

***VET for economic development and social inclusion in Europe***

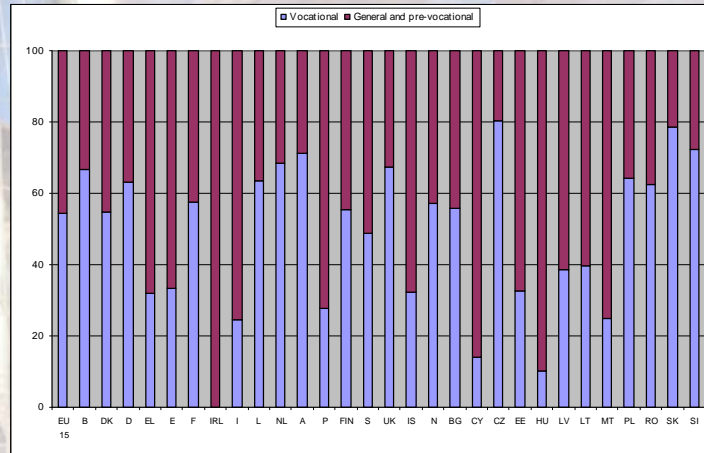
**Hans F. van Aalst**  
President of EfVET



**Opening address to the International Conference on Vocational Training and E-Learning in EU Accession Countries  
Budapest, 12-13 November 2003**

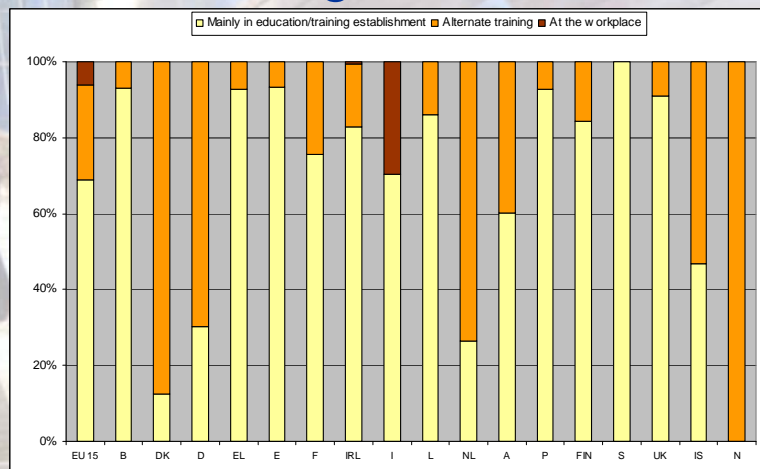
***VET in Europe***

## More students in VET than in general education



Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 3

## Most participants in education and training establishment



Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 4

## Recent achievements of VET institutions (1)

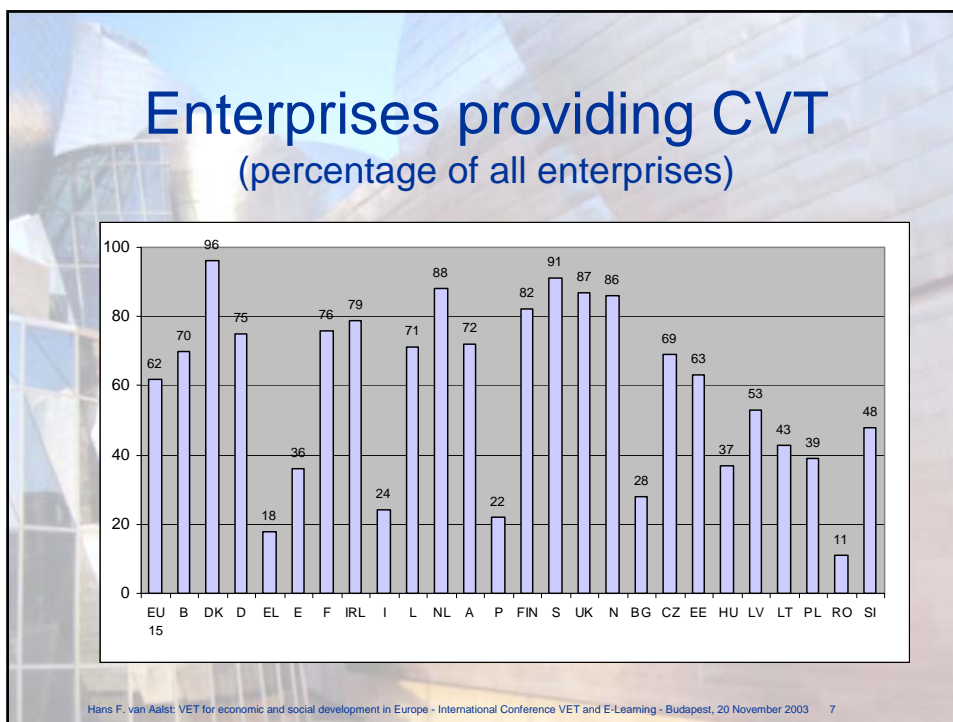
- Larger scale of institutions in order to make Vocational Education and Training (VET) more cost-effective and allow a better fit to the diversity of students and societal demands;
- Professional management, including quality management;
- Development of qualification structures in the light of better connection of VET and work in business, government and industry; This includes recently addressing new and transferable skills to meet the demands of new occupational roles for the future;

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 5

## Recent achievements of VET institutions (2)

- Efforts to ensure a minimum qualification and/or work for all young people, including re-engaging non-traditional learners;
- Efforts to implement ICT as part of working and learning environment.
- An increasing number of institutions are making efforts to ensure that people take responsibility for their own learning.

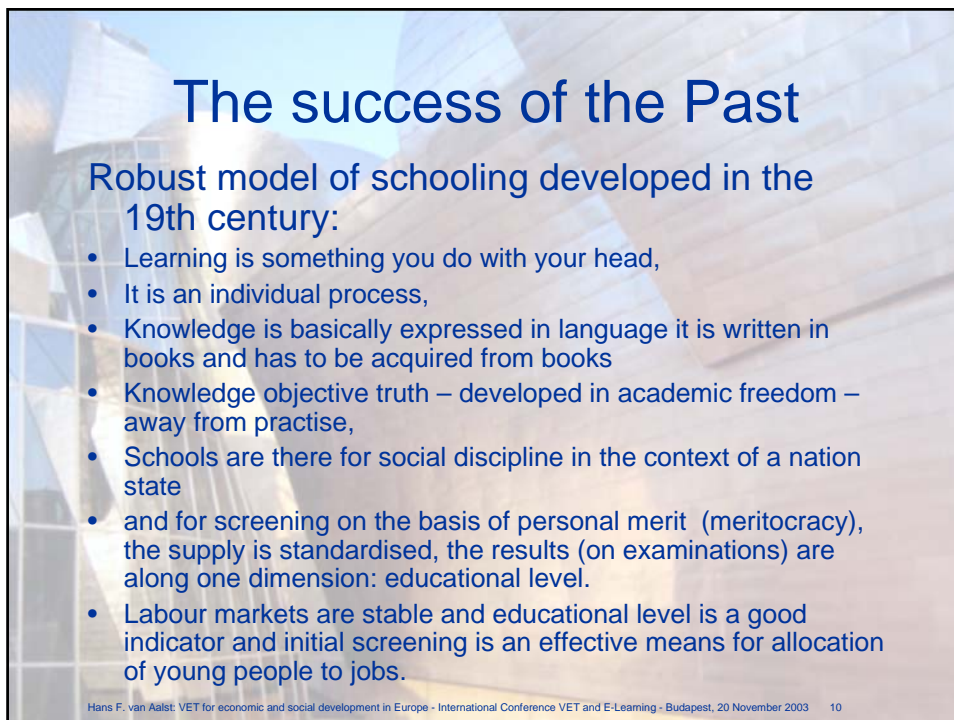
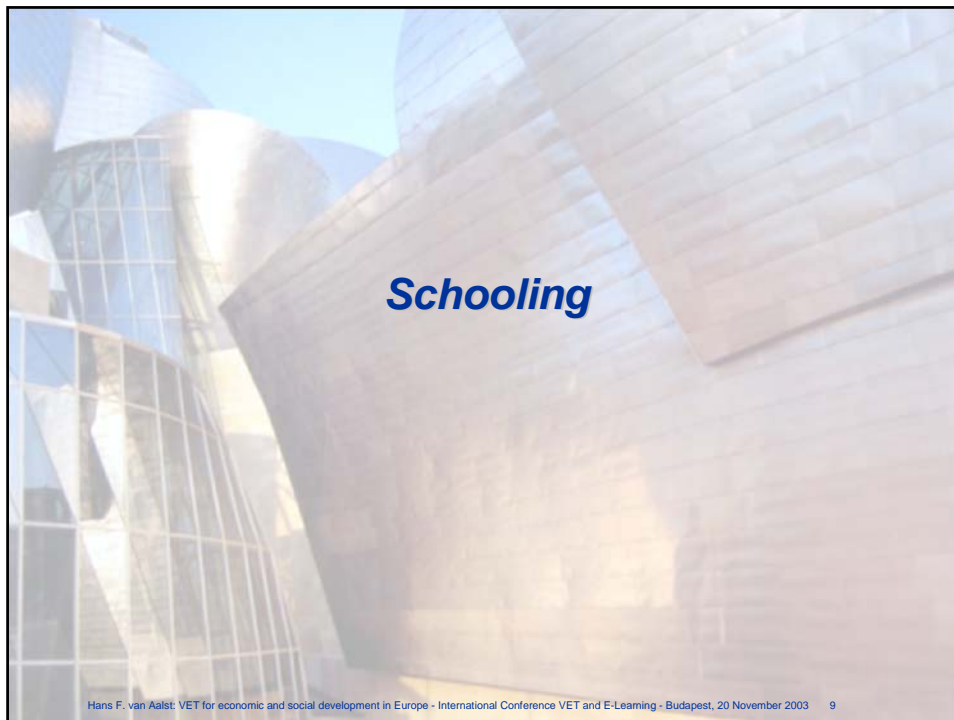
Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 6



## Big enterprises provide more CVT that smaller ones

	<b>EU 15</b>
<b>10-49 employees</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>50-249 employees</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>250 employees and more</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 8



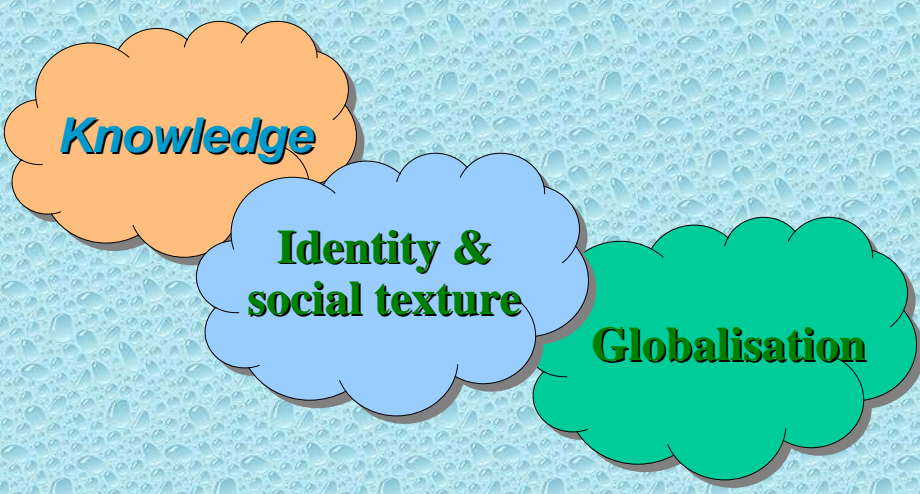


## The succes of the past

- The robust model of schooling has been highly effective:
  - Labour markets were stable and educational level was a good indicator for allocation of young people to jobs in the growing bureaucracy and hierarchical industrial production processes;
  - The system developed hidden talent
  - The system allowed increase of participation (mass production)

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 12

## Changes in the values of the Societies




**Knowledge**

**Identity & social texture**

**Globalisation**


Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 13

## The emerging network society



**from:**  
Order, rules, hierarchy, separation between thinking and doing, task/time, planning/control, stock of knowledge, standardisation, growth, mass production

**to:**  
*Change, design, innovation, horizontal relations, integrative competences, employability, variety, complexity, flow of knowledge, mass-individualisation*



Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 14

## Learning in network society

- Learning is something you do while acting, making something or delivering a service,
- Learning includes working together in groups, locally as well as in world contexts;
- Learning involves pride, ownership, meaning;
- Learning involves the use of a variety of resources, such as products, processes, manuals, inspiring adults, peers and also books,
- Learning is pro-active and future oriented; guided in the light of career and life perspectives,
- Learning is assessed in real life, on the basis of a broad set of personal and general competencies (Human Capital), and codified in portfolios.

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 15

## Message:

- The underlying values and practices of VET provide a valuable base for learning in the context of the emerging “knowledge-“ or “network-society” and thus for economic and social development of Europe.

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 16



## European Lifelong Learning policy: political mandate

- Treaty of Amsterdam 1997: *Lifelong learning enshrined in the preamble to the Treaty on European Union*
- European summits in Lisbon (2000), Stockholm (2001), Barcelona (2002) : *Lifelong learning as a key contributor to European competitiveness and social cohesion*



Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 19

## Lifelong learning : key issues

- Valuing learning (including nonformal and informal learning)\*
- Information, guidance and counselling
- Investing time and money in learning
- Bringing together learners and learning opportunities
- Basic skills
- Innovative pedagogy



Education and Culture

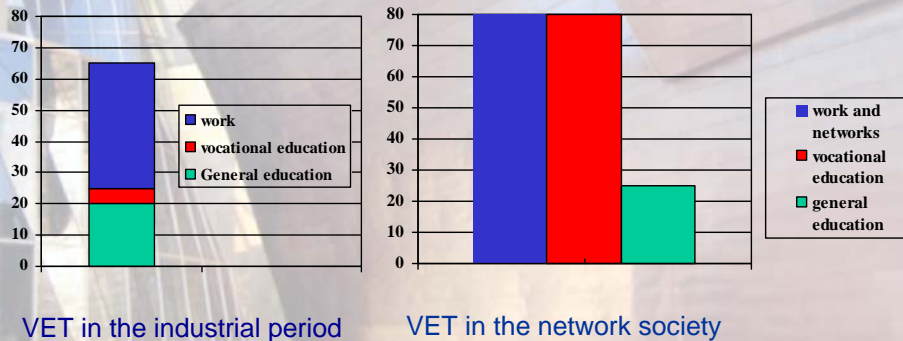
Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 20

## VET in the network society

- *It would be a mistake to model VET along the lines of the robust model of schooling.*
- *It should be modelled:*
  - *as a lifelong learning service*
  - *Competences for middle range jobs (but entrance to higher education possible)*
  - *Shift towards services*

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 21

## VET Institutions in the network society



Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 22

## Transformation of institutions

**From:**  
**industrially organised  
production of courses**



**To:**  
***Service to learning***  
**for people, business and  
communities**  
***in a networked organisation***



## Services for individuals

- Service for individuals to manage their personal development through lifelong learning:
  - matching PDP with High quality learning resources (including training), people and learning communities
  - Assessment of earlier experience
  - Assessment of learning, validation of Portfolio's
  - guiding and coaching
  - ICT services at home, in the workplace and in the local community



## Services for business, SME's and public services

- Contractor to business and public institutions to ensure Human Capital
- Tri-angulation (students, consultants, sme's) for innovation - especially with networks of SME's

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 25

## Back office

- In- and outsourcing of high quality learning resources (including ICT and Multi Media resources)
  - Specialisation of production
  - Internationalisation and localisation

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 26

## ICT and Life Long Learning

- Communities of Practice / Knowledge Management
- E-Portfolio
- Micro choice of excellent multimedia resources
- Simulation and modelling
- Variety of learning functions, including monitoring of progress (Prepare, execute, regulate; Simons & Zuylen, 1995)

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 27

## Network organisation



'Big style'



'network'

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 28

## The European Forum for Technical and Vocational Education and Training



For economic and social  
development in the network society



## The learning platform

- Network for members to develop, exchange and disseminate best practices through:
  - Annual European conference
  - Website: <http://www.efvet.org>
  - Newsletter
  - Joint EU Projects
  - Central facilities in Brussels
  - Cooperation with CEDEFOP, to improve knowledge services to members and assist in knowledge generation.



## The voice of Practitioners

- Partner in developing good examples of practice of Lifelong Learning for National Governments and EU.
- Cooperation with EVTA, EAEA, European Youth Forum etc. for purposes of consultation and participation in EU activities
- Sharing information with Members of European Parliament

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 31



## The channel to International cooperation

- Founding member of World Federation of Associations of Colleges and Polytechnics  
<http://www.worldcolleges.org>
- Cooperation with China through: Northern Jiaotong University – Beijing Electric Power College and Zhongtaiyihe Enterprises Consultancy
- Exchange of information with IVETA

Hans F. van Aalst: VET for economic and social development in Europe - International Conference VET and E-Learning - Budapest, 20 November 2003 32



RESOURCES:

- AALST, HANS F. VAN (2002): *Education in Europe in the 21st Century: Trends and challenges*. Paper for the First International Academic Workshop Educational Systems in East Asia and Western Europe: a Comparative Approach. K.U. Leuven, Shenyang Normal University (SNU), China.
- AALST, HANS F. VAN (2003): *VET for economic development and social inclusion in Europe*; Opening address for the EfVET Annual Conference, Cardiff, 23 October 2003.  
[http://195.181.49.72/conferences/efvet2003/docs/EfVET\\_Cardiff\\_23 okt 2003\\_english.pdf](http://195.181.49.72/conferences/efvet2003/docs/EfVET_Cardiff_23 okt 2003_english.pdf)
- CEDEFOP & EURYDICE (2001): *National actions to implement Lifelong Learning in Europe*. CEDEFOP, Thessaloniki; EURYDICE, Brussels.
- COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (2001): Communication from the Commission, *Making an European Area of Life Long Learning a Reality*. COM(2001) 678 final. Brussels. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/docs/com\\_mllc01\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/docs/com_mllc01_en.pdf).
- DESECO (2002): *Definition and selection of competencies: theoretical and conceptual foundations*; Strategy paper on key competencies an overarching frame of reference for an assessment and research program; Revised draft- september 13, 2002; ines/smg/2002/2/2. Oecd, Paris.
- DICKIE, MARY (2003): *Sentence First – Verdict Afterwards*; Branding Vocational Education And Training In Australia. *Skillings Australia* Forum, September 2003.  
[http://www.skillingsaustralia.com/skillingsforum/pdr/mary\\_dickie.pdf](http://www.skillingsaustralia.com/skillingsforum/pdr/mary_dickie.pdf)
- OECD (2000): *Where are the resources for Lifelong Learning?* OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2001): *Economics and Finance of Lifelong Learning*. OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2002): *Education policy Analysis 2002. Chapter 5: Rethinking human capital*. OECD, Paris