

9th TTnet Annual Conference

Thessaloniki, 7-8 December 2006

TTnet at the interface between national and EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers: achievements and challenges

7 December 2006

by

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Countries represented at the TTnet Annual Conference

- **TTnet national networks already established (20):**
BE, CZ (*new coordinator*), CY (*new entry*), DK, EE (*new coordinator*), FI, FR, DE, HU, IE, IT, LV (*new entry*), LT, MT, NL, PT, SK, SI, ES and UK.
- **TTnet networks being established (1):** Greece
- **TTnet networks to be ‘revamped’/established in 2007 (2):**
Austria, Iceland
- **Acceding countries (2):** Bulgaria and Romania
- **Candidate countries (2):** Croatia and Turkey

27 countries represented

Institutions represented at the TTnet Annual Conference

- European Commission, *DG Education and Culture (EAC)*
- European Parliament, *Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

Objectives of the Conference

- To take stock of progress countries made in implementing the EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers
- To review TTnet's achievements in the light of the above progress
- To define TTnet's priority actions and activities for the years to come, including its role in the implementation of the EU priorities as reviewed in Helsinki

Helsinki Communiqué adopted on 5 December 2006

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

- A. Supporting the Commission in the implementation of the EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers**
- B. Cross-country thematic projects**
- C. Comparative analysis on national systems for training of VET teachers and trainers**
- D. Expanding TTnet to new countries**

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

- E. Raising the profile of TTnet's activities
(dissemination and visibility)**
- F. Reviewing the role and achievements of TTnet
national networks**

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

A. Supporting the Commission in implementing the EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers

- Expertise provided to the Commission's Focus Group on Teachers and Trainers in VET, established in March 2006. *Cedefop, TTnet Austria (IBW), TTnet Italy (Isfol), TTnet Germany (BIBB), TTnet Portugal (IEFP) are members.*

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

A. Supporting the Commission in the implementation of the EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers

- Study visit/peer learning activity on “Enhancing discourse between teachers and working life” (9-13 October 2006).

TTnet workshop on the competences of VET professionals (11 October 2006).

90 participants from national administration, VET schools, vocational teacher educational units, PLA participants (appointed by DGVTs).

Workshop documents available at:

http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/projects_networks/ttnet/events.asp?idnews=1877

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

A. Supporting the Commission in the implementation of the EU priorities for VET teachers and trainers

- Planned contribution to the peer learning activity on “Bridging the gap between the world of school and the world of work”
Austria, 5-8 March 2007

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

B. Cross-country thematic projects

a) Pilot project “Defining VET professions”: Objectives

- Launched in October 2005 after a consultation process with TTnets and the Commission
- Objectives: to analyse roles, responsibilities and competences of VET professions and identify trends and challenges → competence-based approach
- 6 professional profiles studied
- 13 countries involved

Final results available (see Conference dossier)

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

B. Cross-country thematic projects

- a) Pilot project “Defining VET professions”: Key messages
- VET professions: very heterogeneous population BUT challenges and demands surprisingly similar across EU
 - Competence-based approach is a useful way to describe VET professions and identify main challenges and trends
 - A comparative approach to VET professions seems feasible and allows to make progress towards a common framework defining the core activities, competences and the conditions to be met to successfully support the professional development of VET teachers and trainers

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

B. Cross-country thematic projects

- a) Pilot project “Defining VET professions”: The second phase of the study
- Open invitation to tender published by Cedefop in the Official Journal (*OJ/S 148-159077 of 05/08/2006*) – *contracts being awarded*
 - A wider sample of countries and professional profiles
 - 2 sets of professional profiles (IVET and CVET)
 - levels 5 to 7 of the European Qualifications Framework
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/com_2006_0479_en.pdf

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

B. Cross-country thematic projects

a) Pilot project “Defining VET professions”: The second phase of the study

Expected outcomes

- A set of commonly agreed professional profiles
- A common reading grid for VET teachers' and trainers' competences and qualifications to foster transparency and mobility
- Recommendations to policy-makers, training organisations and professional associations on how to successfully support the appropriate training and CPD of the VET professions
- Key results presented at the German Presidency Conference (June 2007)

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

B. Cross-country thematic projects

Recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning (RVNFL) for VET teachers and trainers

A TTnet study on the analysis of 28 case studies from 9 TTnet countries:

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, United Kingdom

Final report with recommendations for policy-makers and providers being finalised. Executive summary available (see Conference dossier).

RVNFL is high on the national political agendas and considered a centrepiece in VET/LLL strategies.

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

C. Comparative analysis on national systems for training of VET teachers and trainers

- Comparative analysis (16 countries) available **eKnowVet, Cedefop's thematic database on VET systems:**
http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Information_resources/NationalVet/Thematic/analysis-comp.asp
- Additional 11 countries being integrated → EU 25 + 2 published early 2007

Common issues and trends → pre-service training, CPD, policy development trends, changing roles.

(See Conference dossier)

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

D. Expanding TTnet to new countries – the “Coaching formula”

- **Latvia** – Riga Technical University – 16 June – Supported by TTnet Finland

70 participants from policy-makers, social partners, universities, VET schools, TTnet Malta, TTnet Slovakia.

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

D. Expanding TTnet to new countries – the “Coaching formula”

- **Cyprus** – HRDA – 14 November – Supported by TTnet UK

120 participants from policy-makers, social partners, training providers, VET teachers/trainers, universities and VET colleges, TTnet Finland, Italy, Greece.

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

D. Expanding TTnet to new countries – the “Coaching formula”

- **Greece** – EKEPIS – preparatory meeting on 4 September – Supported by TTnet France and Malta

Launching seminar planned on 14 December in the framework of a Conference on “Accreditation systems and lifelong learning: the profile of VET trainers”.

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

E. Raising the profile of TTnet's activities (dissemination and visibility)

- **TTnet Newsletter** – first (*pilot*) issue ready (*see Conference dossier*)
Objectives: to increase visibility of TTnet's activities and inform about developments in the field of VET teachers and trainers.
Information on: EU developments, TTnet Cedefop, news from national networks (16), national and EU events.
- **TTnet website** fully updated with latest developments
(http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Projects_Networks/TTNet/)
- **TTnet Virtual Community** - Scope reviewed to better address users' needs. Pilot phase planned early 2007.

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

F. Reviewing the role and achievements of TTnet national networks

Activity reports received from 20 TTnets in October-November

Emerging issues: examples

- Increased role of national TTnets as platforms of expertise to support policy-making (i.e. TTnet Finland's active contribution to Presidency related events).
- Increased inter-network partnership and cooperation
 - events and mutual learning activities (BE/FR, FI/ES, BE/NL)
 - cooperation projects on shared priorities (EL/CY)

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

F. Reviewing the role and achievements of TTnet national networks

- TTnets as partners in EU – funded projects (DK, CY, FR, SI)
- Increased role of TTnets in observing VET professions – TTnets drafted national reports for “Training VET Teachers and Trainers” (DK, SK, IT, LT, CY, LV, HU, FR, FI, etc.)
- TTnet contributed to an increased cooperation and partnership among the key stakeholder at national level (FI, MT, FR, IT)
- TTnets are opening-up to countries outside EU (e.g. ES/Latin America; planned international University for LLL)

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

F. Reviewing the role and achievements of TTnet national networks

- TTnets disseminate their achievements at national/EU level (quoted in articles, policy documents)
- All TTnets work on core national priorities for VET teachers and trainers:
 - competence frameworks, national standards, accreditation (VET teachers/trainers, programmes, training centers), job profiles, validation of non-formal learning

TTnet's main achievements in 2006

F. Reviewing the role and achievements of TTnet national networks

... this is confirmed by the messages emerging for VET teachers and trainers from the Helsinki review

VET teachers/trainers – still the ‘poor cousins’?

Some developments: entry qualifications, competence standards, in-company experience, quality assurance, teacher for trainer development

BUT more is needed

Possible pathways of further developments

Develop common ‘standards’ of competences

Recognise and validate experience

Provide incentives to teacher/trainer development

TTnets work at the interface between national and EU priorities

The Conference Themes

The Conference themes

- The competence-based approach: a way to build a coherent framework for VET professions
- Fostering the continuing training of VET teachers and trainers

Thank you for your attention

The TTnet Team

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