



# Skills for a lifetime – towards a future proof VET

16-17 January 2016

Amsterdam

## Programme

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## Introduction

The conference on vocational education and training (VET) to be held in the framework of the Dutch EU Presidency will be focusing on vocational education that provides the fundamentals for a starting position on the labour market, and is at the same time capable of responding to learning needs that may arise in a subsequent career. Lifelong learning is therefore one of the three themes in the conference and the overall theme is 'Skills for a lifetime'. The conference provides inspiration and stimulation on three themes of interest to Europe: excellence in VET, lifelong learning and internationalisation of VET.

The core of the conference involves demonstrating best practices and bringing together people employed in education and business. It builds on the 'medium term deliverables for VET' as adopted under the Latvian EU Presidency (Riga conclusions), and will also help implementing those. Secondly, the aim of the Dutch EU Presidency is that the conference will also result in new ideas which could be input for the broader "New Skills Agenda" as announced by the European Commission (to be published early 2016) and related discussions in the Council.

## Aim and target group

The aim of the conference is to inspire participants with promising international examples, horizon-broadening input and cross-sector dialogue, to come up with new solutions in policy and practice.

The conference is meant for parties jointly responsible for – or capable of delivering an essential contribution- to the quality of vocational education and training. These are representatives at national, regional and European level who due to their position and network activities are actually capable of bringing about change, such as civil servants and other policy developers, school directors and CEOs and other key players from business and industry.

## Day 1, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Welcome, themes and plenary: 13.00 – 17.30 hrs

13.00 – 14.00	Reception, registration and lunch buffet
14.00 – 14.15	Word of welcome by Dutch Minister Jet Bussemaker
14.15 – 14.35	Keynote speech  European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

<b>14.35 – 14.45</b>	<b>Pitch on theme 1</b> <i>Excellence in I-VET: flexible solutions in a changing labour market</i>
<b>14.45 – 15.00</b>	<b>Speaker theme 1</b> Theo Henrar, chairman of directors Tata Steel
<b>15.00 – 15.25</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15.25 – 15.35</b>	<b>Pitch on theme 2</b> <i>Facilitating careers through VET: Lifelong learning for lifelong employability</i>
<b>15.35 – 15.50</b>	<b>Speaker theme 2</b> Anton Hemerijck, professor VU University Amsterdam
<b>15.50 – 16.00</b>	<b>Pitch on theme 3</b> <i>Mobility in VET inside and outside Europe</i>
<b>16.00 – 16.15</b>	<b>Speaker theme 3</b> Sari Suono, vice-president HK Scan
<b>16.15 – 17.00</b>	<b>Plenary Multi Stakeholders debate</b>
<b>17.00 – 17.30</b>	<b>Conclusion Day 1</b>
<b>17.30 – 18.30</b>	Transfer to the hotel, time for refreshment
<b>18.30 – 19.00</b>	Transfer to Westergasfabriek
<b>19.00 – 20.00</b>	Welcome reception at Transformatorhuis
<b>20.00 – 22.00</b>	Walking dinner at Transformatorhuis including (musical) entertainment
<b>22.00 – 22.30</b>	Transfer to hotels

## Day 2, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Workshops: 09.00 – 13.00 hrs

09.00 – 09.30	International excellent practice – Pitches <sup>1</sup> on the 3 themes
09.30 – 09.45	Introduction to the workshops
09.45 – 12.00	Parallel workshops including break
12.00 – 12.30	Plenary concluding session Innovative presentation of results and follow-up
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30	Transfer to the airport or other means of transport

### Explanatory notes to the workshops:

#### **Theme 1 - Excellence in I-VET: flexible solutions in a changing labour market**

General outline: VET is essential for innovation and economic development within the region. Cooperation between business, research institutions and all levels of education, including VET, is necessary for employability of all workers. What are the opportunities and conditions for this cooperation to be a success?

Pitch day 2: Stefan Crets, CSR Europe

#### **Workshop A: Links between innovations in industry and vocational education**

Moderator: Hans ten Brinke

Speakers: Sage Lal, Nescot, others tbc (Wissensfabrik, Leiden Instrument Maker School)

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<sup>1</sup> A pitch is in this conference a brief presentation of an excellent international example. The aim is to inspire participants with numerous good examples in the form of pitches, short films and presentations in the workshops.

General outline: How to embed cooperation properly? Three themes are addressed;

1. The balance between the promotion of flexibility and quality guarantee of VET
2. The impact of cooperation between education and industry on VET
3. Regional and sectoral cooperation

#### Workshop B: Excellent students through smooth transitions in VET

Moderator: tbc (Education Council for The Netherlands),

Speakers: Joost van Elten, Education Innovation, others tbc (OECD)

General outline: The focus is on excellence at student level: how to organise the education systems in a way that each student is best facilitated to reach the level that suits his personal capacity and situation? We discuss how to improve our system by taking 'the best of both worlds'. What are the bottlenecks, what are successful solutions and what elements do you need for a system that meets the requirements for both excellence and inclusion?

### **Theme 2 - Facilitating careers through VET: Lifelong learning for lifelong employability**

General outline: This theme deals with lifelong learning: how can vocational education and training contribute to labour market mobility in a longer working life? In subsequent stages of life, people bring different sets of experiences to the labour market. Private circumstances change over lifetime, leading to different labour market orientations and perspectives. At the same time, the labour market itself is in a state of flux. How do we connect the dynamics of the labour market with career- and lifetime development? What is the role of vocational education and training?

#### Workshop A: Partnerships for lifelong learning

Moderator: Marc van der Meer, professor University of Tilburg, Netherlands

Speakers: Tuomo Alasoini, director of the "Liideri - Business, Productivity and Joy at Work" programme and coordinator of the unit "Workplace Innovation and Development" of Tekes, Finland, and Marianne Zoetmulder, programme manager at UWV, Employment Service Agency Netherlands.

General outline: how can partnerships contribute to sustainable employability? The underlying principle is that all stakeholders share joint responsibility for the employability of employees throughout their working life.

#### Workshop B: Lifelong learning: work in progress

Moderator: Beate van der Heijden, professor Business Administration, Radboud University Nijmegen

Speakers: George Boag, managing director Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Frank Visser, manager employability plan at Philips

General outline: What do individuals need to be able to live up to the expectation that they have to take care of their own career development? Availability of financial resources, flexible and transparent VET- supply, etc. Which measures and instruments do really help to improve sustainable employability?

### Theme 3: Internationalisation in VET<sup>2</sup>

Studies and the experiences of parents, teachers and students reveal that international experience in vocational education generates special skills and contributes to excellence. Transversal skills, 21st century skills or hidden competences; students will be able to use these skills during their entire career. Time to boost internationalisation in VET. A European approach needs to be developed further. The Erasmus+ programme offers already ample opportunities and can use an active approach from the side of authorities, VET providers and the world of work to create full impact to Change Lives and Open Minds.

#### Workshop A: mobility through cooperation inside Europe: from theory to practice

Moderator: Mika Saarinen, head VET unit in CIMO, Finland, Eline van der Net, KA1 Mobility coordinator, NA Erasmus+ NL

Speakers and panel: Stefan Crets, CSR Europe, Marc Otto, Member of the Board Deltion College NL, Barbara Paulmann, Niedersächsisches Kultusministerium Germany, EREIVET network, student of Dutch VET College

General outline: what are the fundamental factors for growth and improvement of quality of international mobility? Youth Pact, Erasmus Pro and the Erasmus+ VET mobility charter as a means of inter-regional cooperation on international mobility. But also, what other possibilities are available?

#### Workshop B: mobility and cooperation outside Europe

Moderator: Paul Guest, Orientra UK, Ellen Hanselman, head of VET and Adult education NA Erasmus+ NL

Speakers and panel: Jurgen Rienks, VSNU, University Association NL, Karin Luomi-Messerer, 3S Austria, Philipp Lassig, German Office for international cooperation in VET at BIBB

General outline: Why is mobility outside Europe so important? What is happening in country practices: how do we do it and how to facilitate the opportunities for international cooperation outside Europe? What are lessons learnt from higher education, the European situation, and cooperation in practice? Which elements are crucial in an internationalisation policy? Will Erasmus+ after 2020 be a worldwide programme for VET?

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<sup>2</sup> This theme could be relevant for the skills package. For that reason, an attempt to include instruments for supporting transnational mobility in the first workshop.