EfVET Newsletter March 2015

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Message from the President

Dear Members welcome to the March 2015 issue of our newsletter.

EFVET continues to move from strength to strength and as your President, no one could be more delighted. Our work moves apace and the increasing workload and development necessary to sustain the organisation into the future requires a renewed effort and energy to maintain and expand our membership and services to you all. Hence, as announced at last years AGM, the Steering Group is working on a ‘Strategic Review’ to ensure our future growth and organisational capacity is ‘fit for purpose’. At our last Steering Committee - it was decided to tackle the perennial question of membership expansion and the establishment of formal National Boards in each Member State. This requires a major drive to expand membership in those countries that are under-represented or in deed not represented within EFVET. I know members will welcome the drive for new membership so as to introduce increasing opportunities for closer collaborative partnerships.

As President, it has been a great pleasure to have been invited to the Confederation of Industry for Italy and present EfVET and its work. I would like to welcome them as new members following my discussions with them. I have also been invited to meet a Norwegian delegation visiting Brussels on a study tour to learn more about EFVET and its work. This will take place on March 10th 2015 - let us hope it elicits a positive response and leads to new membership. EFVET is now well placed to invest in a major membership drive over the coming months and colleagues within the Steering committee are working hard to implement this with renewed vigour.

In addition, EFVET has been invited to be a significant partner in Member, and even non-Member, strategic partnerships and skills alliances (KA2 and KA3 applications under Erasmus +). I would like to thank all who have invited EFVET to join their projects. All members will benefit from this in that open access to all such project development work and final products will be available to all.

Meanwhile: EFVET is becoming a major player in VET developments and policy debates within the ET2020 policy arena. Stelios, your Vice President is our representative on the ECVET Working group and is our key representative working with fellow VET provider networks - named /badged VET4EU2. This is the key forum for discussions around the achievements associated with the priorities for VET within the context of ET 2020 priorities and objectives. There is a direct link to the work of the ET 2020 Working Group on which I represent VET4EU2 provider networks and the ESCO Advisory Board. This is quite complex, in terms of the inter-relationship between the different forums. You can follow the debates and discussions via our website. So much is going on it is difficult sometimes to see the wood from the trees - but so important to ensure VET institutions, at grass root level have a voice in the policy debate. I have only reflected on some key elements - much more is happening with different colleagues representing us in so many ways. Thanks to all for their contributions.
Finally - we are looking forward to meeting you all again, plus many new faces at our 24th Annual International Conference to be held next October 2015 in Pathos, Cyprus. Your Conference team is currently preparing the programme and theme. We have some great speakers but all will be announced shortly and registration will start soon. Panaghiotis (Greek National Representative) is working with our Web master to revolutionise the website and conference pages.

As a final note I take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the Steering Committee for their dedication and commitment

Warmest regards to all

Peter Hodgson
President, EfVET

Méssage du Président

Chers Membres,

Soyez la bienvenue à notre bulletin de mars 2015

Le travail d’EfVET continue à faire de grand progrès et comme votre président j’en suis énormément ravi. La quantité de notre travail s’augmente et nous renouvelons nos efforts et notre énergie pour augmenter notre liste de membres et améliorer nos services. Comme nous vous avons annoncés pendant notre réunion annuelle, le groupe de pilotage a commencé un examen stratégique pour garantir notre développement futur d’une organisation adaptée à l’objectif. A notre dernier réunion du groupe de pilotage, nous avons décidé d’augmenter le nombre de membres dans les pays où nous sommes sous-représentés ou pas du tout représentés. Aussi nous voudrions créer des comités nationaux. Nous proposons une campagne pour attirer ces nouveaux membres. Je sais bien que vous serez tous d’accord de cette initiative, qui augmentera aussi des opportunités pour créer de nouveaux partenariats.

Comme président, c’est un grand plaisir qu’on m’a invité à la Confédération d’Industrie d’Italie pour présenter le travail d’EfVET. Je voudrais les accueillir comme membres suite à nos discussions. On m’a invité aussi de rencontrer une délégation norvégienne, qui viendra à Bruxelles le 10 mars 2015 pour apprendre d’avantage sur les objectifs d’EfVET. Espérons que de nouveaux membres s’adhéreront à EfVET.

De plus, on a invité EfVET d’être un partenaire important ou même un non-partenaire aux "strategic partnerships” et “skills alliances” (Erasmus KA2 et KA3). Je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui ont invité EfVET à participer à ces projets. Tous nos membres bénéficieront du développement de ces projets et des résultats finaux.

Plusieurs de mes collègues nous représentent sur une gamme de groupes, comités et d’organisations. Je voudrais remercier nos collègues pour leur participation.

Finalement nous attendons avec impatience de vous rencontrer tous à notre conférence annuelle qui aura lieu à Pathos en Chypre en octobre 2015. Votre équipe de conférence est en train de préparer le programme et le thème. Nous aurons beaucoup de présentations importantes et vous en trouverez tous les détails sur notre site web bientôt. Panaghiotis (notre représentant national grec) travail avec notre webmaster pour améliorer notre site web.

Je voudrais remercier, comme toujours, mes collègues du groupe de pilotage pour leur engagement continu.

Mes meilleurs voeux

Pete Hodgson
Président

24th Annual EfVET International Conference Paphos, Cyprus 21st-24th October 2015

We are delighted to invite you to the next EfVET Annual International Conference which will take place in Paphos, Cyprus on the 21st - 24th October 2015. 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.

The conference venue is the Azia Hotel, at the welcoming town of Paphos in Cyprus. Paphos is a coastal city in the southwest of Cyprus, it is rich in antiquities and natural beauty. It has been selected as a European Capital of Culture for 2017.
Paphos International Airport is the country’s second largest airport and you can conveniently choose it to book your flight. As an alternative you can also chose the Larnaca International Airport of Cyprus. Full details of the programme, theme and transportation to and from the airport will be available soon on the website.

Stelios Mavromoustakos
Vice President of EfVET

**New Finnish national representative in the EfVET Steering Committee**

I am Liisa Metsola, the newly elected Finnish national representative in the EfVET Steering Committee. I have a master’s degree in English language and MBA in educational leadership.

I work as a development director at Keskuspuisto vocational college’s development and resource center in Helsinki. I have over 20 years’ experience in vocational special needs education and I have been involved in many national working groups including, for example, curriculum development and student admission.

To our college the membership in EfVET has meant a possibility to benchmark European vocational education practices and a chance to find and form new partnerships. I am looking forward an interesting work in the Steering group.

**Spanish National Board**

The 4 February 2015 was set up the Spanish National Board, and were nominated Anabel Menica and Marian de Villanueva. Both of them are very grateful and want to involve more Spanish member on it, in order to be more active, to enlarge the number of members of EfVET, to influence VET policy, …

Special thanks to Vibeke Holtum Nørgaard, the National rep from Denmark, who has encouraged and supported all the process.

Marian de Villanueva

Changes in the Commission
ESCO is now the unit “Skills and Qualifications”. On December 16 2014 the European Commission adopted its work programme for 2015. In Employment two initiatives are mentioned “reduce unemployment through structural reforms and support for job creation and employability measures” and “support labour mobility”, especially in cases of persistent vacancies and skills mismatches, including across borders, which supporting the role of national authorities in fighting abuse or fraudulent claims (“mobility package”, They are currently working on these two initiatives.

Recent Developments
The EC is supporting the sub-group in charge of sectoral qualifications by mapping what is taking place in the Member States and charged GHK to look at what exists at the EU level in terms of initiatives linked to the EQF.

As a follow-up to attacks in France the Council of Europe will look at the legal aspect of fighting terrorism and make a clear priority on education with two main focuses: to develop competences on civic education and intercultural learning priority of (Committee of Ministers) including the religious dimension in its cultural aspect. In this first semester a conference of the ministry of ministers on how Ministries answer this challenge will take place. An ad hoc group of the steering committee on higher education will advise on the democratic mission of education.

VET Process Joan Santos
The Europe 2020 review is delayed and so is the ET2020 strategy as it is supposed to be linked. The Copenhagen process is also linked, so there might be slight changes to what was adopted in December by Member States (ACVET meeting of December 4-5 December 2014. To be confirmed: the Riga 5 key deliverables for the next 5 years are:
Work-based learning in all its forms (apprenticeships...) strong priority
Quality assurance, feedback loops to IVET and CVET
Access to training and qualifications for all in a lifelong learning perspective ((CVET)
Strengthen key competences in both IVET and CVET
Professional development of VET teachers and trainers and mentors
An advanced process but still not finalised. CEDEFOP will support this work
In February there will be the sports conference together with a ministerial meeting of sports ministers. There is a working group working on qualifications in the sports sector which expressed a growing interest on EQF levels. Links are to be found with the work of the EQF advisory group.

Referencing Reports
HU presented its referencing report which was endorsed by the EQF AG
CH presented its state of play to the EQF AG and announced that it would present its referencing report at the meeting on May 27-28 2015
KY is invited to provide the additional information needed to conclude the referencing process to the EQF AG in 2015
BG and EE (tbc) will give an update on its first referencing report in the 14-16 April 2015 meeting
EL will provide the additional information requested to conclude its referencing report at the 14-16 April or 27-28 May 2015 meeting
MK will present its state of play at the meeting 14-16 April 2015 and present its referencing report at the 27-28 May 2015 meeting or at the following meeting
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RO will re-submit its referencing report at the 14-16 April
SE and SK will present their referencing reports at the 5-6 October 2015 meeting
ES will present it referencing report in 2015
LI will present its state of play at the 5-6 October meeting and its referencing report at the 2-3 December 2015 meeting.

Geoff Scaplehorn

The Future of the Multilingualism Platform?

Following the re-structuring of the new European Commission, it has become increasingly evident that the Commission no longer has the promotion of actual multilingualism as its priority. As opposed to the previous Commission, Multilingualism no longer constitutes a unit of its own, but has become part of Unit B2 of the DG EAC, entitled “Schools and Educators, Multilingualism”.

The Platform, led by our new Chair Bessie Dendrinos, is launching a campaign to raise the profile of Multilingualism within the Commission and promoting important issues including:

- Respect for the value of all official EU languages spoken by 500.7 citizens, whether dominant or marginalised languages.
- Appreciation that multilingualism is synonymous with different ways of thinking and experiencing reality, resolving problems and conceiving novelty.
- Appreciation of the languages of our immigrant communities – largely untapped resources in the EU, where the demand for language competences at all levels of the workforce is expanding globally and the range and nature of languages being taught is insufficient.
- The right for immigrants, who are not proficient in the host language, to have access to basic public services in their own language or through interpretation/translation.
- The right of immigrants to be helped to learn the host country language as efficiently as possible, and to turn their bi- or tri-lingualism into an advantage rather than a handicap.
- The cultivation of a plurilingual ethos of communication which fosters intercultural awareness and encourages intercultural dialogue, as the EU markets have an accentuated need for a plurilingual workforce which will strengthen Europe’s economic development and give it a competitive edge.
- Given that foreign language literacy is acknowledged as one of the key competences in the 2020 European strategy to education for growth and employability, it is essential to develop the ability of Europeans to communicate in two languages in addition to their mother tongue.
- The development of and use of valid tools to obtain reliable comparable language learning results across the national education systems, the gap between demand and offer will become more visible.
- The dissemination of examples of good practice in language learning.

Geoff Scaplehorn
“The cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes: making the business case for apprenticeships” seminar.

Mr. Tibor Dori National Representative of Hungary), Mr. Panagiotis Anastassopoulos (National Representative of Greece) and Valentina Chanina presented EfVET at “Cost-effectiveness is a key factor in a company’s decision to offer an apprenticeship. Rather than viewing an apprenticeship as a cost it should be seen as an investment. However, this is dependent upon the context provided by national framework conditions. It is important to identify, as employers, what conditions could facilitate the involvement of companies in apprenticeship schemes”, BUSINESSEUROPE Social Affairs Director Maxime Cerutti said at a cluster seminar in Bratislava on 26-27 February. The seminar was the first one in a series of five that will take place throughout 2015 within the BUSINESSEUROPE-led project on the cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship schemes. The event brought together employer representatives from the target countries of Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Estonia as well as from the resource countries of Austria and Germany.

After three annual reports, the European social partners will evaluate the impact on both employers and workers. This evaluation can lead to an update of the priorities identified and/or an assessment on whether or not additional action is required in one or more of the priority areas.

Discussions were also enriched with the presence of experts in the field of vocational education and training.

ECVET Thematic Seminar “Teachers & Trainers” - Session 2:

“Embedding mobility in training provision and practice of teachers and trainers with the support of ECVET”

Warsaw, 9-10 December 2014

The aim of this session was to contribute to the identification of how teachers and trainers can contribute to provide their learners with mobility experiences through the use of ECVET principles and tools.

The seminar provided the opportunity to:

- Understand the impact of ECVET principles and tools on can have on a training system, with reference to recognized mobility;

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- Identify benefits and constrains of the use of ECVET to support VET mobility, both from the point of view of the sending and hosting VET schools;

- Clarify what could be the role and tasks of teachers and trainers in the use of ECVET for mobility, particularly regarding the needs of mobile learners (design of training programs, assessment and validation of learning outcomes).

Examples were presented which demonstrated different use of ECVET from just mobility to the full implementation of ECVET at IVET, Belgium (French community). All cases, presentation and reports can be found at:


Stelios Mavromoustakos
Vice President of EfVET

**ISP workshop**

Invitation:
Those who are interested in preventing early school leaving are invited to take part in a 2-day conference in Belgium on 17 & 18th of March.

Aim
To develop realistic and practical action plans to try to reduce ESL (early school leaving) at your own institution.

To whom
Professionals of education.

Objectives
Be aware of the reasons and figures of ESL at your institution.
Gain knowledge of other countries’ reasons.
Learn about best practices in other institutions/countries
Set a challenge - particular problem - you would like to take action on.

Have a look at the website: there you can find more information, and how to register: [www.isp-project.com](http://www.isp-project.com)
VET4EU2 – Press Release

VET4EU2 meeting with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)

Barcelona, 06-02-2015 // eucen informs about the VET4EU2 discussions with the EC in Brussels

On 29th January 2015, the representatives of the six European associations that form VET4EU2 (EFET, eucen, EuroVET, EURASHE, EVBB and EVTA) met in Brussels with the DG EMPL, Unit C5 (Vocational Training and Adult Education).

The participants of the full day meeting were welcomed by Mr João Santos, Acting Head of Unit C5. The Director of DG EMPL, “C” (Europe 2020: Employment Policies), Mr Detlef Schacht, presented the priorities of the Directorate and the role of VET and Adult Education. He stressed the important role of the VET providers (EFET, EuroVET, EVBB and EVTA) and the partner-associations in HE (Eucen) and EURASHE, and the willingness to work closely with them. The Director of DG Education and Culture (DG EAC) “C” (Youth and Sport), Mr Antonio Silva Mendes, gave an update on the Youth initiative under Erasmus+

In addition, the VET representatives were updated on the developments and progress on a number of key initiatives for VET undertaken by the Commission. Members working on each initiative gave presentations followed by discussions. The initiatives presented were:

- European Skills, Competence, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)
- Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE)
- ET2020 Joint Report
- 2015 Bruges Review
- VET Tools (i.e. ECET)
- Grand Coalition on Digital Jobs
- Analysis of Higher VET in the Europe

The six associations gave an update on their activities and actions while discussing ways of further collaboration with the DG EMPL.

Note about the editors

The European University Continuing Education Network, eucen, is the largest European multidisciplinary Association in University Lifelong Learning. EUCEN aims to foster universities influence in the development of lifelong learning knowledge and policies throughout Europe and to contribute to the economic and cultural life in Europe.
Transfer of Innovation and Development of Innovation projects in which EfVET or its members are a partner

EBBD+ project questionnaire

The European Single Market and increasing interdependency and mobility mean that employees need more than just excellent vocational skills to be competitive in the global job market. They must also possess foreign language skills, intercultural competences, flexibility, and mobility.

Do you already educate your students accordingly? Would you like to offer your students a specific programme not only providing the mentioned qualifications but to granting a Europe-wide standardized diploma and as a result offering better access to the European labour market and European universities?

Then the European Business Baccalaureate Diploma (EBBD) is just what you are looking for. As a diploma based on a standardized Europe-wide curriculum, EBBD can only be awarded by educational institutions that have proven that they cover all aspects of the curriculum and teach accordingly. The European Business Baccalaureate Diploma (EBBD) is a certificate of excellence which sets European quality standards. EBBD graduates do not only possess a wide range of skills and competences in business and economics, they also have advanced competences at least two foreign languages. A considerable portion of the business administration modules are taught in a foreign language. Simulations and projects both require the students to solve problems and develop other soft skills such as teamwork, professional communication, conflict management and time management. In addition, each EBBD graduate has spent at least 4 weeks living and working abroad as an intern in a foreign company. Work placements were made by applying European standards like Europass and ECVET. Further information regarding the EBBD certificate can be found at www.eurobaccdiploma.eu.

We would be most grateful if you could complete the online evaluation form before 15. March 2015. You can access the form here https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EBBDAdultEducation. Your feedback is very important to us !!!!!

Tell us which competences you already cover and in which cases you would have to implement additional courses. Send the answered questionnaire back to us and we will be pleased to consult you.

Thank you very much for participating in our questionnaire.

Valentina Chanina and Leif Haar
Connect-VET

Pilots are taking place in all partner countries to build cooperation between Higher Education, Vocational Training and business. At a breakfast workshop in the UK (pictured above), practical ways to achieve business growth (funding, skills gaps, apprenticeships and work placements) were discussed and actions agreed.

Partners include University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland (Coordinator); CSCS, Italy; Norton Radstock College, UK; Rogaland School and Business Foundation, Norway; Estonian University of Life Sciences; CDEA, Spain; Lapland Naturals, Finland; Universita degli Studi di Firenze, Italy; Bath Spa University, UK; Estonian Rural Tourism Organisation; EFVET and European University Continuing Education Network. For more information see http://www.luontoyrittaja.fi/558.html

The StorySHOP project

The next phase of the project was the development of the Digital Story Telling material and methodology - based on the results of the research. The key themes on which to work with the methodology had been identified by the partners:

- Interaction with other professionals
- Interaction with the patient/client
- Interaction with the relatives of the patient/client
- Interaction with other stakeholders (authorities...)
- Work/life balance
- Ethical dilemmas and moral distress
- Social perception of the care worker
- Status of the care work (Financial)
- Personal strength and weaknesses within the profession
- Interaction with people with a different cultural background

The proposed themes had been discussed by teachers and trainers in the health care sector in the participating countries and according to their feedback the list was extended and revised. The main outcome of the project is a handbook, illustrating a digital storytelling based learning methodology addressing healthcare professionals and their trainers, and it was tested during two pilot courses organised at the University of Applied Science of Italian Switzerland (SUPSI / DEASS).

A group of students and a group of workers were guided through a digital storytelling process, guided by staff members of seed association, SUPSI / DEASS and Well At Work, focusing on their professional experience.
All participants were introduced to specific features of stories, identified turning points in their life as healthcare workers, told a story about them and rendered it in digital format. The results were astonishing!

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

The reaction was definitely positive, from all involved people: participants had the chance to share their experience and thought with a group of peers, getting feedback and insights from them.

Furthermore, the activity allowed them to reach a better understanding of their own history and identity as professionals, overcoming some difficult situations which had been left unsolved for a while. We also received precious suggestions about how to improve the methodology, handbook and additional training materials we have so far developed.

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

ECVET PERMIT for Permeability and Transferability between the Non-Formal and Formal VET System

The project ECVET PERMIT for Permeability and Transferability between the Non-Formal and Formal VET System aims in the implementation of the ECVET methodology in the curricula of VET study programmes within the non-formal and formal VET system, at national and EU level, in an effort to increase the permeability and transferability of the learning outcomes achieved within different learning contexts.

Specifically, the project aims to apply the ECVET methodology for describing, assessing and validating learning outcomes in the VET study programmes of three non-formal technical specializations: (1) Electrician; (2) Plumber; (3) Automotive Mechanic, in order to test the transferability of credits from the non-formal to the formal VET system, firstly within the national boarders and secondly on EU level.

The project implementation will thus involve three specific objectives:
(1) To apply the ECVET methodology in a selected number of technical vocation programmes within the non-formal and formal VET system in three EU countries: Cyprus, Malta and Greece;
(2) To test the transferability of learning outcomes from the non-formal to the formal VET system at national and transnational level;
(3) To raise awareness about the benefits of the implementation of the ECVET system and promote the implementation of ECVET for permeability and transferability within the non-formal and formal VET system at national and European level.

The project aims are in line with the objectives & priorities of the Strategic Partnerships under the Erasmus+ programme and in particular:
• To enhance the quality and relevance of the learning programmes in non-formal VET sector, by applying the ECVET methodology and facilitating the transfer of credits from non-formal to formal VET system at national and transnational level;
• To facilitate the validation of non-formal learning and its permeability within formal education pathways.

Partners:

EDEX - Educational Excellence Corporation Limited (Intercollege), Cyprus
CPC - Cyprus Productivity Centre, Cyprus
HRDA - Human Resources Development Authority of Cyprus, Cyprus
IDEC - Aintek Symvouloi Epicheiriseon Efarmoges Ypsilis Technologias Ekpaidefsi Anonymi Etaireia, Greece
IIEK DELTA, Greece
MCAST - Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, Malta

Coordinator:  EDEX - Educational Excellence Corporation Limited (Intercollege)
Contact Details: Louiza Papaloizou
Email:  papaloizou.l@intercollege.ac.cy
Founding Agency: CYPRUS

Clil4U - Free language course for VET teachers

Three EfVET members (CECE, Intercollege, and SDE) are part of the CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) consortium titled Clil4U.

One of the latest results is a free online 10 module English CLIL language course for teachers.

The approach used on this language course attempts to allow teachers to experience CLIL for themselves.

Each Unit describes one aspect of CLIL. In this way, teachers will be reading about Content which is linked to the Language they will be learning and practicing.

1. Teachers first engage with a text about an aspect of CLIL. This has been placed in CLILStore (an online tool developed by TOOLS), where the text is linked to multiple dictionaries for ease of reading. There is also audio for each text.

The text for each Unit was especially written to highlight a particular language Point which would then be focused on later in the Unit.
The texts were also interwoven within the Guidebook.

The first step is therefore:
Getting to know about CLIL whilst developing:

- reading skills
- listening skills
- building up vocabulary
- helping with pronunciation

2. Teachers then read a Language Focus, which tells them more about the language point covered in the Unit.

This aims to help content teachers understand an area of Grammar which they do not know much about.

This second step aims to develop Language Knowledge.

3. Teachers can then practice the language point using interactive exercises written and designed to consolidate understanding of the Language Focus and practice it.

This third step provides interactive practice with immediate feedback for teachers reading through the website. In this way, there is no need for any trainer input.

4. For further practice, there are also links to other websites where teachers can read more about the language point, or do further practice.

The course is suitable even for language teachers who wish to develop and practice the language.

Try the course here: https://sites.google.com/site/clil4uprecourse/

You can visit the Clil4U website with lots of free CLIL materials: http://www.languages.dk/clil4u

Read more...
NBSN

NORDPLUS JUNIOR PROJECT - NORDIC BALTIC SCHOOL LEADER NETWORK

The project NBSN aims as a Nordplus project to create a network forum for school leaders to an active exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas between the Nordic and Baltic school leaders. The participating project partners are recruited to cover such a wide spectrum of problems that exist, regarding school leadership, and also to reach a balance between the Nordic and Baltic participants.

Coordinating school is Nova Academy Simrishamn Sweden and the partners schools from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and the Faroe Islands.

The result will, to the participants, bring a stronger professional profile, greater knowledge and help the leaders better be able to the function as school leaders in a good way. This will ultimately lead to a better school, which in turn will give students of all stages a greater knowledge and better preparations for a successful working life in the future, consequently better opportunities for a good life.

The project will be implemented through a serie of network meetings, of which the first took place in Tallinn, Estonia, Dec 1 - 3th 2014.

The next meeting will take place in Finland; May 4 - 6th in Kokkola and the meeting after Sept 7 - 9th in Kambsdali at the Faroe Islands.

More information at www.novaacademy.se/nordplus

“VOCOL” Cooperative Learning to develop transferable skills

The partners of the project “VOCOL” Cooperative Learning to develop transferable skills has visited us in Durango!

HETEL, which is taking part in the European Project VOCOL, promoted by Dundee and Angus College (Scotland) and co financed by the European Commission through Erasmus+, has welcomed in Durango the project partners to celebrate the second transnational meeting. The rest of the organizations of the project are Intercultural Iceland (Iceland), Regiovision (Germany), Institut Inpro (Czech Republic) and Böllnas City Council (Sweden).

The project’s aim is to fill the gap between the demand of transferable competences from companies and the training received by VET students with the use a pedagogical methodology
based on cooperative learning. This methodology will be implemented in the construction of learning triangles formed by VET students – VET trainers – Companies.

Last January, VET trainers from 4 centers of HETEL (Egibide, Goierri, La Salle Berrozpe and Lea Artibai), took part in a course in Iceland about this cooperative methodology. Xabi, Ainhoa, Amaia and Joseba, thank you very much for your commitment and congratulations for your good work!

VOCOL´s next step will be the transference of the before mentioned methodology to other VET trainers for its implementation in the centers. This topic along with the involvement of companies to build the learning triangles were the topics discussed during the meeting.

Dear VOCOL partners, it has been a pleasure to recieve you in Durango. See you soon in Böllnas!

For more information you can visit our project´s Website: http://vocoltriangles.eu/

The international conference of the “Employability Development Partnership of Achaia”

www.patrojobs.gr, successfully took place in Patras, Greece with the participation of delegates from Greece, Italy, Hungary, United Kingdom and Turkey. The outcomes of the conference are already uploaded at the official website, www.patrojobs.gr.

Patrajobs implements a 2 year project called “Local Network for the Employability Development of the prefecture of Achaia”.

The main objective of the Project is to support unemployed people in the Municipality of Patras, Greece, who mainly come from the following population groups: young, long-term unemployed, women and all those who aim to establish their own business. This will happen by training and consulting 100 unemployed persons in order to gain competitive advantage for their integration in the labor market.

Specifically, the key approach to this is provided through the activation and mobilization of local keyholders and businesses and through the diagnosis of the specific local needs and development potential in the area of Achaia. The sectors, the beneficiaries are being trained and consulted, are three: tourism, agricultural production and energy.
Up to now, the project has succeeded in promoting to the local market 17 beneficiaries that are hired from local companies and started a new career. Also 3 new companies have been created from the beneficiaries. A sailing tour office, an accountant office, and a center focused in rural culture development as a social enterprise.

The "Employability Development Partnership of Achaia" - www.patrajobs.gr, will continue its efforts so as all the beneficiaries of the project will find a job, according to their skills and abilities. It is believed that until September 2015, this goal will be reached.

www.patrajobs.gr

SecondChanceEducation.eu

The European learning platform for teachers, trainers, coaches and educators Launched!

SecondChanceEducation.eu, the European learning platform for teachers is kicked off. This knowledge and quality centre is designed to progress the learning of second chance educators working with NEET groups. The Consortium chairman, Reinhold Schiffers said: “We are extremely excited to launch the platform. Online tutoring solves the problem of learning beyond the classroom and can create possible employment where smart and versatile teachers, trainers, coaches and other industry specialists can become self-employed by teaching online and make a living for themselves. With the increase in Internet availability and affordable of computer/mobile devices, second chance education teachers and trainers can now do more meaningful things with their data packages.”
The knowledge centre will upgrade national development to European transversal setting, further the education of teachers, and provide qualitative benchmark for schools, tools for working with beneficiaries and validation of international placements. The developed tools provides opportunities to think and act borderless in second chance education.

For further information visit www.secondchanceeducation.eu and signup for our newsletter to contribute and keep updated with development. If you are a teacher, trainer, coach, educator or policy maker and would like to write an article in our newsletter, participate in training, or access any of our tools please contact us.

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