



EFVET Newsletter

September 2005

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Message from the President (September 2005)

Visit to Commissioner for Education and Training, Mr Ján Figel'

A delegation of EFVET, the AOC (UK) and the BVE-Raad (NL) had a meeting with the European Commissioner for Education and Training, Mr Ján Figel'. Mr Figel' appreciated EfVET's role in bringing together practitioners and their active dialogue with the commission on VET matters and Lifelong Learning. He was very pleased with EfVET's efforts to engage VET practitioners from the new member states. Information was exchanged with Mr Figel's staff and a number of further appointments were made with the Directorate General Education and Training.

Bve Raad and AoC will submit a proposal to the Leonardo Programme for capacity building of VET Managers in those countries where neither principals' networks nor VET branch organisations exist, under the name of EfVET.



14th Annual EfVET Conference in Hungary

The conference in Hungary is taking shape now. The title of the conference is **“Bridging the Skills Gap Together - opportunities for cooperation between VET institutions in an enlarged Europe”**. You can find out more about the Conference at: <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu>.

Call for participation

If you work together with any partners in the new European member states, please invite them to the conference. You may even plan a project-meeting there, so that the costs can be covered by project money.

EfVET Web

EfVET’s web gets about 40.000 hits per year. Its current structure is not longer up-to-date. The Steering Committee agreed on a new design. It will be implemented immediately after the conference in Budapest. It will allow members to change their own data and add new data as well.

May I remember members that they have the right to have their own web-page on the EfVET web, which can of course include a link to the official web of your own institution. For new-comers, these member-pages are a real source of information, so I would encourage members to use this service. Contact our web-master for details: Kent Andersen ka@ots.dk

EQF Consultation Paper July 2005

The European Commission launched a consultation paper on the proposed European Qualifications Framework. For details, see http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/presentation_eqf_en.pdf and http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/consultations_en.html

As agreed with ‘Mr Figel’, EfVET will take part in the consultation process.

The Scottish government and the UK Government are organising a conference, "Qualifications Frameworks - Learning Across Boundaries **Glasgow, Scotland, 22 September - 23 September 2005**". The conference addresses mobility across educational, occupational and geographical borders. Details

on this conference and other activities under the UK presidency may be found at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/>

Keep up to date on European Policies

In case you may have forgotten, the site with information on European VET policies starts at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring autumn and I hope to meeting you in Budapest.

Hans F. van Aalst
President
president@efvet.org

Méssage du Président (août 2005)

Visite au Commissaire pour l'Education et la Formation, Ján Figel

Une delegation de l'EfVET, l'AoC (UK) et le BE Raad (NL) a tenu une réunion avec le Commissaire pour l'Education et la Formation, M. Ján Figel. Monsieur Figel a beaucoup apprécié le role de l'EfVET , qui a réuni des praticiens du VET et la Commission Européenne pour discuter les defies de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle y compris de l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie. Il était fort content que l'EfVET ait fait de grands efforts d'accueillir des praticiens du VET dans les nouveaux pays membres de l'UE. Nous avons partagé de l'information avec les représentants du Directorat pour l'Education et la Formation et nous avons arrangé des autres réunions dans l'avenir.

BVE Raad et L'AoC présenteront un dossier au Programme Leonardo pour developper des réseaux de dirigeants du VET, sous l'égide de 'EfVET, dans ces pays où il n'existe ni réseau, ni organisations qui représentent les besoins des institutions du VET.

14ème Conférence Annuelle en Hongrie

La Conférence en Hongrie prend désormais forme. Le titre de la conference est: **“Comblers Ensemble les Lacunes en matière de Compétences – des opportunités de coopération entre les institutions du VET dans une Europe élargie”**.

Vous pouvez trouver plus de renseignements à propos de la conférence sur: <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu>

Appel à la participation!

Si vous travaillez avec des partenaires dans les nouveaux pays membres de l'UE, invitez-les à participer à notre conference à Budapest. Vous pourriez organiser une réunion de votre projet au même temps et ainsi, certains de vos frais seraient financés des fonds de votre projet.

Le site Web de l'EfVET

Notre site reçoit 40000 "hits" à peu près par an. La structure du site n'est plus à jour. Le conseil de pilotage de l'EfVET s'est mis d'accord sur une nouvelle conception pour le site. Immédiatement après la Conférence à Budapest, la nouvelle conception sera réalisée. Cela permettra à nos membres de changer et d'ajouter leur information directement. Je voudrais vous rappeler que tous les membres ont le droit à une page individuelle sur notre site. Cette page peut avoir un lien direct au site officiel de l'établissement.

Ces pages des membres offrent aux nouveaux-venus une vraie source d'information, donc je voudrais vous encourager tous d'utiliser cette service.

Mettez-vous en contact avec notre "Web-master", Kent Andersen ka@ots.dk

EQF Consultation (juillet 2005)

La Commission Européenne a lancé une consultation sur la proposition d'un Cadre de Qualifications Européen. Vous en trouverez les détails à:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/presentation_eqf_en.pdf and
http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/consultations_en.html

Comme convenu avec Monsieur Figel, l'EfVET participera à cette consultation.

Les Gouvernements de l'Ecosse et du Royaume Uni organisent une conférence: "**Cadres de Qualifications – Formation à travers les frontières**" à Glasgow 22-23 septembre 2005. Cette conférence s'adressera à la question de la mobilité à travers les frontières éducatives, professionnelles et géographiques.

Vous trouverez des détails de cette conférence et des autres activités de la Présidence du Royaume Uni à:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/>

Tenez-vous à jour à propos des Politiques Européennes!

Au cas où vous l'auriez oublié, le site contenant les informations sur les politiques européennes du VET commence ici:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

Profitez bien d'un automne fructueux et stimulant et j'espère vous rencontrer à Budapest!

Hans F. van Aalst
Président
president@efvet.org

Latest news about the 14th Annual International Conference, Budapest

As you all may know our next Annual Conference will take place between the **26th and 29th of October 2005** in Budapest, Hungary. There are still free places on the list of the delegates so catch up!

We are proud to announce the conference will be held under the patronage of **Hungarian Minister of Employment and Labour, Mr. Gábor Csizmár**. The Minister will open the programme of the conference on the 27th October and will join us during the programme in the Parliament.

The pool of our speakers increased as well: as a keynote speaker accepted our invitation: **Mr. Christian F. Lettmayr deputy director of CEDEFOP, Mr. Arjen Vos Head of Department for Enlargement and South Eastern Europe European Training Foundation (ETF), Mr. John Berkeley Head of SEMTA, and Ms Martina Ní Cheallaigh responsible for vocational training and adult education European Commission.**

If you have a project to popularize, or some best practice issues, or a good topic for a debate, do not hesitate to **launch a new workshop or roundtable** on the website of the conference! After registration click on the workshop info button on the website and launch a new workshop or roundtable. It is free of charge and the perfect solution to show your project to Europe!

For registration and further information please visit the official website of the conference: <http://www.efvet.oktopusz.hu/> “

Kristof Fischer

Meeting with EC

Present: Ján Figel (Euro Commissioner Education and Culture), members of his cabinet and staff members of the unit Education and Training
Hans van Aalst and Jos Leenhouts (EfVET)
Rob Schuur (EfVET Netherlands)
Nick Lewis and Sue Dutton (Association of Colleges)
Hans Huibers and Marijke Dashorst (Bve Raad)

Ján Figel underlined in his opening the importance of Vocational Education and Training (VET). The process and the progress of developments need to be fastened, in order to shape the Copenhagen en Maastricht agreements. At the moment there is too much indistinctness on ‘who does what’. He agrees with the conclusions of the ‘VET for the future’ conference of December 2004. VET providers need to be more involved in the process, both in the development and implementation phase. Besides that, participation in the social economic debate is desired. Figel will contribute to Euro Skills 2008 in Rotterdam.

The EfVET delegation placed the following remarks:

It’s important to narrow the gap between EU policy and the EU citizens. VET providers can play a role in this process, provided that they are involved in the policymaking and -evaluation processes. This implies consultation from the EU not only by Departments of Education of several countries, but also by experts that can be provided via EfVET.

It's important to work on capacity building in those countries where neither principals' networks nor VET branch organisations exist. Especially new member states say this is a necessity for constructing VET in an efficient way.

Agreements/conclusions:

- we will have an important contribution to Euro Skills 2008 in Rotterdam. As soon as possible after informing the relevant people in The Netherlands, we will send a letter of intent to Ján Figel;
- Bve Raad and AoC will submit a proposal to the Leonardo Programme for capacity building, under the name of EfVET. The proposal will be communicated to Margarida Gameiro, Jan Figel's Chief of Cabinet;
- We will be informed about upcoming tenders dealing with the implementation of the European Framework, formal and non-formal learning, etc. in time;
- After the Joint Report 2006, a new coordination group will be established. Besides representatives from departments and social partners, EfVET will have to be represented as well.

Bve Raad

EU News

Vocational training to receive 86m euro boost

In Short:

The Commission has selected 295 projects from 31 countries to receive Leonardo da Vinci grants to support innovative pilot projects linking vocational education and training.

Brief News:

The 295 projects will directly contribute to the development of a well-functioning European labour market, with transparent and transferable vocational qualifications, and to the improvement of vocational training systems and practices throughout Europe, says the Commission in a press release.

Less qualified workers are one of the target groups for developing appropriate training/learning materials to improve skills in the current batch or projects. Upgrading skills is a key priority for the UK presidency of the EU (see [EurActiv 19 July](#)).

The 2006 selection round will be the last in the current phase of the Leonardo da Vinci programme, which is due to end in 2006. From then on, vocational training activities will continue to be supported under the new Integrated Action Programme in the field of lifelong learning (2007-2013) that has been proposed by the Commission.

In a separate development, the Commission has started infringement proceedings against Spain and France with regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Public Tenders and Calls for Proposals in the EU

Study on key education indicators on social inclusion and efficiency, mobility, adult skills and active citizenship

The overall objective of their contract is to contribute to the programme "Education and Training 2010" by supporting statistical and analytical work linked to it.

Deadline: 10 October 2005

Web: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/calls/3305/index_en.html

Towards a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning – Consultation launched by Commissioner Figel’

At a mid-July meeting in London, EU Ministers of Education debated the emerging European Qualifications Framework. The presentation by Education Commissioner Jan Figel’ is in part a response to the "ambitious" request of the European Council to adopt a recommendation on the EQF by 2006.

- **What is the EQF?** – A Translation device for comparing qualifications and Neutral reference point based on learning outcomes
- **How it works** - The core of the EQF is the 8 common achievement levels based on learning outcomes. Each of these specific achievement levels correspond to a comparable level of knowledge, skills and wider aspects of competence (such as autonomy).
- **Who is affected** – With greater transnational transparency and comparability, the EQF benefits all levels of stakeholders: individuals, sectors, employers and social partners and education and training systems as a whole.

 [*Towards a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning*](#)

Source: ACE

POOLS - a Leonardo II project October 1st 2005 to September 30th 2007

Needs documentation: In 2000 a survey among teachers in the EU countries "The European Language Learning Materials Survey" showed that teachers of less taught languages have little pedagogical and methodological training and the course materials for these languages were rarely communicative in nature. The survey emphasized the need for improvement in this area. This was in 2002 followed up in a report to the EU Commission "The Training of Teachers of a Foreign Language: Developments in Europe" (Revised Report, August 2002) which in its recommendations p. 75 states that "All teachers should be trained in the use of ICT approaches for interactive use with pupils in the classroom" and p.

79 “More efforts needs to be made to make initial teacher training modules and in-service course content available online and in other distance learning forms”.

It is the aim of pools to address the above documented needs by creating pools of online copyleft resources (Copyleft is a way to license a work so that unrestricted redistribution, copying and modification is permitted, provided that all copies and derivatives retain the exact same licensing) and to develop, test and disseminate flexible competence based teacher training course modules. The course modules, also “copyleft”, will deal with ICT approaches and development of ICT based materials for teachers of less taught languages like Basque, Danish, Dutch, Gaelic, Lithuanian, and Romanian.

The project will build on results from a previous project (BP-BLTM) as well as results from other ICT and LA projects, the partnership will seek to cluster with these projects to ensure exchange of expertise and results and achieve broader impacts through joint dissemination.

The project target group is teachers of the less taught languages in technical colleges. Due to the limited range of ICT materials for these languages the teachers often have to develop materials themselves if they want to exploit the many advantages of eLearning.

The final products will be:

1. Pools of online copyleft materials to be used during in-service teacher training courses and in teaching.
2. Flexible competence based language teacher course modules on ICT methodologies and development of ICT based teaching resources. The modules will be developed for in-service, distance, and blended courses
3. A DVD with step by step instructions and examples on how to create multimedia online material.
4. A course book (downloadable .pdf file) with description of language teaching eLearning materials and methodologies
5. A website, which will serve as portal to clustering projects and other ICT and LA projects. The site will contain all of the project materials, videos, discussion area and e-mail lists.

The project website is www.languages.dk/methods a website which already has +13.000 individual visitors per year (and when searching for “language teaching materials” the site is well positioned on page one in Yahoo and Google). The European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training will as a partner ensure dissemination to decision makers in hundreds of vocational institutions across Europe.

If you are part of a language project (or have already completed one) then please consider clustering your results with other language teaching projects. Through cooperation we can reach out to our end users and thus cause a significant impact. By sharing information and results we avoid reinventing the wheel.

Pools is a Leonardo II supported project developing teacher training courses based on pools of materials for nine languages; Basque, Danish, Dutch, English, Gaelic (Scottish), German, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Spanish, but it is also a main objective to cluster with other language projects.

Let the pools website serve as a portal to your results. From the website you also have access to copyleft language teaching materials and methods manuals that you may include in your own projects.

To join the pools teams please e-mail ka@ots.dk



Report on the activities 2004-2005

The "NordPlus Neighbour Programme" was instigated in 2004 by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The aim is to support educational network between the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries and Northwest Russia i.e. the regions of St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad and Barents. The programme also aims at helping to make a stable development in the regions, strengthening the democratic process and increase the common values in Northern Europe.

As TeSe already had very good relations to VET-colleges in St. Petersburg, Lithuania and Finland it was evident that we should apply for a grant. The interest was concentrated on teambuilding for the college staff and competence based learning. In order to establish such new measures, it is necessary that the college management take ownership of the idea. So we invited 2 managers from each of the schools – 4 from Russia and 4 from Lithuania, and from 7 of the schools the director was present.

The teachers from Finland and Denmark met for a few days in Copenhagen in order to decide upon their roles at the seminars. The Danish teachers were experts in teambuilding and the Fins in competence based learning. All made very good presentation material in power points, and this was sent to the two interpreters (English teachers) so that they were familiar with the "jargon" before the seminar. Meeting and working with the Fins was great. We could really "ping-pong" together and the "chemistry" between all of us was very good which naturally facilitates co-operation.

A special feature was that two of the participants were not only school people, but had other positions that would guarantee implementation and dissemination:

Michail Polyakov is a member of the St. Petersburg government's "Committee of Education" and is head of department of the VET section. As such he will work with the four schools and use them as pilot schools before implementing the Russian version in the whole region. Russia as a whole is changing its VET system, but in St. Petersburg they seldom hear from the ministry in Moscow. Still the Finnish system of competence based learning will be used in all Russia.

Nijole Deksnienė is President of the Lithuanian IMK (The Club for Active-Initiative Schools).

Through seminars she is disseminating the topics to most VET-schools in the country, and she also has close relations to Mr. Puvaskis who is Head of Department of VET in the ministry of education and very much involved in the current change of the VET system.

These two highly placed persons will ensure the success of the project.

Seminar no. 1 in Lithuania

We had chosen to place the first seminar at a cultural centre in rural Lithuania, so that the participants could socialize immediately. And it was quite a success! There were some political discussions between the Russians and the Lithuanians, but as the atmosphere was good it was in a friendly way, and they all felt that having an open mind makes you see things in a different way. Our contact there had done a marvellous job of arranging everything including some cultural excursions, and two of the Lithuanian schools put their busses at the disposal of the group. In the evening there was time for reflection and discussions on the topics from the seminar day. Naturally there was some trouble with languages – the teaching team had to take care with time as there were translations into two languages. Our guess was that we could have chosen only to translate into Russian, as the Lithuanian group understands Russian, but it was evident for political reasons that we should not suggest that. Also in the programme we had set time off for national discussions, so that everyone was sure that they had understood the topics. This gave room for many questions, and that was the way for us to see that they were really interested and wanted to try out some of the models presented.

All participants were given a CD-ROM with the materials after each seminar. This they can use for their own teachers and for dissemination.

At the end of both seminars the national groups were asked to make a written evaluation and we took pain to meet their demands.

In spite of the lack of time most managers have when at home the whole group agreed to do homework for the next seminar. The national groups met several times at home to discuss topics and implementation models and naturally we take that as a sign of success.

Seminar no. 2 in Denmark

It was wonderful to see that all the participants showed up for the seminar in Copenhagen – knowing that they are all very busy people. This showed us once more that they are very keen on the subject.

Part of the 2d seminar was following up on the topics from the first one, and it was wonderful for us to hear all that had happened since we last met. In the evaluation of the first seminar everybody had asked to see a school where the system functioned, i.e. TeSe, and we had to set time off for that. They also interviewed teachers and students at TeSe, so in the end they understood that the whole thing was not just theory and paperwork – the models work!

The teaching team had e-mailed a lot to each other so that there was a line in the material presented. It was sent to the interpreters so early that they had time to prepare with the national groups. This gave many questions and there were a lot of very fruitful discussions on pedagogy, and lots of homework for the participants.

Again the atmosphere was great, and the last evening we all gathered around a traditional Danish Christmas Lunch, so that they had an insight into Danish culture in a different way. The evening ended with singing and dancing.

Cancellation of 3d seminar in St. Petersburg

We were meant to meet in St. Petersburg in April, but in February we found out that there was not money enough!

This was really a set back. The teaching team might have had their schools pay the trip, but it was impossible for the Lithuanian schools to finance it. And as we all felt sure, that our application for 2005-2006 would be accepted, we arranged to have the topics of student influence on pedagogy and students' project work put into the new programme. But our application was rejected.

Status and evaluation

So now we are in a situation where the participants will work on with what they have learned. They know they can always ask us via e-mail. The contact to Lithuania works very well and we will get reports on their work. But the contact to St. Petersburg is in danger: The teacher who was interpreting has found a new job after the holidays, so now it is up to the director of her school to find someone else who can manage English and a computer. The rest of the group has very little or no English.

We are in no doubt that all the participants are implementing what they have learned. We know that the Russians meet frequently to support each other and that the representative of the St. Petersburg government supports the scheme. We also know that the Russian interpreter shares the material with colleagues at a pedagogical diploma course at the university. And we know that the Lithuanians have disseminated to other schools in their regions, and this seems to give an impact in the development of VET in this country.

Based upon the programme of 2004/05 we have agreed with the partners that the next step must be strategic and systematic competence development in dynamic organisations i.e. schools. It is evident, that the staff must be competence developed in order to meet the new demands that we are in the process of implementing. This is what we applied for in the 2005/06 programme but as mentioned above our application was rejected. This was a great sorrow to all of us as we would have liked to follow up on the implementation in the two countries, and we would very much have liked also to have a year on quality assurance programmes. Besides, we know that there will be many unanswered questions after our second seminar as people get the input in order after the seminars.

Future co-operation depends on financing. We may be able to get EU-money to work on with Lithuania, but with St. Petersburg it is more difficult. Our suggestion will be for the teaching team to go there and that the hosts sponsor accommodation and meals, and we pay the transport, but whether that is possible will be up for discussion after the summer holidays. Naturally we will miss the opportunity to have the whole group together, and that is indeed a pity. Also we may try to apply to NPN next year – we may be lucky!

Even though we did not cover the last part of the scheduled topics, we are in no doubt that the outcome of the project is even better than we hoped for. And we are also happy that we have succeeded in making the Lithuanians and the Russians understand each other – even though we only talk about 18 people it is a step on the way to a more open minded attitude between the two countries.

*Louise Rosthøj and Kim von Bülow, TeSe
EFVET-DK*

Impressum:**Editor:**

Leif Haar, Tietgen Business College, e-mail: leha@tietgen.dk

Webmaster:

Kent Andersen, Odense Technical College, e-mail: ka@ots.dk

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New deadline for manuscripts: 15th November 2005.