

## EfVET Newsletter

September 2009

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## Message from the President (September 2009)

### Dear Members

Welcome back to all of you following the summer vacation. I trust you are back fully refreshed and ready to meet the new challenges in the coming year.

In this September issue of the EfVET newsletter – you will find interesting features covering several European projects that members are currently involved in. EfVET has played its role as a disseminating partner in many of them and a big thank you to those members who have invited EfVET to provide this valuable service. New project partnerships are beginning to get off the ground following the approval process under the 2009 call. The time is also rapidly approaching for ideas and partnerships to come together for the next 2010 round – I trust those attending Conference this year will use the time effectively to develop these. Should members wish to use EfVET in this regard they are encouraged to contact either myself or Stefano Tirati on [projects@efvet.org](mailto:projects@efvet.org).

### Developments in relation to EU policy and EC consultations.

Over recent months and weeks EfVET has been actively involved in a range of meetings / public hearings and seminars organised by DG EAC or in association with EUCIS LLL Platform and EC. These include involvement in an EQF seminar and working party reporting to the EC and a public hearing on mobility.

Following a meeting between myself and Helen Clark (Head of Unit B responsible for all Lifelong Learning programmes) in late July, EfVET has been invited to co-ordinate a detailed assessment of the LLP programmes and funding streams which will go forward to the EC discussions on the future format of the LLP from 2010 to 2015. Shortly members will be invited to express their views on the nature and funding of programmes under Leonardo, Erasmus, Grundvig and other initiatives including mobility. I would encourage you to participate in formulating new ideas that improve the implementation and effectiveness of the LLP in meeting needs.

Furthermore – EfVET has also been invited to prepare a report on ‘Mobility’ as part of the Consultation process launched by DG EAC following the publication of the ‘Mobility’ Green paper. Stefano Tirati – Italian National Representative and EfVET Exec. Member is co-ordinating this and your views can be posted on [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) shortly. In addition we will use the mobility marketplace within Conference this year to elicit views and perspectives in this regard.

We hope you will actively participate in these forum discussions so as EfVET can ensure your voice and opinion can be heard.

Finally under this banner, EfVET has been invited to attend and contribute to a major Symposium on ‘Creativity and Innovation in VET’ – a specific debate relating to Vocational Education and Training to be held in Brussels on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The issues to be discussed within this relate to Creativity and Innovation in terms of VET reforms and improvements at European and National level and creativity and innovation in terms of what this means to learners.

The timing of this symposium is ideal given our Conference theme this year. It is our intention to contribute to this debate with a report on findings from Conference.

This leads me finally to say a little about Conference – to be held in Bilbao between 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October. Full details and registration / hotel booking and roundtable booking can be found on [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) . – suffice to say here that this will be one of our best conferences in recent years – we currently have over 170 delegates registered so far from a wide number of member states. The Head of Creativity and Innovation from the European Commission will be present and as usual it will be highly interactive. A big thank you to our colleagues in the Basque Country, especially Miren Bastida and Jose Luis Fernandez Maure for their efficient organisation and assistance in preparing for Conference.

I look forward to meeting you all, or many of you, at Conference

Warmest regards to you all



**Peter Hodgson**  
**President**  
president@efvet.org

## Méssage du Président (septembre 2009)

**Chers Membres,**

Vous retournez après les grandes vacances. J'espère que vous vous êtes tous bien reposés et maintenant prêts à affronter des défis de l'année à venir

Dans ce bulletin. Vous trouverez des rapports de plusieurs projets auxquels nos membres participent. EfVET a joué le rôle comme toujours de partenaires de dissemination et je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui ont invité EfVET à y participer de cette façon. On commence avec de nouveaux projets, suite à appel de l'année 2009. Il sera bientôt temps de formuler des idées et de créer des partenariats pour l'appel de 2010. Je suis certain que vous prendrez l'occasion de notre conférence annuelle pour développer ces idées. Si vous cherchez l'aide d'EfVET, je vous prie de me contacter ou Stefano Tirati [projects@efvet.org](mailto:projects@efvet.org)

### **Des consultations sur les politiques VET européennes**

Au cours des mois passés, EfVET a participé à une série de réunions de colloques et d'ateliers organisés soit par la DG EAC, soit en association avec le plateforme EUCIS et la Commission Européenne – un atelier sur l'EQF et un groupe de travail qui rapporteront directement à la Commission et un colloque publique sur la mobilité.

Suite à une réunion en juillet 2009 avec Helen Clark (Chef de l'Unité B responsable pour les programmes LLL) on a invité EfVET de coordonner une valorisation détaillée des programmes LLL et un commentaire sur le budget prévu qui seront présentés au processus de discussions sur la structure du programme LLL de 2010 à 2015. Nous vous contacterons bientôt pour solliciter vos opinions sur la continuation des programmes Leonardo, Erasmus et Grundtvig et d'autres initiatives, y compris la mobilité Je voudrais vous encourager à participer à la formulation de nouvelles idées qui amélioreront l'implémentation et l'efficacité des programmes LLP.

Stefano Tirati – notre représentant national d'Italie et membre de l'Exécutif – coordonnera vos opinions sur *le papier vert sur la mobilité*, publié récemment et au résultat d'un processus de consultation lancé par la DG EAC. On vous demandera bientôt de mettre vos opinions sur le site web [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org). Nous entendrons vos opinions aussi au cours de notre Marché de Mobilité pendant la Conférence.

On a invité EfVET de participer à un symposium important sur la Créativité et l'Innovation en VET – un débat spécial à Bruxelles le 27 octobre 2009. On y discutera les questions qui concernent les réformes de VET et des améliorations au niveau européen et dans chaque pays membre quant à l'influence de créativité et d'innovation sur les apprenants.

La date de ce symposium qui suivra notre conférence est vraiment idéale et c'est notre intention de rapporter nos conclusions établies à Bilbao.

Enfin la Conférence qui aura lieu du 21 au 24 octobre 2009. Vous en trouverez de l'information détaillée de régistration, de réservation d'hôtel et le programme.

Actuellement nous aurons 170 participants d'un grand nombre de pays. Le Chef de Créativité et d'Innovation à la Commission Européenne fera une présentation importante et comme toujours il y aura beaucoup d'interactivité.

Je voudrais vraiment remercier nos collègues au Pays Basque, surtout Miren Bastida et José Luis Fernandez Maure pour leur organisation impeccable et leur assistance à faire des préparations pour notre conférence.

J'attends avec impatience l'occasion de vous rencontrer tous à Bilbao.

Mes sentiments chaleureux

Peter Hodgson  
President  
president@efvet.org

## **EfVET Central Office relocation**

EfVET has now moved to a new office, which is located few meters from the Place du Luxembourg opposite the EU Parliament and the new address is:

EfVET Central Office  
Rue d'Arlon, 40  
B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
efvet@efvet.org

## **18<sup>th</sup> EfVET International Conference**

**Bilbao, Pais Vasco, Spain**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Venue:                   Hotel Ercilla  
Ercilla 37 – 39  
48011 BILBAO**

**Conference theme:**

**Creativity and Innovation in Vocational Education and Training**

**For registration of conference and hotel please go to [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org) - conferences**

## **EUCIS-LLL Workshop EQF and NQF: Tools for Learning Continuity?" 22 September 2009 in Brussels**

Geoff Scaplehorn represented EfVET at this workshop at which he gave one of the presentations. He described how the nine levels English National Framework had been referenced to the eight levels European Qualification Framework. There were other presentations by Michel Feutrie of EUCEN, Pasqualino Mare of EVTA and Eeva-Inkeri Sirelius of EAEA.

The core of the EQF is these eight reference levels describing what a learner knows, understands and is able to do – “learning outcomes”. The EQF applies to all types of education, training and qualifications, from school education to academic, professional and vocational. It is to be implemented by all Member States, in conformity to the subsidiarity principle. Following widespread discussion, eight issues were raised for further investigation:

- The concept of “Learning Outcomes” to be accepted in all National Qualification Frameworks
- The need for recognition of informal and non-formal learning within the system
- The need for the recognition of the diverse range of qualifications outside the formal structures academic and vocational education and training.
- Ensure continuity and progression up the levels, particularly from levels 4 to 5 and levels 5 to 6. Mobility is not just geographical.
- The need for impartial guidance and support structures to ensure learners progress to the highest level
- How regulated professions can be included in the Frameworks
- The need for transparency throughout
- The work of the National Coordination Points must continue to implement the EQF in all Member States once the referencing process is completed

Geoff Scaplehorn will continue to monitor the EQF developments and would welcome information on the progress of EQF implementation in each of the Member States. If you obtain relevant information, he would be pleased to receive any such information. Please e-mail him on [geoff@acer.ac.uk](mailto:geoff@acer.ac.uk)

### **AGM EfVET Denmark**

On November 18th EfVET-DK has its AGM in Odense. In connection with the AGM we have an arrangement on the theme “How do we get internationalization out into every corner of the school?”

- Experiences from Aalborg Business School
- Sending students to the USA
- Business students doing practice in Turkey
- Social and health students doing practice in Europe
- The transatlantic network
- Danish participation in World Skills Canada 2009
- Members disseminate projects

Members of EfVET will be notified at the end of September

Louise Rosthøj, Chair EfVET-DK

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## **Two of the major projects of which Intercollege is the coordinator, is MINT (Adapting, Improving and Disseminating an INnovation Management Training package through Blended Learning) project and Gender-IT project.**

The Leonardo Transfer of Innovation Project, which we refer to with the acronym **MINT**, adapts, updates and promotes the findings of a former Leonardo project which primarily dealt with innovation management techniques and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), while simultaneously developing relevant and innovative e-learning content. The project has started in 2007 and Intercollege is the coordinator. The primary target group for this project is made up of owners, managers and high-level personnel of SMEs in targeted industrial sectors. The secondary target group includes University departments of Industrial Engineering and Management courses, as well as trainers, designers and managers of training programmes. The partnership consortium is made up of 9 partners from 7 European countries (BE, CY, EL, ES, IT, LT and UK).

The main aims and objectives of the project that are currently within their final completion process are in short: to adapt, and improve the innovation management training package; to employ blended learning techniques by developing an online course regarding innovation management tools; to pilot and promote the training package to SME owners, managers and trainers through workshops and conferences; to assist SMEs' owners, managers and higher-level personnel in obtaining innovation management skills and in understanding how firms in other Member States have successfully implemented innovation and to foster an innovation culture among European businesses and generate discussion, exchange of ideas / views and transfer of experience on innovation management.

The final conference of the project MINT which was held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 in Thessaloniki included, among others, a summary of the activities that the team of the project underwent during its implementation, presentation of the projects products and outcomes, and very importantly two new tools were presented, the Analytical Audit Tool on Knowledge Management and the Analytical Audit Tool on Creativity and Innovation Management.

**For more information please visit the project website: <http://www.mintproject.org/>**

Another very important project that started in 2007 and of which Intercollege is the coordinator is the **Gender-IT** project which is a two-year initiative co-funded by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, under the Leonardo da Vinci Action. This project is implemented by seven partners from Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

The gender-IT project aims to contribute to innovative and attractive VET practices in the ICT sector in order to cover the existing gender gap with women accounting for less than 20% of computer systems designers, analysts and programmers in the EU27. Its specific objective is to build a sustainable multistakeholder network at a European level which will actively foster gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector. Furthermore, its operational aims are to: create a comprehensive, virtual resource centre on gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector at European level; promote good practices and innovative approaches in VET for the ICT sector regarding gender mainstreaming; identify trends of gender mainstreaming in VET for the ICT sector

and resulting impacts on VET practice; raise awareness, inform and engage stakeholders and women; expand the network, exploit its results and set the basis for sustainability.

**For more information please visit the project website:** <http://www.gender-it.eu> or should you have any queries, please contact us at [information@gender-it.eu](mailto:information@gender-it.eu)

**Also, for information on both projects you may contact Dr. Stylianos Mavromoustakos, Executive Director of Intercollege, at** [mavromoustakos.s@intercollege.ac.cy](mailto:mavromoustakos.s@intercollege.ac.cy).

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

Our Train the Trainer pack has been developed and we will shortly be piloting the product as part of teacher training programmes across Europe. If you are interested in finding innovative ways to embed life skills into vocational teaching, we would like to hear from you. EfVET members are invited to participate in the pilot phase. For more information, visit the website <http://www.life-keyskills.info/> and contact [rosaleen.courtney@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:rosaleen.courtney@nortcoll.ac.uk)





The next meeting will take place in Italy in September when the project team will discuss the pilot phase and dissemination activities. There will also be a round table discussion at the EfVET conference.

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

### **International Development Officer – validation of non-formal and informal learning (IDOLearn)**

At the last project team meeting, partners looked at ways of assessing and validating informal and non-formal learning for those involved in international development work in VET institutions. The next step is for a training package to be developed and piloted. It is hoped that the outcomes of the project will be useful to the VET sector and others involved in international work such as businesses.

The partnership includes members from Finland, Romania, France, Greece, Italy, Norton Radstock College (UK) and EfVET. The next meeting will take place in October in Bath, UK when the team will be welcomed by the Mayor of Bath.

For more information on project progress go to [www.idolearn.net](http://www.idolearn.net) . There will be a round table discussion at the EfVET conference.



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

A training course (workshops and distance learning) and learning materials are currently being designed to raise accessibility awareness and improve the skills of those working in the tourism sector, policy makers and those working within the municipalities. The first pilot courses will run early in 2010.

Partners are co-ordinator Cdea (ES), Norton Radstock College (UK), Gruppo Adapta (ES), CSCS (IT), Neils Brock College (DK), Euro\_Contact Business School (H) and EfVET. Social partners include Pantagrue (IT) and Bath Tourism Plus (UK). This Transfer of Innovation project builds on learning methodologies tried and tested under the European Rural Tourism Development pilot project (2004-2007). For more information, go to [www.tactall.org](http://www.tactall.org). There will be a round table discussion at the EfVET conference.

### **The Good School project - Sharing good practice in colleges across Europe**

The project team will disseminate the outcomes of the project in Zwolle, the Netherlands on 18<sup>th</sup> September. One of the outcomes is a useful booklet covering key issues in education today which will help all those involved in the VET sector to find solutions to problems. The team includes partners from Marijampole VET College, Lithuania; CPH WEST, Denmark; Landstede VET, the Netherlands; ITE-CECE, Spain, EfVET and Norton Radstock College, UK.

### **QUAVETS – Quality improvement in Vocational Education and Training.**

This 'Partnership project' seeks to share good practice and extend opportunities for mobility to develop and share quality improvement strategies and standards across Europe. The aim is to identify the competencies that make workers 'ready for work' and reduce the gap between school based and work based systems.

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

More information can be found on the project website:

<http://www.idan.is/throunarverkefni/quavets/>



### **Modular e-course with virtual coach tool support**

The team are developing course materials, which will be made into 'e-learning objects'; these will make the learning materials more attractive to participants of the training course and will integrate in a technical way with the 'CoachBot' support tool.

For more information, go to <http://www.forcom.it/coachbotproject/>

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

This transversal project, promoted by the European Academy for Sustainable Rural Development, commenced in January 2009.

The project builds on the Euracademy Observatory and Eurovalidation projects and the aims and objectives are as follows:

1. Improve and expand the documentation of e-learning supply and demand in rural areas, initially started by the Euracademy Observatory [www.euracademy-observatory.org](http://www.euracademy-observatory.org)
2. Create a wide network of key stakeholders (e-learning providers, social partners, policy makers)
3. Launch a campaign of awareness-raising in the 11 participating countries and the EU more generally
4. Introduce new methods of guidance to help rural people to take advantage of e-learning



The main deliverable of the project will be to create a guidance tool using Games Based Learning (GBL) to familiarise users with the process of selecting and using e-learning products; and make available this tool to the network and any other interested organisation.

There are 13 partners, including EfVET - .Euracademy Association–Project Promoter (GR), PRISMA-Centre for Development Studies )GR) –Project Coordinator, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Seinajoki Unit )FI), Nicolas Copernicus University (PL), University of Rostock (DE), .Norton Radstock College (UK) Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Regional Studies (H), Mediterranean Institute for Sustainable Development (ES), EMMERCE EEIG (SE), Estonian Information Technology Foundation (EE), EduLearn, Software and Multimedia, Lda (PT), IBIMET (IT), Typical Mutations – Web Services LLP (GR)

The project website is available at [www.e-ruralnet.eu](http://www.e-ruralnet.eu)

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## Key Data on Education in Europe 2009

[Key Data on Education in Europe](#) sets out a very wide variety of both qualitative and quantitative indicators on different aspects of education systems in 31 European countries. The report presents a comparative analysis on how the education systems are organised, the human and financial resources invested in them, teaching processes and qualifications awarded. However, it does not contain data on early school leavers and how to prevent this as well as how to tackle equity issues.

One of the key messages is that the demographic change poses challenges for education systems. In general the population of school-age pupils is declining. At the same time the group of teachers closest to retirement is over-represented, many countries will experience teacher retirement on a very large scale in the near future and possible shortages in certain areas.

To read the report, please [click here](#):  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/key\\_data\\_series/105EN.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/key_data_series/105EN.pdf)

## Green Paper on Learning Mobility

The European Commission published a Green Paper on "[Promoting the learning mobility of young people](#)" : [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1553\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1553_en.htm) 8 July 2009. Spending a period in another country for learning, working or volunteering is one of the primary opportunities in which young people can strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development. There are lots of mobility programmes, tools and initiatives reach out to young Europeans in a wide range of situations and contexts. However, going abroad still remains the exception rather than the rule. It is more accessible to groups, such as students, than to others, like vocational trainees and apprentices.

Aim of the document is opening up a debate on how best to boost the opportunities for young people in Europe to develop their knowledge and skills by going abroad. With this Green Paper the Commission launched a [public consultation](#) which will be open until 15 December 2009.

## **Impressum:**

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

New deadline for manuscripts: **1 December 2009.**