



European Forum
of Technical and Vocational
Education and Training

EfVET Newsletter March 2014

Message from the President	2
Méssage du Président.....	3
23rd Annual EfVET International Conference.....	4
Erasmus+	5
Mentoring Congress 2014.....	6
Cedefop – Press Release 20 March 2014	8
Cedefop – Press Release – 12 February 2014	9
European VET meeting in Barcelona - Representation of the VET Providers in the ECVET meeting Barcelona 13-14 February 2014	10
New Member: ETI Malta	11
New Member: Valoria vzw, Belgium	11
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner.....	12
VET reinvented: Vocational & Entrepreneurship Teaching	16
Sustainability through Creativity	16
ELVETE International project. Skills for the Labour market and VET demand	17
Ciilstore, Wordlink and Multidict.....	19
POOLS-3: Producing Open Online Learning Systems – 3	19
EMPLOY – Employability within reach!	20
ELEVET - Newsletter no 13 – January 2014	21
Impressum:	22

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Message from the President

Dear Members

Welcome to your March 2014 edition of the newsletter. I hope you find it of real interest and full of useful information and examples of good practice through the range of projects currently being implemented by members. A cracking good read but also an opportunity to share good practice, ideas and developments in the field of VET.

2014 -2020 – Erasmus + has been launched and mobility initiatives already submitted. This is a major feature of Erasmus + with many member institutions participating. I wish all well with their submitted applications under KA1. I know the difficulties associated with submissions this year given the changes in the application process – not easy but absolutely worthwhile in giving our learners the value added of study and/or work placement in another country. The next deadline is for Strategic Partnerships and Skills Sector/Knowledge Alliances – so good luck in this process. Do not forget to register through ECHE for your PIC number and remember to include EfVET as your Europe wide dissemination partner. EfVET has its PIC and partner information at the ready for those wishing to include us in this regard. Contact Valentina at Central Office for full details.

Meanwhile.... EfVET representatives are actively engaged in a wide range of working groups and thematic groups working with colleague organisations and the European Commission on issues such as the Strategy 2020 working group; Implementation of ECVET; 360 degree Entrepreneurship group; the Joint VET Provider Network and on the planning for the European Business Forum 2014. I would like to thank all my colleagues who are actively engaged in these and other working parties and to the Commission for their recognition of ourselves in contributing to the process.

Conference this year will be held as usual in late October – early details are on our website www.efvet.org. It will be held in the beautiful city of Porto in Portugal and thanks to Luis Costa and ANESPO for formally hosting the event. The theme will be based around two key aspects of Improving VET – namely – engagement strategies between business and VET and the Improvement and attractiveness of VET – Strategies for the future. We are putting the finishing touches to the theme as we speak. Conference will also include practical discussions on the new Erasmus + application process and the sharing of experiences and understanding of the application process and budgeting rules. Registrations on-line will begin in early May.

I am delighted to announce that our member HETEL – Heziketa Teknikoko Elkartea www.hetel.org has awarded the bi-annual Hetel Saria Award to EfVET for its outstanding commitment to Vocational Training and I have been kindly invited to receive the award on behalf of EfVET at the up coming 'Lanbide Heziketa Arnastuz' event (Breathing VET)event on 7th April in Bilbao. I thanks HETEL for this award and am very proud that EfVET's work is so well appreciated in ensuring Vocational Training in Europe is promoted for its quality and innovation.

Enjoy reading the newsletter and keep contributing to it with articles and news from our member institutions. We have a lot to learn from each other

Warm regards



Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

Méssage du Président

Chers Membres

Soyez la bienvenue à notre bulletin de mars 2014. J'espère que vous le trouverez fort intéressant et plein d'information utile et d'exemples de bonne pratique dans la série de projets actuellement implémentés par nos membres. Une occasion de partager de bonne pratique, des idées et des développements dans l'arène de VET.

2014-2020 Erasmus + a été lancé et des initiatives de mobilité déjà soumises. C'est un élément important d'Erasmus+ et beaucoup de nos membres y participeront. Je vous souhaite bon succès avec vos applications soumises sous KA1. Je reconnais de difficultés que vous avez trouvées cette année suite à des changements dans le processus d'application. Vous accepterez que tout cela vaut la peine pour offrir à nos apprenants l'occasion d'étudier ou de faire un stage d'entreprise à l'étranger. La prochaine date pour une présentation à KA2 – Strategic Partnerships/ Sector Skills/ Knowledge Alliances – sera en avril. Bonne chance encore une fois! N'oubliez pas de faire une registration à ECHE pour obtenir votre numéro PIC et d'ajouter EfVET comme partenaire de dissémination européenne. EfVET a déjà obtenu son numéro PIC et nous avons préparé une description d'EfVET comme partenaire. Vous pourrez contacter Valentina à notre bureau à Bruxelles pour tous les détails.

Entre temps, des représentants d'EfVET continuent à participer aux groupes de travail et aux groupes thématiques avec nos organisations partenaires et la Commission Européenne sur des questions telles que Strategy 2020; Implémentation d'ECVET; 360 degree Entrepreneurship; joint VET Provider Network et la planification de l'Europe Business Forum 2014. Je voudrais remercier tous mes collègues qui ont participé à tous ces groupes et La Commission Européenne pour leur reconnaissance de notre expérience de VET et la valeur de nos contributions au processus.

Notre Conférence Annuelle aura lieu comme d'habitude au mois d'octobre dans la belle ville de Porto au Portugal – vous en trouverez des détails sur notre site web www.efvet.org. Je voudrais remercier Luis Costa et ANESPO qui seront notre hôtes. Le thème sera basé sur deux aspects clef de l'amélioration de VET – des stratégies de cooperation entre VET et les compagnies et l'amélioration et la qualité de VET.

Nous travaillons actuellement sur le programme de la conférence et nous avons l'intention de discuter aussi le processus d'application au programme Erasmus+; partager des expériences. Les inscriptions commenceront au mois de mai.

Je suis ravi d'annoncer que notre membre HETEL – Heziketa Teknikoko Elkarteak www.hetel.org a présenté le prix Hetel Saria à EfVET pour son engagement exceptionnel à VET.

On m'a invité de recevoir le prix de la part d'EfVET à la cérémonie 'Lanbide Heziketa Arnastuz' (Breathing VET) le 7 avril à Bilbao.

Nous serons ravis de recevoir vos nouvelles et vos articles pour notre bulletin dans l'avenir.

Mes meilleurs voeux



Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

23rd Annual EfVET International Conference



The next EfVET Annual International Conference which will take place in Porto, Portugal from 22nd to 25th October 2014.

Full details of the programme and theme will be available by the end of April 2014.

Leif Haar

Erasmus+

Europemobility Network was presented on 16th January at the launching ceremony of Erasmus+ under the Greek Presidency of the European Council Semester.

The Conference has allowed M.me the Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou to underline the political objectives of Erasmus+ and its expected impact on the European arena, as active measure to innovate educational systems, fight against youth unemployment and secure solid cooperation between educational providers and business world.

EFVET contribution as promoter of one of the biggest learning mobility international communities in Europe was well received by the EC and governmental officials.

Europemobility Network initiative was selected by the European Commission and the Greek Government to contribute to the section of the conference on "strategic objectives of the new Key Action 1" under Erasmus+, focusing on learning mobility schemes.

The presentation offered the opportunity to show case some of the main features of Europemobility Network, including the European Video Contest for Learning Mobility, the International Community of Mobility Coordinators, the Quality Development Tool, the Regional Centers for Youth Mobility like the one established in Sardinia.

Furthermore, in terms of vision for the future, it was discussed the increasing importance of IT solutions, in terms of Virtual Mobility as well as the Europemobility Mobile App to be launched in 2014 for managing mobility schemes, the internationalization of VET systems and the potential for selling VET outside Europe and the shift among beneficiaries of mobility schemes, from "elite" to those with "fewer opportunities".

Indeed Key Action 1 has a great relevance within Erasmus+ as it will receive around 60% of the total budget, which is around 15 billion euros investment over the next 7 years.

Antonio Silva Mendes expressed the wish to promote closer collaboration and new initiatives in the learning mobility domain between the VET sector and the world of youth.

The Conference has been held at the School of Athens, the Academia, a perfect location to host over 150 representatives of Ministries of Education and National Agencies from all member states.



Stefano Tirati, EFVET

Mentoring Congress 2014

Klik hier als de nieuwsbrief niet juist wordt weergegeven.



Research - knowledge market - Benefits for youth, industry and society - keynote speakers

Onderzoeksresultaten - kennismarkt - winst voor jongeren, bedrijfsleven en maatschappij - keynote speakers

Would you like to:

- * get acquainted with state-of-the-art research results concerning mentoring?
- * broaden your knowledge of mentoring techniques based on success strategies?
- * showcase your own mentoring programme?

Then come to the International Mentoring Congress!

On the 20th of March 2014 a large International Mentoring Congress takes place in the North of the Netherlands. The main reason for organizing this event is the increasing demand in the Netherlands and Europe for the substantive exchange of mentoring experiences. During the congress several speakers and experts will share their vision and knowledge about mentoring youths.

Wilt u:

- * kennismaken met de state-of-the-art onderzoeksresultaten rondom mentoring?
- * brede kennis opdoen van de mentormethodiek gebaseerd op successtrategieën?
- * uw eigen mentorprogramma in de etalage zetten?

Kom dan naar het internationale Mentoring Congres.

Op 20 maart 2014 vindt er in de provincie Friesland een grootschalig internationaal mentoring congres plaats. Aanleiding van het congres is de toenemende vraag naar ervaring en inhoudelijke uitwisseling in Nederland en Europa. Gedurende het congres delen sprekers en ervaringsdeskundigen hun visie en kennis over mentoring voor jongeren.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. dr. Jean E. Rhodes (researcher and author of 'Stand By Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth') University of Massachusetts, USA and Dr. Frans Meijers, professor and a specialist in the connections between career counseling and mentoring.
Special Guest: mr. Amos Carmeli, Founder of Perach International.

Initiator and organizer: MentorProgramma Friesland.

BOOKING

Mark the date! You can book a place at the congress through our [website](#). Reserve a space for your organization at the knowledge market!
Location of the congress is Abe Lenstra Stadium in Heerenveen, The Netherlands.

Keynote speakers van de dag zijn:

Prof. dr. Jean E. Rhodes (onderzoeker en schrijver van 'Stand by me: The risks and rewards of mentoring today's youth), University of Massachusetts, USA, en Dr. Frans Meijers, lector aan de Haagse Hogeschool en specialist in de connectie tussen loopbaanbegeleiding en mentoring.
Speciale gast: de heer Amos Carmeli, stichter van Perach International.

Initiatiefnemer en organisator: team MentorProgramma Friesland.

DEELNAME

Inschrijven voor het congres is mogelijk via [onze website](#). Reserveer alvast een plaats voor uw project op de kennismarkt. Vol is vol! Locatie van het congres is Abe Lenstra Stadion in Heerenveen.

Register now

Schrijf je nu in



Thessaloniki 20 March 2014.

Cedefop – Press Release 20 March 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Skill deficits do not cause unemployment;

Europe's most talented workforce is being wasted

Unemployment in many European Union (EU) countries is alarmingly high. Yet, surveys still find that firms have problems filling vacancies. [Manpower's 2013 talent shortage survey](#) found on average more than 25% of firms across 17 Member States reported recruitment difficulties. Many argue that this is because young graduates and other workers are ill-prepared and the lack of the right skills is responsible for Europe's high rates of unemployment.

But in most EU countries labour shortages are well below pre-crisis levels. Job vacancies in 15 Member States in 2013 were 25% fewer than in 2008. Due to weak employment demand people are accepting jobs which do not match their qualification level. In the EU, around 29% of highly-qualified workers are in jobs usually requiring medium- to low-level qualifications.

Consequently, according to Cedefop, while some firms have recruitment difficulties for some jobs, such as ICT developers, rather than a lack of skills evidence points to other factors such as poor wages and working conditions and lack of mobility being mostly responsible for high unemployment coexisting with unfilled job vacancies. With an oversupply of highly-qualified job candidates, firms also prefer to wait for the perfect applicant. The 2013 Manpower study found only 7% of employers willing to redefine recruitment criteria. Firms tend to overlook possible candidates from outside the area as well as young people, women and older workers, many of whom are skilled.

The European economy currently has around two million vacancies. But in 2012, around 20% of the EU's total labour force – some 46 million people – was unemployed or underemployed. The World Economic Forum published [a paper on skill mismatch to which Cedefop contributed](#). It points out that job creation is fundamental but all aspects of skill mismatch must be addressed.

Efforts to bring education and training and the labour market closer together should be reinforced. Employed and unemployed adults need to develop their skills throughout working life. Firms must invest in learning for their workforce. But firms also need to review recruitment practices, extend training strategies and broaden recruitment pools. If not we may only prolong the jobs crisis.

More in the Cedefop briefing note [Skill mismatch: more than meets the eye](#)

The briefing note is available in nine languages (Spanish, German, Greek, English, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese) and in two formats (pdf or e-book optimised for tablets and smartphones).

For the full briefing notes archive, go to <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/briefing-notes.aspx>

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Thessaloniki 12 February 2014.

Cedefop – Press Release – 12 February 2014

Getting a job: work-based learning makes a difference

Young people with vocational education and training (VET) qualifications, which include a significant amount of work-based learning, have higher employment rates compared to those who come from general education or from fully or mainly school-based VET, Cedefop Director James Calleja told the European Commission's monitoring conference in Brussels (11-12 February).

In his keynote speech, Mr Calleja said that, according to Cedefop research, 'employers place a premium on work experience, and in countries where VET is well developed, includes work-based learning and is governed together with social partners, it results in better labour-market outcomes for VET graduates.'

Apprenticeship is a popular form of work-based learning, especially in several European countries. It provides alternate learning in a VET school/institution and in an enterprise. The European alliance for apprenticeships, which was launched in 2013, aims to bring together public authorities, businesses, social partners, VET providers, youth representatives and other key actors to promote apprenticeship schemes and initiatives across Europe.

'The revival of apprenticeships can only work if learners and enterprises buy in – and this is a challenge, in particular in countries with high youth unemployment rates or a small share of VET,' noted Mr Calleja.

He emphasised that 'while even the most labour-market relevant education and training cannot create sufficient jobs, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning can provide high-quality training and help match learning outcomes to the skills employers require.'

The Cedefop Director said that the Davos World Economic Forum had also 'underlined the value of these schemes to promote transition to the labour market and activation of young people out of work.'

What makes apprenticeship attractive, according to Mr Calleja, is that it provides the skills that companies need, acts as a stepping stone to the labour market, offers learners a formally recognised qualification, which entitles them to exercise an occupation, and gives them access to further education and training.

'Several EU Member States have shaped policies to make VET more attractive and have worked on common criteria to assure it is of high quality,' he added.

However, Mr Calleja stressed, just one in four enterprises with 10 or more employees trains apprentices. So, 'if we want to give more young people a chance to get an apprenticeship, we have to encourage more enterprises in more countries to train, and also in other sectors and occupations than those in craft-type professions traditionally taking on apprentices, such as in ICT, sales, healthcare or renewable energies.'

While the pressure to tackle youth unemployment has moved work-based learning high up on the European policy agenda, Mr Calleja warned that 'it is a risk if we expect too much in virtually no time; what we need is policy learning from good and bad experience, to understand what works and what doesn't.'

He concluded that we also 'need to work closer with VET institutions in Member States to support cooperation between VET schools and enterprises, the use of the European tools for transparency, recognition and mobility, and to build a culture of "learning by doing" at all levels of the qualifications frameworks based on good governance, quality assurance and sustainable partnerships'.

Note to editors

The Cedefop report *From education to working life – the labour market outcomes of vocational education and training* (2012) can be found at:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/20448.aspx>

European VET meeting in Barcelona - Representation of the VET Providers in the ECVET meeting Barcelona 13-14 February 2014

ECVET Thematic Seminar "Learning Outcomes" - Programme and Seminar context:

[Read more](#)

New Member: ETI Malta

2014 started off very busily for ETI Malta with teachers attending courses on Comenius/Grundtvig grants. These grants will only last until 30 April 2014. ETI is involved in the continued dissemination of past POOLS projects through their CPD (Continuing Professional Development) Courses.

In February, Methods and CLIL4U were disseminated to teachers from the Netherlands, Romania, France, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia, Hungary, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Finland, and Denmark. Other teachers from different countries will also be visiting ETI over March and the Easter period and learning about the projects.

All the teachers who have been to various ETI CPD courses in 2014 so far were shown the POOLS website: www.languages.dk and the two EU projects ETI is currently involved in, Methods & CLIL4U (both ongoing POOLS Projects). Teachers were also told about both Projects' Facebook pages, and the Newsletters, and were given the brochures for both Projects.

The locations on the site of other past projects run by the POOLS consortia were also shown, with the aim of further exploiting the results of past POOLS projects.

Teachers were also interested to hear about the new Erasmus + Staff Mobility & Training grant which will be replacing Comenius/Grundtvig, for courses starting from 01 July 2014. At the moment, ETI is actively involved in providing information about the new grants, and will continue to provide participants with information about the POOLS projects.

For more information on these, go to: www.etimalta.com
or contact: training@etimalta.com

New Member: Valoria vzw, Belgium

Valoria is the very first Belgian EfVET member and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

We are a non-profit organization related, that is, founded by and for the Municipal Education of Antwerp. This puts our organization in a very favourable and valuable position: on one hand we are a small non-profit organization with all the benefits that result from that (speed, flexibility, private body...), on the other hand we represent and act on behalf of all the stakeholders of the Municipal Education of Antwerp. This gives us, and our project partners, easy access to more than 55,000 pupils and students (from 2.5 to 88 years of age), about 6400 staff members and 140 schools, academies and centers for adult education, spread over 250 locations in the city of Antwerp.

One of our aims is program management, project management, grants and fundraising – all with the goal of improving our education! To do this, we establish partnerships and organize projects. Paramount is a high added educational value for our schools:

- primary education
- general, technical and vocational secondary education
- special needs education
- adult education
- art education

We also work in an intensive cooperation with the corporate, private, public and educational sectors and provide tailor-made training programs. We develop learning paths and learning resources on demand and size. This includes both long-and short-term learning paths. We

have strong experience in organizing training courses, seminars, conferences, events and symposia.

An immensely important aim of our organization is to bring the corporate, private, public and educational world closer together by e.g. facilitating relations between them, promoting entrepreneurship education and enhancing social entrepreneurship among our target groups: pupils, students, adults, unemployed people, employees,...

The aims and activities of our organization result in an extensive network: schools, VET institutes, higher education institutes, universities, businesses and enterprises, local and regional policy-makers, ministries, intermediate organizations, non-profit organizations, chambers of commerce,...

As we are based in Antwerp, the largest city in Flanders, and very close to Brussels (about 30 miles) we are able to attend many meetings, debates and symposia organized by the different European institutes and organizations. This results in a broad scope but also in good personal and professional connections on European level.

[Read more](#)

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

RESILIENCE

As part of a recent partner project meeting in the UK, representatives from the local council's Health & Wellbeing Group, a youth worker, trainer, counsellor, teacher trainer and author were all invited to give their feedback on resources developed by the team to develop resilience skills. This helped to shape the development of resources and ensure that they were easy to understand and practical.



The project resources can be used by teachers and tutors to help learners build confidence, overcome anxiety/depression, take responsibility and improve their chances of gaining qualifications and work. The pilot phase is nearing completion.

The team includes Blickpunkt Identität, Austria (lead partner); Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria; Listaháskóli Íslands and Mimir-símenntun, Iceland; Norton Radstock College, UK; CSCS, Italy; Folkhälsan, Finland and Greek Academic Network.

Connect-VET

This project helps to build cooperation between small businesses, vocational colleges and universities to encourage innovation and development of the rural economy. Building on best practice from Finland, Norway, Estonia, Spain, Italy and the UK, practical cooperation models will be developed and tested to exchange knowledge and identify opportunities to build connections between education and the workplace.

At the first meeting in Helsinki, best practice examples from other projects were discussed and the team took part in a very interesting orientation exercise. We are now examining what works well in different countries (Finland, Italy, Estonia, Spain and the UK) so that we develop effective ways to cooperate with business.



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

StorySHOP - Storytelling for Social and Health Care Workers Professional Identity Development is a Leonardo Transfer of Innovation project, aimed at developing a training programme based on digital storytelling addressing healthcare workers in Europe.

The main **objective** of the project will be to enable participants to establish balanced relationships with clients, and to avoid burnout. Indeed, people who are professionally involved in the care of people who are suffering or in need, are at high risk of experiencing excessive stress, due to a possible disproportionate involvement with their clients' situations.



Storytelling was chosen as the leading training methodology on which to base StorySHOP's products because it allows participants to analyse and understand complex situations, which could cause suffering, without having to directly talk about them. Therefore, it is an innovative and effective technique to overcome emotionally stressful environments, and turn them into situations that can be faced in normal day-to-day life.

The project is being implemented by a **consortium** of 6 organisations involved in the field of adult training, based in Belgium (EfVET), Denmark (Aarhus Social and Health Care College), Italy (Eudaimonia, Switzerland (SEED and SUPSI/DSAN) and the UK (Norton Radstock College).

Storytelling simply means the activity of telling a story, and digital storytelling means telling a story which is rendered in digital format. Stories have played a relevant role in the teaching and **training** environment for a long time, thanks to their ability to engage learners, foster attention and involvement and communicate strong messages and values. People experiencing disadvantaged or stressful situations often find it hard to explicitly tell their own feelings; storytelling is thus an effective means for them to express their inner world and decrease the negative feelings associated with their own environment. Website: <http://storyshop-llp.eu/it/>

EXPANDVET

Pilot projects nearing completion.

The partners (from the UK, Lithuania, Austria, Greece and Poland) have been busy since the autumn undertaking a pilot of the BEQUAL benchmarking tool in their particular countries, and evaluating its effectiveness. In total there have been nearly 450 individuals from more than 12 countries who have used the benchmarking tool, leaving over 12,000 responses to the questions.

The benchmarking tool enables participants to self-assess the progress their organisation is making in quality improvement – linked to EQAVET. The questions are split into 4 stages of the quality cycle and the responses so far show the following:

	Stages			
	1. Planning	2. Implementation	3. Evaluation & Assessment	4. Review
Degree of progress made:				
Not started yet	8%	27%	38%	26%
Some progress	8%	30%	35%	27%
Considerable Progress	12%	33%	36%	19%
Close to fully achieved/fully achieved	7%	31%	39%	23%
Overall progress by stage:	9%	30%	37%	25%

Why not give it a try? The benchmarking tool is available electronically at www.bequal.info/ and takes about 15 minutes to complete. Institutions can then see how their progress compares with that of others within the same country or with all participants from across Europe. The website also contains a wealth of useful information, articles, links and a growing selection of good practice examples.

The picture shows a delegate at one of the UK project workshops choosing a 'reward' following participation in the benchmarking exercise:



To find out more about the EXPANDVET project please use the following links:

Project website: www.idec.gr/expandvet/
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/Expandvet
 Twitter: [HTTPS://twitter.com/EXPANDVET](https://twitter.com/EXPANDVET)
 Benchmarking tool: www.bequal.info/

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/groups/Quality-assurance-in-VET-4940977?gid=4940977&goback=.gde_68302_member_229079158

BESTVET (VET Total Development System)

Engineers Ireland, in partnership with leading VET Training centres from around Europe, is undertaking a project to implement a workable guide for the transfer of quality development systems from Higher Education (HE) to VET centres and staff across Europe. Alongside Engineers Ireland, partners are the County Louth Vocational Education Committee, INOVINTER (PT), CECE (ES), Euroform RFS (IT) and Norton Radstock College (UK).

The project has moved further to completion with each partner integrating the three component best practices of the project (Mentoring, Learning Contracts and Learning Management Systems) into their respective organisations with great success. The project will soon be moving away from the implementation phase and into the evaluation stage of the project.

The final project symposium which will be held in Cosenza, Italy in April 2014 will focus on evaluating the success of the implementation phase and to capture any 'lessons learned' from each partner. The evaluation report following on from this symposium will help the project group to draw up a 'process map' and guide for the implementation of the three component best-practices in VET institutions for the benefit of VET professionals across Europe.

Further details of the project can be found on our project website: www.bestvet.eu



VET reinvented: Vocational & Entrepreneurship Teaching

EFVET organised the Final Conference of the Ent-teach project on 7 March in Brussels. The project and www.ent-teach.eu online platform is set up and led by Business Development Friesland. As part of its dissemination role, EFVET considered the needs of VET students in developing entrepreneurial skills, drawing on EUCIS-LLL policy debates and European publications as well as experiences from other EU projects.

At the Final Conference, a range of ideas were discussed including the broader understanding of entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial teaching and cultures, specific support and learning from experienced entrepreneurs. This followed presentations on the Ent-teach.eu online platform and how to run a successful Entrepreneurship Day and contributed to discussions on entrepreneurship and the new Erasmus + Programme.

More information can be found on www.efvet.org news.

Sustainability through Creativity

ROC Midden Nederland is currently engaged in three different TOI projects. It is project leader in the Sustainability through Creativity project, and partner in both Faraw and ISP.



WASTE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

ROC Midden Nederland, together with four other training providers from Austria, Italy, Romania and UK, want to show just how true this is. Working together in this Leonardo da Vinci TOI project they are going to demonstrate that reclaimed, discarded or unsold materials can be reinvented to provide excellent educational resources. This Sustainability through Creativity project will produce a handbook with lots of practical and imaginative ideas for staff in childcare centres, schools and colleges.

The project highlights a new and optimistic way of approaching environmentalism by developing products that can be used in childcare training.

The project partners are now testing sustainable creative activities and the training materials that will feature in the handbook. Workshops to train new and existing childcare staff will also be piloted. The project will culminate in an exhibition in September, in which each partner will display the concept in an interactive, tangible and realistic way.

The project's website is www.creativerecycling.eu.



The past months ROC Midden Nederland has been testing **Comprehand**, a novel tool for facilitating communication and cooperation in and about the work process. As one of the partners in **FARAW**, a Transfer of Innovation" scheme in the Leonardo-da-Vinci programme, ROC Midden Nederland engages students in role play of daily or future work situations, followed by a reflection and discussion phase. The scripted scenarios and the reflection phase method used by Comprehand ensure that both student and teacher can easily monitor the progression towards more competence. For more information see www.faraw.eu .

Individual study paths (ISP)

After the successful completion of Parents Matter, a project that encouraged parent involvement to prevent their children from dropping out, ROC Midden Nederland again participates in a TOI project aiming to reduce dropping out numbers. The ISP project approaches this important problem from a different angle, by focusing on ways to increase student motivation. ROC Midden Nederland's role is to collect and analyze the partner organizations' drop out numbers, to identify the students who are at risk of dropping out and to focus on the pedagogical activities to prevent them dropping out.
www.isp-project.com

[Read more \(photos\)](#)

ELVETE International project. Skills for the Labour market and VET demand

Evidence from working with employers across Europe suggests that there is still a mismatch between skills needed by employers, i.e. vocational education and training (VET) demand, and what is offered by VET providers, i.e. supply. The European Training Foundation's Torino Process report from June 2011 states that VET is too often considered only in the context of formal education, rather than as part of continuous development. Employers state that they have to 'start again' when it comes to training their employees, thus expressing doubt over the relevance, quality and value of VET. This suggests a gap in terms of both the vision, and the external efficiency, between VET in formal education and in employment, as well as considerable country variation. Much good practice has been developed in Europe, however, to mitigate employers' criticisms (e.g. in the Basque Country). It seems this good practice is not always shared effectively across geographic and sectorial borders.

The ELVETE network has been set up to counteract these systemic weaknesses. The network is composed of 12 partners, based in ten European countries, with a wide range of backgrounds.

The partners are:

University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom (Lead partner)
Tknika, Basque Country
The Association for Lifelong Learning, Romania
Associazione Italiana per l'Informatica ed il Calcolo Automatico, Italy
HTL Mödling, Austria
Fõrema societ  consortile a responsabilit  limitata, Italy
Walsall College, United Kingdom
Sociedade Portuguesa de Inova o, Portugal
UAB "Globalios idėjios", Lithuania
Фондация Кураж (Fondatsia Kurazh), Bulgaria

Page 17 of 22 EfVET Newsletter March 2014

Miðstöð símenntunar á Suðurnesjum, Iceland
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

To form an effective network, the partners were chosen to cover a broad geographical and cultural/social dimension, hence impact on a larger scale at European level. The members of the network can be split into two main areas:

- Access to users (e.g. VET training providers, universities)
- Employer/SME perspective (e.g. SMEs, national organisations working closely with employers)

The network focuses on VET in the 14 – 19 sector in order to influence the intersection of formal learning and continuous development. Employers understand that early engagement is a cost-efficient and long-term sustainable strategy for change. The network will draw together existing good practice in participating countries, as well as national and EU policy frameworks and evidence of effective employer-driven curriculum development. Through this, a quality-assured (through employer leadership) system for the development of VET for 14 -19 year olds can be designed. The growing trend towards competency-based education and training both in the compulsory and post-compulsory sectors will allow the transferrable accreditation and certification of such learning. The system will provide standardised guidance for the engagement of employers in curriculum development and thus allow for variations in different countries, just as the national qualification frameworks do in relation to the European Qualifications Framework.

This approach sits within the policy context and the wider policy priorities for VET. Difficulties identified in the implementation of long-term VET reform are mitigated by the focus on real and meaningful employer leadership. Employers sit outside the traditional VET system and can therefore bring much needed invigoration to it. Their focus on the 'bottom line' will also ensure that the framework and guidance will be stringently monitored in terms of their measurable impact, and that the guidance will be effective for employers' needs.

The main innovating elements of the proposed ELVETE network are:

1. Increased contact between employers and VET providers. This will be useful in and of itself, as it will enable employers to become more familiar with the processes involved in VET development and delivery, while VET providers become more aware of employers' needs.
2. VET training which focuses on employer needs. By producing a number of case studies not only with VET providers, but also with employers, the consortium will develop a good idea of the strategies which really work to provide VET training that employers can fully support.
3. "In-the-field" testing. Two VET providers in the consortium will involve their students in testing the model curriculum for six months before our final model curriculum is produced, to ensure that what is needed by employers is also practical and feasible for VET providers and VET trainees.
4. Cross-European applicability. As consortium representatives from all over Europe will work on the draft model curriculum, guidance notes and recommendations for policy makers to be produced by the network, they will ensure that there are flexible elements which can be replicated to different subject areas and different countries.
5. Cross-European impact. By carrying out our research as part of a network rather than a project, we increase the number of countries involved and widen our reach. A focus on dissemination as a key task for networks will ensure that best practice in VET is spread among VET providers, employers and policy makers throughout Europe, rather than being enclosed in certain small areas as is currently the case.

[Read more](#)

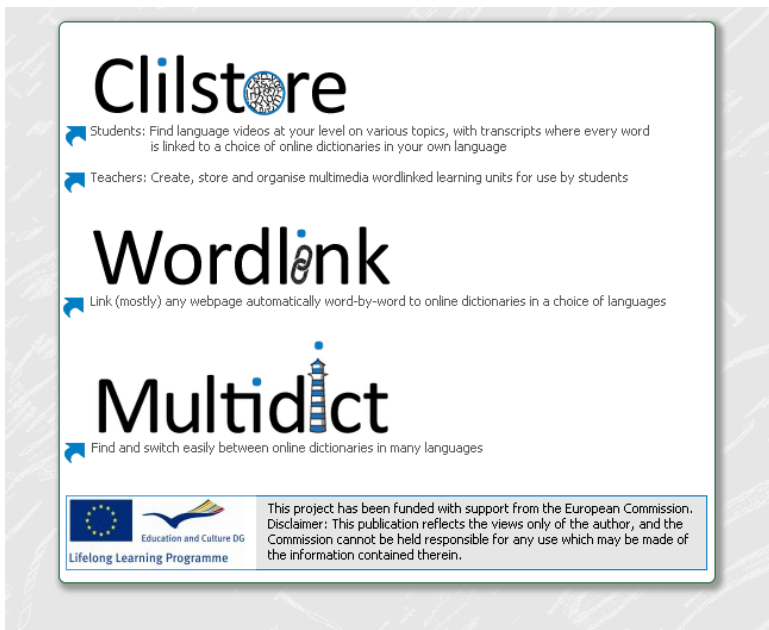
Ciilstore, Wordlink and Multidict



EfVET is partner in two EC cofounded language teaching projects Methods and Pools-3. Both projects make extensive use of a free online service called Ciilstore developed in the TOOLS project. The online service/tool was demonstrated at EfVET roundtable presentations in 2012 and 2013, it is now in its final version, ready to use by vocational students across Europe and beyond. At present it offers 856 free and ready to use language-learning units of these 311 are for learning English.

In the following sections we shall describe **Ciilstore** and its integrated tool, *Multidict*. Both applications are

accessed online at multidict.net.



Ciilstore

- Students: Find language videos at your level on various topics, with transcripts where every word is linked to a choice of online dictionaries in your own language
- Teachers: Create, store and organise multimedia wordlinked learning units for use by students

Wordlink

- Link (mostly) any webpage automatically word-by-word to online dictionaries in a choice of languages

Multidict

- Find and switch easily between online dictionaries in many languages

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. Disclaimer: This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Figure 1. **Ciilstore** homepage accessible at <http://multidict.net>.

[Read more](#)

More information is available from www.language.dk or you may contact Kent Andersen ka@sde.dk




POOLS-3: Producing Open Online Learning Systems – 3

POOLS-3 is a Transfer of Innovation (TOI) project which will exploit the results from the original Pools project and Pools-2, which developed materials for language teaching and

learning as well as teacher training courses. Pools-3 will transfer the core outputs of Pools and Pools-2 to three new languages: Catalan, Czech and Irish.

The project had a successful kick-off meeting, which resulted in the first videos and audio recordings. Here's an example: <http://www.ipadio.com/broadcasts/all?q=catalan> .

POOLS 3 video and audio clips will be produced in the three core project languages. Additional videos cover how to produce online language learning materials.

During the kick-off meeting the partners decided on different dissemination platforms. These have now been linked to from the website: [TWITTER](#)  [FACEBOOK](#)  [POOLS 3 Blog](#) 

The project brochure is now ready in English, Catalan, Czech, Irish and Danish

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Partners:

SDE - Syddansk Erhvervsskole Odense-Vejle, DK
Jazykova skola s praverm statni jazykove zkousky PELIKAN, CZ
Stucom, ES
University of Ulster, UK
EFVET, BE



Employ Project

EMPLOY – Employability within reach!

How many young people with qualifications in Europe desperately need to get on the job market? How can they convince employers that among the growing numbers of qualified candidates they are the one to employ? The EMPLOY project has developed an easy to use Toolkit of activities to support students and jobseekers identify what transversal competences employers most demand. It also helps them develop and present those competences successfully through a series of dynamic activities and reflections¹. In the EMPLOY sessions, students and jobseekers complete a Personal Competence Card and build a competence Portfolio that evolves with them as they take confident steps towards employment.

Four pilot experiences have been carried out between Oct 2013 and the present in England, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain with around 125 participants using EMPLOY Toolkit activities. Participants including active jobseekers in the Spanish, English and Dutch pilots have created a competence portfolio and are ready to impress!

Feedback from users so far is really satisfying

"I feel I've gained skills y knowledge that I didn't previously have and strengthened other competences"

"I feel more confident and sure of myself. I feel I have more options when it comes to employment"

"I think my possibilities of passing the interview stage have increased"

¹ The EMPLOY International Needs Analysis (2013) identified the competences that EU employers most frequently demand and built a series of activities (videos, games, role-plays and reflections) to develop these. They include: **Positive Attitude, Problem Solving and Communication Skills, Working under Pressure, Learning to Learn, Flexibility, Personal Discipline, Time Management and Responsibility.**



Crossing the River: Teamwork Activity
in Sopot (PL)



EMPLOY working group for facilitators in
HETEL, Durango (ES)

Facilitators also appreciate that the participants have developed their competences and employability.

Based on feedback from both pilot facilitators and participants, more work will be done by project partners in the coming months to polish and improve the competence building activities. ***A full International Report on the pilots will be available on the project website in June 2014.***

Extra links to all kinds of info on competences, internships, employment tips for home and abroad, presentation skills (CVs and Interviews) etc. are available on our facebook site – EMPLOY.

The end version of the improved TOOLKIT will be available in Sept 2014 via the website: www.employ-project.com



ELEVET - Newsletter no 13 – January 2014

This is the thirteenth newsletter of the project. The aim of the newsletter is to keep stakeholders informed about the progress and the outcomes of the project. This letter covers the period December 2013 to January 2014. It is published in English, Italian and Polish language.

[Read More](#)

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