



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



2nd Annual EUproVET Conference

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the **2nd Annual EUproVET Conference** which will be held in **Brussels on the 15th of June 2011** at the Hotel Bristol Stephanie.

<http://www.thonhotels.com/hotels/countrys/belgium/brussels/hotel-bristol-stephanie/>

The theme of this year's Conference is

“Creating Skills Today for Tomorrow's Europe”

The EU has a clearly stated ambition to increase its global competitiveness through developing a knowledge based economy supported by a high skilled labour force. Next to developing a strong knowledge based economic future, it is necessary also to develop a competent labour force. Many millions of people in different countries in Europe do not possess the skills needed for the challenges that face the EU economy and this has major ramifications for the social inclusion and the EU's workers ability to compete on a global stage. Not only has this consequences for social inclusion, but also for the risk that if knowledge is created in Europe, production will go to non European countries that are developing quicker to have a competent labour force. VET is the form of education that can close these two gaps.

The Bruges Communiqué adopted by the ministers of Education in EU acknowledges this. These policies will only be realised if EU's VET providers are fully engaged and involved with the development of Europe's workforce.

In this conference we will try to get answers on what skills we should be training for today to ensure that we are fully prepared for Europe's future.

Policy makers, managers, board members and people who in their daily life work with student that are developing international competences will get together to move ahead on this issue. The results of the conference will be used as input on the implementation of the policy initiatives at the European level which are in the Bruges Communiqué. The conference will also strengthen the present network of VET providers in Europe.



Conference Programme

- 09.30 Registration and Coffee
- 10.00 **Welcome from EUpVET Chair**
Sampo Suihko
- 10.10 **Overview on key issues from Conference Chair**
René van Schalkwijk, General Secretary, EUpVET
- 10.15 **“Bruges Communiqué – An Agenda for European Cooperation in VET Policy”**
Risto Raivio, Head of Sector,
DG Education and Culture, European Commission
- 10.40 **“Europe's Future VET system: Sectors and Specialisation?”**
Tom Bewick, Chair,
International Network of Sector Skills Organisations, INSSO
- 11.10 **Question and Answer session**
- 11.30 Classic Coffee Break
- 12.00 **Break out sessions – 3 groups, please choose one**
- a) *The role of vocational excellence for smart and sustainable growth*
 - b) *Work on best practices and guiding principles with respect to the changing profiles of VET teachers and trainers*
 - c) *Recommendations in practice; European instruments and colleges*
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 **Feedback from breakout session groups**
- 14.30 **Reaching the Excellence, Quality and Relevance of VET**
Sophie Weisswange, Policy Officer
DG Education and Culture, European Commission
- 14.50 **“European Sector Councils on Employability and Skills: What’s in it for educational institutions?”**
Manuel Hubert, Socio-Economist
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- 15.10 Questions and discussion



15.20 Classic Coffee Break

15.50 **Panel discussion**
“Creating Skills for Tomorrow’s Europe”

- **Tom Bewick**, Chair, International Network of Sector Skills Organisations
- **Manuel Hubert**, Socio-Economist, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Vibeke Noergaard**, National Representative of Denmark, Steering Committee of Efvnet
- **Rob Schuur**, President of Executive Board, ROC Noorderpoort, the Netherlands
- **Sophie Weisswange**, Policy Officer, DG Education and Culture, European Commission

Chaired by René van Schalkwijk

16.20 **Round up and Conference Summary**

16.40 Close

18.30 Cocktails – Hotel Bristol Stephanie

19.30 Supper – Hotel Bristol Stephanie

How to register

For on-line registration please visit:

<http://digiumenterprise.com/answer/?sid=654160&chk=C3YN9E25>

The deadline for the registration is June 7, 2011.

You will receive confirmation of successful registration to your e-mail in three days after registration. If you have not received confirmation in 3 days, please contact:

Ms. Nuudia Laan-Kaari
nuudia.laan-kaari@amke.fi

Conference fee

The conference fee of € 175,00 includes the conference, a three courses dinner and a cocktail party before the dinner.



Payment

The conference fee is to be paid to EUproVET June 1, 2011 at the latest as follows:

Payee	EUproVET (p.a. MBO Raad, Woerden, The Netherlands)
Account number	117659347
IBAN	NL41 RABO 0117659347
BIC	RABONL2U

If you have problems with the payment, please contact:

Mr. Manfred Polzin

m.polzin@mboraad.nl

Event location and accommodations

The event will take place in Hotel Bristol Stephanie.

Hotel Bristol Stephanie

91-93 Avenue Louise

B-1050

Brussels

Website: <http://www.thonhotels.com/hotels/countrys/belgium/brussels/hotel-bristol-stephanie/>

A limited number of hotel rooms are reserved for conference participants by the conference organizers at € 140,00 per single room (Superior or Business Class) per night. The room rate includes the American buffet breakfast.

Conference participants are kindly asked to make their reservations by contacting the hotel directly. Please find attached a registration form for the hotel. The form should be sent to the hotel by fax **+32 2 538 0307** or by e-mail to jeanne.chancerel@thonhotels.be

Please note that the reservations will be released for general use on May 14, 2011.

Language

All general sessions and breakouts will be delivered in English.

If you have any questions about the programme or conference arrangement do not hesitate to contact Mr John Mountford john_mountford@aoc.co.uk or Ms Tellervo Tarko Tellervo.Tarko@amke.fi.

We cordially invite you to participate in the conference and look forward to meeting you in Brussels!

Sampo Suihko
Chairman of EUproVET

René van Schalkwijk
General Secretary of EUproVET