European community of learning providers: annual meeting

















First annual meeting of the European community of learning providers

Promoting quality in learning delivery

The European community of learning providers was set up in February 2017 by Cedefop and six EU-level VET associations (EfVET, EVBB, EVTA, EUCEN, EUproVET and EURASHE) in order to complement the Platform for European associations of VET providers created by DG EMPL in 2015 which provides policy advice to the EU Commission.

The community's objectives include deeper cooperation, mutual learning, selection of good practices, and production of concrete practical guidance on priority themes. Its ultimate goal is to help the VET provider community prepare for future challenges and increase the impact of EU-level cooperation on VET; this is particularly relevant in the context of the changing role of VET and, subsequently, that of VET providers, which is becoming increasingly diversified and requires multitasking.

The methodological approach of the community uses learning providers' priorities and practical experience as a starting point. For the 2017-20 period, three themes were agreed to be worked on in three parallel working groups:

- learning providers and the challenge of technology-enhanced learning (TEL): enhancing teachers' and trainers' e-skills (working group 1);
- learning providers and EU mobility: reinforcing learning attractiveness and employability (working group 2); and
- learning providers and migration: empowerment and integration through learning (working group 3).

The working groups should be able to formulate their suggestions and recommendations by late 2019 to allow the European Commission to take them into account in its 2020 reporting exercise.

The working groups met once in May 2017, when they agreed on the content, method and outline of their work. Since then, cooperation has been effected through email and an electronic platform set up on Yammer.

The conference provides the working groups with an opportunity to meet in person for the second time, while it allows all members to come together in the plenary sessions for the first time. It aims to discuss the community's organisational and content relevance, confirming and/or readjusting elements as needed, and plan its next steps. The European Commission's involvement throughout the process of setting up the community, along with its current participation, confirms the community's European character and the need for deeper involvement of VET providers at EU level; this is also in line with the Bruges communiqué of 2010, which called for structured cooperation of VET providers, and the Riga conclusions of 2015.

The participation of additional VET providers (and national VET provider associations) aims at reaching a wider audience, making the community more inclusive, enriching its work in the framework of its agreed work programme, and contributing to a stronger and more representative VET sector. This annual meeting will be followed by three working group meetings scheduled for the second half of 2018.

Tuesday, 13 March 2018

14.00-14.30	Registration				
14.30-15.00	Welcome Plenary – Europa room Chair, Loukas Zahilas				
	Loukas Zahilas Head of Department for VET systems and institutions, Cedefop Joao Santos Deputy Head of Unit, VET, apprenticeships and adult learning, European Commission, DG Employment				
15.00-16.00	Scope and achievements of the European community of learning providers				
	Tina Bertzeletou, Cedefop, Project coordinator René van Schalkwijk, EUproVET Rasa Zygmantaite, EFVET Horst Dreimann, EVBB				
	Discussion				
	Presentation of the meeting's programme				
16.00-16.30	Coffee break				
	Alexandria, Montessori and Rousseau rooms				
European community of learning providers – Working group sessions					
16.30-18.30	WORKING GROUP 1 TEL & teachers Alexandria room	WORKING GROUP 2 Teacher mobility Montessori room	WORKING GROUP 3 Migrant integration Rousseau room		
	Chair: René van Schalkwijk	Chair: Rasa Zygmantaite	Chair: Horst Dreimann		
	Intervention: Iraklis Pliakis, Cedefop Joao Santos, European Commission	Intervention: Guy Tchibozo, Cedefop Joao Santos, European Commission	Intervention: Ernesto Villalba Garcia, Cedefop Conny Reuter, Solidar Anna Barbieri, European Commission		
19.00-21.00	Dinner (offered by Cedefo	pp)			



Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Alexandria, Montessori and Rousseau rooms European community of learning providers – Working group sessions continued					
9.00-11.00	WORKING GROUP 1 TEL & teachers Alexandria room	WORKING GROUP 2 Teacher mobility Montessori room	WORKING GROUP 3 Migrant integration Rousseau room		
	Chair: René van Schalkwijk	Chair: Rasa Zygmantaite	Chair: Horst Dreimann		
	Rapporteur: Adrijana Hodak	Rapporteur: Jon Harding	Rapporteur: Hans Daale		
11.00-11.30	Coffee break				
11.30-12.45			Plenary – Europa room Chair, Tina Bertzeletou		
	Conclusions of the three working-groups: stock-taking and way forward				
	Discussion				
12.45-14.15	Lunch				
14.30-15.30			Plenary – Europa room		
	Connecting VET provision and policy initiatives Panel and plenary discussion with the EU VET providers' associations				
	 Moderator: Steven Bainbridge, Cedefop How can the European Commission and Cedefop support the European community of learning providers in their quest for qualitative education and training offer? How can the community's outcomes contribute to VET's future? 				
	Discussion				
15.30-16.00	Coffee break				
16.00-17.00			Plenary – Europa room Chair, James Calleja, Director		
	The European VET sector in the face of old and new challenges				
	Jiří Braňka – Informing VET through skill needs Pedro Moreno Da Fonseca – Career guidance and practitioners Irene Psifidou – Early leavers - a toolkit for practitioners				
	Discussion				
17.00-17:30	Conclusions by Cedefop and the European Commission				
17:30-18.30	Cocktail (offered by Cedefop)				



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