobile apps fail each year due to difficulties faced by developers to create a friendly user interface, apply iterative usability testing and integrate experience-centric details, or to plan the implementation of a project and produce a business plan. The mobile app industry’s challenge, therefore, is to adequately train its workforce to cope with the full range of the issues involved in the commercially successful creation of mobile apps.

Results
The main results of the project will be:

- Documentation of skills mismatches in mobile apps sector, including an interactive mind-map of skills needs analysis (completed).
- A VET programme and open access learning resources (MOOC) on mobile apps creation skills in 5 EU languages (UK, IT, FR, ES, DU).
- A Memorandum of Understanding for mutual recognition AppSkil learning outcomes.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation for the establishment of an EU ICT Skills Council.

Take the time to explore our website and get to know the AppSkil completed outputs.

Become a member of the AppSkil alliance
Appskil alliance consists of 14 partners from 4 countries (UK, IT, BE, ES) and different backgrounds, including regulatory authorities in the field of Education and Training, ICT Sector representatives and Education and Training providers.

The AppSkil ICT Sector Skills Alliance invites Social Partners, Enterprises, Industry Skills Partnerships, Education Institutions and all the stakeholders of the ICT sector to cooperate in the direction of the creation and functioning of an ICT Sector Skills Council. Interested organizations can visit our website to subscribe as associated partners.

Contact us
www.appskil.eu
enquiries@aelp.org.uk

Links in case image links of social media don’t work
www.facebook.com/appskil
www.twitter.com/AppSkil
www.linkedin.com/company/appskil
TBG - Transnational Business Groups’ last Meeting finalizes the four innovative products.

The Erasmus + partnership “Transnational Business Groups”, gathering schools and organizations from Croatia, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey and with EfVET as leading dissemination partner held its last meeting in Turkey, in May.

After the fifth meeting, in The Netherlands, in April, which focused on the internationalization of companies and the Dutch Dual system, as well as the Marketing and Digital Media strategy and how it should be managed by each product, developed under the tutoring of the Dutch partner, the project was virtually concluded during the last meeting, that was held in Ankara.

Under the mentoring of Italian partner, the mixed nations groups of students finalized the four concepts, gathering all the information regarding the multiple dimensions of the Business Plan:
- Explanation of the idea;
- Explanation of the name and logo;
- Organization chart;
- Roles and human resources;
- Market research;
- Competitors analysis;
- Type of company;
- Company headquarters;
- Advertising strategy;
- Trade agreements;
- Bureaucratic process;
- Market strategies;
- Three-year budget estimate;
- Financial requirements.

During the last day of work, these four products - “Mom’s assistant”, with products to help active mothers to make it easier taking care of babies; “Mustra SC”, an innovative handbag; “Tecbag”, a suitcase with several innovations and with a mobile app; “Vita Juices”, a company
that creates and sell natural juices – were shown to an external jury, a representative of the Ankara Chamber of Commerce and a businessman, who assessed each concept, making critics and suggestions in order to improve them. These ideas and the project will now be presented at an international Seminar - “The Future of Education”, in Florence, Italy – which will work as TBG’s Multiplier Event.

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

Promoting Mental Wellbeing in VET- invitation to seminar

Today, psychological distress and mental health problems are the leading cause for work absenteeism in the EU as well as a growing source of productivity loss in many EU countries. Dropping out is one of the major challenges in secondary vocational education and it has a strong association to mental health problems.

Promoting Mental Wellbeing in VET- project aims to tackle these themes by developing professional competence of teachers, directors and in-company trainers in promoting mental health in VET, providing concrete tools: material and methods that help students combine mental health skills with vocational skills, and which students, parents and internship companies can find beneficial, and by developing a training program around five themes: mental wellbeing as a resource, self-knowledge, emotions and interaction, coping skills and the learning community.

Two-year project is ending in autumn 2016 and we would like to invite you to dissemination seminar in Helsinki at 22.9.2016.

Registration and further information of the seminar can be found https://www.lyyti.fi/reg_2016/Promoting_Mental_Wellbeingseminar_3552

Project is funded by European Comission / Erasmus+ Program. Administration and implementation of the program is done by CIMO, an expert organization in international mobility and co-operation. Partner are Keskuspuisto Vocational College/ Finland (coordinator), Tietgen/ Denmark, Marijampole College/ Lithuania, FUNDACIÓ JESUÏTES EDUCACIÓ/ Spain, EfVET/ Netherlands, ROC Da Vinci College/ Netherlands and The Finnish Association for Mental Health/ Finland.

Further information http://mewebeinvet.blogspot.fi/
**News from SEPRI**

**Strength from Peer Review – Developing the Quality of International Activities in Vocational Education and Training**

SEPRI team organized a seminar in Viljandi, Estonia on the 12th May 2016. The idea was to share the experiences of the participants and lessons learnt from the project. Team members have got practical experience on different steps in Peer Review, acting as a Peer or Peer team leader and as an organizer of a Peer Visit.

We also introduced the SEPRI products. The criteria for student and staff mobility, partnership projects and international strategy are almost ready. The purpose of the guidelines is to assist in carrying out a Peer Review especially in the field of international activities in VET. Linked to the guidelines we also prepare a training course.

The materials will be openly available.

Growing as a Peer is a process and requires a lot of work, but it is a journey worth it.

**About SEPRI**

A group of partners from Finland, Estonia, France, Italy and Czech Republic work together to improve the quality of international affairs. Strength from Peer Review – Developing the Quality of International Activities in VET project is financed by Erasmus + program KA2 Strategic partnerships. The project is coordinated by Luovi Vocational College, Finland and the partners are: Střední odborné učiliště a Střední odborná škola SČMSD, Znojmo, s.r.o. Czech Republic, Viljandi Kutseõppekeskus, Estonia, Kainuu Vocational College, Finland, Keskuspuisto Vocational College, Finland, Apprentis Auteuil, France and CNOS-FAP, Italy.

The project activities go on until 30th October 2016.

Contact: Mari Kontturi, Coordinator of SEPRI, Luovi Vocational College, Finland
mari.kontturi(at)luovi.fi
e-Motive Methodology already available!

Last 3rd and 4th of May we met in Reggio-Emilia (Italy) with our colleagues in the e-MOTIVE Project (www.e-MOTIVE.vet). During the meeting, we count with Emanuela Turrà, tutor of the higher VET programme in mechatronics in ITS Maker, the Italian VET centre which, during this second stage of the project, will work with La Salle Berrozpe and Egibide in the international versión of the Intercentros Diseinua project: (http://www.hetel.org/index.php/eu/13-proyectos/356-diseinua).

During this meeting, the partners approved the e-MOTIVE methodology, which will guide the centres in their cooperation: how to select the students who will take part in the project, how to design the working plan or which ICT means to use for the virtual cooperation. Besides, the encounter also allowed the Italian and Basque teachers involved in e-MOTIVE to know each other and start to set some aspects of the joint work they are starting in June 2016 until June 2017.

We have great expectations with e-MOTIVE, as it is a first step in the internationalization of one of HETEL’s projects in innovative learning methodologies which promotes cooperative learning among students from different centres who work to solve a common challenge/activity. This first experience can be the opening gate for the internationalization of other projects Intercentros in the future, such as Fabrikazioa or Share.

The next milestone of e-MOTIVE is the visit of Basque students to Reggio-Emilia to meet their Italian mates. By then we will decide which will be the challenge designed by the teachers, who will count with the participation of a Company.

Keep updated following us in Twitter! @E_motiveproject

Reference Guide for Assessment of Transversal Competences
CompAssess Project partners

CompAssess project offers a reflection on transversal competences and the process to assess them. Not many things though have been found about transversal competences in literature. And there is question which we have to face:

How are transversal competences analysed in European countries? 8 transversal competences have been described by EU for the VET sector: communicate in mother tongue, communication
in a foreign language, mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology, digital competence, learning to learn, social and civic competence, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness and expression. Some are related to organizational competences and other to the educational context. Some others (creativity, problem solving ....) are related with the way we conduct VET education.

There are a few questions that we can pose here, for instance: What are transversal competences? What are they from the VET point of view? Transversal competences can be classified in four different fields: Vocational & methodological, organizational & strategic, social and communicative and Learning & shaping competences.

Another question to reflect upon: What is the purpose of doing VET? The aim should be to address the transversal competences framework so that students become more entrepreneur and innovative. But how can we do that? By means of challenges-based learning methodology, focusing on the whole person and having a holistic view. (Looking inside and outside the educational organization, to companies mainly).

There is a clear connection between methods and assessment, because to assess transversal competences, such as creativity or teamwork, we have to do it through collaborative-active methodologies.

**Read more:**

CompAssess project for EfVET may 2016

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**EBBD Hungarian National Dissemination Event**

"How to become an EBBB school?"

The Hungarian national dissemination event for the European Business Baccalaureate Diploma was held at Andrásy György Catholic Business Academy on 7th April 2016 with the participation of professionals (secondary school principals, vice-principals and teachers) from all over the country.

To begin with, Ms Éva Rozmán, principal of the host institution, gave an introduction concerning EBBD. She also outlined the origins of EBBB and advanced with the description of the current EBBB + Erasmus + project, expounding on further developments, including revision and the inclusion of adult learners. She compared the EBBB curriculum with the
national curriculum of the country, highlighting opportunities but also mentioned difficulties in the adaptation of EBBD in Hungarian secondary schools.

After the introduction, Ms Gabriella Varga, teacher of Economics, gave an example of using the learning areas of EBBD, presenting possible ways of teaching the required skills and competences. Mr Krisztián Pásztor, teacher of Economics and English, emphasised the importance of softskills and the possible methods of incorporating them in secondary vocational education.

Finally, Mr Norbert Schmidt, teacher of English involved in the internationalisation of the school, described the relevance of on-the-job training abroad, the necessary documents and gave hints for securing Erasmus + grants for mobility projects. He also presented the new EBBD + website and traced the accreditation process.

The participants of the national dissemination event had numerous questions and enquired about many different aspects of introducing EBBD in their own institutions. Their questions focused on the curriculum, the accreditation process and the possible internationalisation of their own secondary schools. The presenters answered the participants’ questions and encouraged them to examine the possibility of offering EBBD to their business students. Several schools expressed genuine interest in the European Business Baccalaureate Diploma, so we are looking forward to welcoming them as new EBBD certified institutions in the future!

For more information, visit [http://eurobacdiploma.eu/](http://eurobacdiploma.eu/)

The project number of EBBD+ is: 2014-1-FI01-KA202-000880

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**Closing Ceremony – ERASMUS+ project Keep the Faith**

The Keep the Faith Project, promoted by AFP colline Astigiane as leading partner of a group of 13 VET Centres and Vocational Technical Schools based in Piemonte and Liguria – the North Western quadrant of Italy – ended up on the 14th of April with a memorable Closing Ceremony held at the premises of the AFP Itself in Asti.

Along the 2 years project 126 students, in the field of Tourism and Hospitality (namely cooks, waiters and hotel receptionists, enrolled in IVT paths) had the chance to experience a transnational internship at host companies in Malta, Spain (Valencia and Caceres) and Germany (Bochum and Dresden).

The main objectives of the project have been:

- Enhancing the quality of the overall VET provision
- Gaining knowledge, skills and qualification in a transnational perspective
- Enhancing the consciousness of European Citizenship
Fostering entrepreneurial skills by providing the chance “manage” the company being assisted by expert rulers.

Since 2009 AFP has been dramatically involved in the experimentation of the main European tools for the validation and recognition of Non formal and Informal Skills so that the entire process has been planned according to the principles of ECVET being all the paperworks validated by the local competent body (Regione Piemonte). Together with ECVET the issue of the Europass Certificate Supplement has been integrated for the first time (starting from the second project year) thanks to the expertise hained along the way and by responding to a stimulus provided by the Italian National Agency.

The closing ceremony took the form, as usual, of a Gala Dinner for which all the students involved have been asked to cook recipies learnt during their stay (at least 1 per each Country involved in the project), serve them and host the guets.

The Gala took place at the presence of the Regional Minister in charge of Youth Policies and migration issues, Mrs. Monica Cerutti, the representative of the Italian Erasmus+ National Agency, Mrs. Anna Butteroni.

They both have witnessed the abilities acquired by the students and stressed the importance of integrating mobilities along the training path. The launch of the forthcoming Dual System in Italy, and namely in Regione Piemonte have also been stressed, starting from 2018, being the switch from the present system to the new one pretty intricated.

The Dinner ended up with the award of a week end in Rome sponsored by a local travel agency to the 2 winners of the video documentary contest: each student have been asked to provide a short video documentary to describe his/her experience both in terms of mere internship and in terms of experience with the local people. Alessia Paniate and Andrea Barbero won the price with a 3 minutes documentary that conquered the heart of the voters.

The Europass Mobility certificates have been isssued also by Mrs Butteroni, representing the National Agency.

Along the way, in September 2015, while the project was in its full implementation stage, AFP has been awarded with the VET Mobility Charter, ranking first in Italy, so that its internationa mobility strategy will be further developed until the end of the Erasmus Programme.

The link to the project is the following

Contract n. 2014-1-IT01-KA102-000040

Matteo Gazzarata
Master model to gain time in your classroom

BE CREATIVE
BE INNOVATIVE
FLIP TO GAIN TIME

The European project Gain Time, "Flipped classroom" approach follows a reversed teaching and learning model: learners watch lectures at home and use the classroom time to interact with classmates and teachers, especially through educational games in the classroom.

The project team has developed during the first year of the project the e-learning course where you can learnt about how to develop a FLIPPED CLASSROOM.

We invited you to be part of the testing phase through http://elearning.gaintime.eu/.

JANUARY 14-15TH 2016, THE KICK OFF MEETING OF FINANCIAL LITERACY: A KEY TO IMPROVE PEOPLE’S LIFE CIRCLE (FINKIT) IN TURIN (ITALY)
http://www.finkit-cerp.carloalberto.org/

In a challenging environment, Economic Financial Literacy (EFL) is a key skill to achieve an active citizenship and to improve financial wellbeing.

Thus, FinKit will focus its action on a specific segment of poor elderly (people aged 65+) and women aged 55+ in France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

During the first meeting, the time schedule was settled: diagnosis, guide construction and trainers action. By January, 2017 the final map will be finished, which will be updated in the platform http://www.finkit-cerp.carloalberto.org/about-the-project-1/

FinKit will provide:
1) Preparatory works: a) panorama of Fin. education programs currently in place, b) insight of end users’ needs and behaviours, c) insight of practitioners’ EFL, training competencies and needs.

2) Core outputs: a) tools to convey specific skills to practitioners, increasing their capacity to transfer EFL, b) test of new delivery means, c) promote learner-centred and group-specific pedagogical tools: main target women 55+ and «wealth rich-cash poor elderly» in Mediterranean countries.
APRIL 2016, MEETING IN iREMEMBER PROJECT IN DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND
http://www.irememberproject.eu/

The iRemember project intends to share, adapt and experiment at the European level the "Laboratory of memory", a laboratory model of intergenerational activities (involving teachers/tutors, students and seniors), aimed at updating the skills of teachers/trainers and improving alternative and informal learning of history in schools.

Each "Laboratory of memory" is focused on the theme of "conflict" (e.g. Transition between communism and market economy in Romania, "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, etc.).

In the last meeting that took place, partners designed the materials for blended / online student training and each of them updated on their laboratory of memory process. In Spain, for example, through the activities and laboratories agriculture is being promoted among the youth.

Finally, the project will develop: a) a methodology for managing intergenerational learning laboratories, b) training course for teachers/tutors, c) an online training program for students, d) virtualization process of the laboratories.

The former material will be visualized and followed in the website http://www.irememberproject.eu/

THE FINAL CONFERENCE OF E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR FAIR SHARE ENTREPRENEURS IN Brussels
www.fairshareproject.eu

The Fair Share project aims is to support Fair Trade initiatives by providing fair trade entrepreneurs with a tailor-made training programme that meets their needs in terms of capacity building.

The project has developed Fair Trade entrepreneurs’ training content and of an innovative and interactive e-learning environment. The course addressing the abilities to run and manage their businesses on the various dimensions that define a Fair Trade enterprise: the identity, the social and economic component and the organisational and governance structure.
The course is embedded in the platform https://fairsharetraining.eu/frontpage.

During the project the platform has been tested by, Fair trade operators, volunteers and employers, teachers, students…. Some of them presented their experience during the final conference.

The project has established the EFTE Manifesto: a declaration of the intentions, motives, and views of the consortium that brought to the development of the project. It builds upon the results of the project and the assessment of the piloting to promote EFTE model with prescriptive notions for carrying out changes in the current setting of Fair Trade.

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