



EUNEC-newsletter 1 January 2005

1 Newsletter

The Executive Committee of EUNEC has decided to create a newsletter for its members. With this newsletter, all the councils and all the correspondents will be informed about the activities of EUNEC and the evolution of the education policy in Europe.

2 Membership EUNEC

On its meeting of 25.10.2004 the Executive Committee of EUNEC decided to reduce the annual membership fee for 2005:

- full members pay € 2000
- associate members pay € 500
- network members don't pay.

During the month of January, all members of EUNEC will receive an invitation to pay. We hope that many councils will become an official member of EUNEC.

3 Annual programme

EUNEC is interested in the annual programmes of its members. If you have such a programme, you can mail it to the EUNEC-secretariat (eunec@vlor.be). If we are informed of the advices, which the councils are preparing, and of the topics, on which they are working, we can organise an exchange of experiences in the future.

4 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of EUNEC meets on February the 1st in Brussels. They will evaluate the action plan 2004 and plan new activities for 2005. We will keep you informed in the next newsletter.

5 Follow-up of the conference in Brussels (25-27 October 2004): 'Towards a transparency of qualifications'

EUNEC is preparing a book concerning the theme and the results of this conference. We have the intention to publish this book, in English and in French, in the month of April. We will keep you informed. You can find the official statements of EUNEC about transparency of qualifications on our website: www.eunec.org

6 “Strengthening European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training”

[Maastricht 15 December 2004](#)

A delegation of the Executive Committee of EUNEC participated officially at this high-level conference. This conference brought together the key political and practical players involved in adopting and implementing the *Maastricht Communiqué*. Two years on from the Copenhagen Declaration, the Communiqué sets new priorities and strategies for European cooperation, aimed at meeting the Lisbon goals in the field of vocational education and training.

www.leonardodavinci.nl/bestanden/478/Maastricht_Communique.pdf

The basis of the discussions in Maastricht was the result of the Maastricht Study, made by Tom Leney, QCA London: “*Achieving the Lisbon goal: the contribution of Vocational Education and Training.*”

The Lisbon strategy aims to create by 2010 a highly dynamic and competitive knowledge based economy in Europe that will deliver sustainable growth, generate more and better jobs and create greater social cohesion. Implementing lifelong learning has a key role in achieving the goal. The Copenhagen Declaration and its follow-up have raised the profile of VET, in terms of improving the quality of education and training, facilitating access for all and opening up education and training to the wider world.

The study has considered the enlarged European Union of 25 member states, as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and three accession countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. As the EU member states identify and implement strategies to create a learning economy and a learning society in their own circumstances over the next five years (15 years might be a more realistic timescale), it is noticeable that in many respects the Nordic EU member states are in poll position.

The executive summary addresses three themes:

- 1 It reports on how ready VET systems in Europe are to meet the challenges that the Lisbon agenda has set. This is important because VET has a dynamic part if lifelong learning strategies are to be implemented effectively.
- 2 It analyses key areas of innovation that are taking place in teaching and learning. This is important because the modern paradigm for VET puts the learner at the centre. It emphasises the acquisition of competencies, and recognizes that the workplace has a central role in shaping and providing VET learning.
- 3 It discusses the extent to which VET plays, or can play, an important part in creating a more open labour market in Europe. Governments, regional and local agencies, social partners, training providers, learners and other all have a stake in ensuring that opportunities for skills and mobility in the labour market are maximised, that people’s qualifications are transparent and that their competencies are recognised across boundaries

Report: www.leonardodavinci.nl/bestanden/480/bgstudy_Lisbon.pdf

Executive summary:

www.leonardodavinci.nl/bestanden/479/Executive_Summary_041104

You can find all information about the Maastricht conference on www.leonardodavinci.nl

7 The Luxembourg presidency

Since January the 1st, Luxembourg has been in charge of the Presidency of the European Union. On a specifically dedicated Internet site, the Grand Duchy reveals its priorities for the six months to come: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/presidence/index.html>

The European spring Council, to be held in Brussels on 22 and 23 March 2005, will focus on the actions to be taken by governments within the context of the various pillars of the Lisbon strategy. The March 2005 European Council will have to carry out the mid-term review of the Lisbon process based on a Commission orientation report due out in early February. In particular, the Luxembourg Presidency will use this mid-term review in order to: take stock of the strategy; refocus priorities; improve the governance and implementation of the strategy; implement a specific communication strategy by target groups.

The Kok report "Facing the challenge" identified education as one of the principal vectors for relaunching the Lisbon strategy. www.europa.eu.int/comm/lisbon_strategy/pdf/2004-1866-EN-complet.pdf

The Luxembourg Presidency will devote a great deal of attention to the proposal for an "integrated action programme in the area of education and lifelong learning" during the first half of 2005. Based on the work accomplished under the Dutch Presidency, the objective will be to move towards concluding the first reading. The Luxembourg Presidency will also lay particular stress on the issue of the integrated learning of a subject and a language. Talks on the "Youth in Action" programme will be continued. Another important theme will be the updating of the Open Coordination Method and the objectives pursued in terms of participation and information for young people.

8 Europass

On December the 15th, the European Parliament adopted in second reading the Europass, the single EU dossier for transparency of skills and qualifications. The single dossier will allow Europeans to be better placed in applying for work and study in all EU Member States, facilitating comparisons and hence the mobility of students and workers in the EU. "This measure will bring us a further step closer to increasing Europe's competitiveness in the field of knowledge. Without such measures, the Lisbon Strategy or the Bologna Process would remain void of any content," commented Doris Pack (CDU, Germany), the European Parliament rapporteur on the Socrates programme and the new generation of life-long learning programmes. Pack stressed that the human factor had to be taken into account in the creation of a European area of knowledge. She said that any initiative in this direction had to take account of the needs of European citizens, and Europass was evidence of such a policy. In her recommendation for the European Parliament's second reading, rapporteur Ljudmila Novak (EPP, Slovenia) said the Council had accepted virtually all the amendments made by the European Parliament in first reading. Both institutions wanted to ensure that new documents can be added to the Europass in the future (there are five at present), for example documents concerning IT. The Europass decision comes into force on 1 January 2005 and the Europass itself will be officially launched at a special conference on 31 January and 1 February, under the Luxembourg Presidency.

You can find all information about the Europass on <http://europass.cedefop.eu.int>

9 Questions

You can send all questions and remarks on EUNEC and this newsletter to eunec@vlor.be