



Conclusions Bve Raad – EfVET conference

‘VET for the future’

Maastricht, 14th December 2004

VET institutes are responsible for:

- qualified vocational education on the level of skilled workers for the labour market
- training of youngsters in order to get a starting qualification
- contributing to social inclusion, not only from the social perspective, but also from an economic point of view
- contributing to life long learning and up-skilling an aging population
- creating a smooth pathway from a general to (higher) vocational education
- education as social engineering: training for labour market and social participation

The Maastricht Communiqué and the Copenhagen Declaration set goals to which we can and will contribute:

- VET providers will meet and take their position on EU VET policies
- VET providers should be able to cooperate with social partners, branches / industry sectors, governments and EU Commission, in order to get an implementable EU policy on VET
- In order to strengthen VET, the Commission should support a network of provider in the Member States, and throughout the union
- In order to be effective as VET, we must be part of the social economic debate
- The EU policy for migrants formulated in the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 and in the Council of Ministers of Justice in Groningen (November 2004), should be linked to VET policy (integrating language and vocational courses)
- The way we talk about early school leaving should be more sophisticated, not only ‘being in school’ means that you are learning
- The EU benchmark on the Lisbon goals lead to remarkable results in the Nordic countries; what lessons can be learned from these Best Practices

An efficient and feasible policy should lead to:

- A common language (meaning using the same definitions), is a necessity to get to a Common European Qualification Framework
- Less monitoring and research, more exchange, not only on the level of students and teachers, but on the level of managers of the institutes, in order to develop this common language
- The use of existing and already recognised instruments for quality assurance, no new instruments are needed
- More focus on the regional level asks for more flexibility, and less standardisation and instruments; look to things we can agree on
- All sorts of Internal Market Regulations that are hampering the effective cooperation between providers, employers and local authorities should be reconsidered
- Help VET providers by addressing the image / issue esteem by promoting our successes
- Last but not least, bureaucracy in the financial support by ESF and Leonardo should be lessened