



EUNEC-newsletter 5 September 2005

1 Executive Committee (Brussels - 5 September 2005)

The Executive Committee of EUNEC gathered in Brussels on 5 September 2005. The Committee agreed among other things to take part in the consultation process organised by the European Commission on the European Qualifications Framework. EUNEC will organise a conference on this theme on 24-25 October 2005 in Belgium. The Executive Committee also made a draft of a new annual plan for 2006 and decided to reorganise the EUNEC website. In the near future, you will be able to visit the new EUNEC website (www.eunec.org).

2 State of Affairs of the European Education Policy (September 2005)

As usual, the EUNEC secretariat made a State of Affairs of the European Education Policy to inform the members of the Executive Committee. In this text, you will find the recent developments in the European education policy. You will find information on the Lisbon Strategy, on Education and Training 2010, on European meetings and documents and on the priorities and organisations of the British presidency.

You can download the text (22 pages) on www.eunec.org ? Action plan ? Action plan 2005? State of Affairs (September 2005).

3 EUNEC conference on the consultation process on the EQF.

On **24-25 October 2005** EUNEC will organise a conference in **Belgium** to take part in the consultation process on the European Qualifications Framework. The aim of this conference is that the members of EUNEC should be able to interchange their points of view on the EQF. This conference links up with EUNEC's efforts on transparency of qualifications.

The EQF will be a **meta-framework**, enabling frameworks and systems at other levels (national, sectoral) to relate and communicate to another. A principal function of the framework is to strengthen mutual trust between different stakeholders involved in education, training and learning. The core of the EQF is constituted by **8 learning outcome based common reference levels** that can be related to qualifications and qualification frameworks throughout Europe. These levels will be based on learning outcomes, using descriptors developed for the three cycles in higher education and incorporating new descriptors reflecting vocational education and training. The descriptors for each of the 8 levels reflect competences in terms of knowledge, skills and personal and professional competences. These reference levels cannot operate in isolation and will be supported by a set of common principles and procedures guiding the relationship between stakeholders at European, national and sectoral levels. Common principles for quality assurance are of particular importance in this context, as is the role of credit accumulation and transfer mechanisms.

The success of the European Qualifications Framework very much depends on its relevance and credibility to those involved in education, training and learning. After the publication by the Commission in July of its comprehensive staff working paper on EQF, the ministers agreed on a wide ranging consultation process to reach all relevant

stakeholders at national, regional and sectoral level – including all Bologna countries and stakeholders. In the document, one can find the questions for consultation. The **consultation process** will last until end December 2005. On this basis, a draft recommendation for the implementation of EQF will be prepared and presented to the European Parliament and the Council in spring 2006. EQF should be adopted by 2006. EQF will be developed and implemented on a voluntary basis and will not entail any legal obligations for countries.

You can find the document of the Commission on

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/consultation_eqf_en.pdf

The members of EUNEC will receive as soon as possible an **invitation** for this conference. They will be asked to prepare the conference by answering the questions that can be found in the consultation document.

4 Questions

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