



## **The Barcelona Declaration**

**July 2014**

On the 10th of July 2014, in Barcelona (Spain), the European networks EfVET, EUCEN, EUproVET, EURASHE, EVBB and EVTA (VET4EU2) have declared to continue and to intensify their cooperation.

In their 'Bruges Joint Declaration' from December 7, 2010 these European networks made clear that they are willing to support the European Commission by actively contributing to the realization of the Bruges communique and the goals of the EU2020-strategy for a 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is crucial to achieve the 2020 Strategy goals, based on knowledge and innovation, to create an inclusive society with employment for all and to reach a real competitive and sustainable economy.

Hence they will coordinate and combine their activities for the coming years:

- to contribute to the development of an all-embracing strategy for lifelong learning, including advancement from and permeability between Vocational Education and Training and Higher (Professional and Academic) Education;
- to improve cooperation between companies, social partners, vocational training providers, and public institutions in VET and H(P)E;
- to enhance the use of the best VET educational practices across European countries with the realization of considerable country to country differences;
- to develop VET as a core educational and practical tool to encourage social participation and social cohesion;
- to foster transnational and national mobility;
- to ensure Europe-wide standards for Quality Assurance in VET using EFQM and EQAVET approaches;
- to advice on the more practical implementation and stronger integration of European instruments for VET like Europass, EQF, ECVET, EQAVET to improve and or supplement national educational instruments in order to facilitate educational and employment mobility across countries. Also to extend these instruments where relevant, for qualifications at level 5 of the EQF, like Higher Vocational Education and Training (HVET) and Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE);
- to foster flexibility in provision of VET and Higher (Professional) Education, and in transfer between those sectors, using procedures for recognition of prior learning in continuous and adult education;
- to promote the use of modular training and independently usable educational units in VET education in order to integrate initial and continued VET programs and to implement them in educational institutions;
- to promote the use of learning outcomes in validating and recognizing educational levels of achievement;
- to cooperate in developing work-based learning for young adults;

- to promote cross-country cooperation between leaders and management of VET institutions thus enhancing awareness of the importance of these developments at school and institutional level, and also in a regional setting.

Thus these European networks convene to foster their cooperation, which grew in the last four years, in order to achieve common European goals concerning VET and HE improvements in Europe.

The European networks contribute their competences and experiences to these European objectives and they present themselves as competent partners for the European Commission and other European institutions, networks and associations in the field of VET, HE and employment.

The networks commit themselves to regular semi-annual meetings and to objectives of a work program to realize consequently the Bruges Joint Declaration and the European goals for VET ET2020. They are going to contribute to the development of the policy goals for the next period, to be seen as input for the RIGA declaration. They will disseminate policy relevant information to their members.

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*The abbreviation VET4EU2 refers to the 4 networks that are mainly working in secondary VET and the two networks that work primarily in Higher Professional and Academic Education.*

*VET4EU2 could be heard as “VET for you too”, thus indicating that VET is an honorable educational route for all. It also refers to the route from VET to Higher Education, which should be considered as an equal option compared to the route through General (secondary) Education. Using this abbreviation is also an indication of the strong will to work together on the issues above.*

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