



**The European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training**



**For economic, personal and social development in the network society**



***Vocational Education and Training  
Its potential for economic, personal  
and social development in Europe.***

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

***EfVET/BVE-Raad conference***

**"VET for the future"**

**Maastricht, 14 December 2004**

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## Participation and focus

- Currently about 50% of youngsters participate in VET. For economic and social reasons participation should increase to about 70%
- Investment in skills for middle and lower range jobs is at least as important as investment in high level skills.
- The agenda for Life Long Learning should be pursued on national and European level.

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## Institutional change

- Institutions should move towards service institutions in a local and regional setting, delivering life long learning services.
- This would mean:
  - Greater regional autonomy and valid structures for regional cooperation.
  - Organisation of active counter forces on local and regional level (clients, ombudsman, stakeholders)
    - demand articulation
  - Learning organisations
  - Focused public accountability (public information and quality-methods)

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## Competences and qualifications

- Effective, real and **valid competences** can only be developed at **regional or even local level**.
- Qualification structures on national and European levels are useful as **points of reference** for validating such competences and codify them in Europass documents.
- Basic skills are crucial. However they explain only half of the wage differences.  
**Employability needs a 'wider' form of human capital**, defined as the characteristics that allow a person to build, manage and deploy his or her skills.

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## Public Image and Brand

- **The public image of VET has to be improved.**  
Conditions include:
  - Individualised pathways and links
  - Clarity of information
  - Visibility of investment in quality assurance
  - Consistency
  - Recognition.
- **A clearer brand and better European statistics are needed.**

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## Branding of VET: Five Core Elements (Mary Dickie)

- VET gives you freedom - to manage your own investment in learning, your career path, the skills challenge - equipping you for the future
- VET reflects the real world - real world skills, changing work, career trends and economic developments
- VET leads to valuable, desirable and valued qualifications - diverse range, different levels
- VET is a first class option, the right choice at the right time
- VET leads to careers - not just jobs - helps you manage a range of career paths and seize opportunities

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## Good public governance

- The **open method of coordination** is a promising way of learning good governance with **hybrid responsibilities** of the state and local, regional and global stakeholders.
- Conditions include:
  - *Knowledge alliances of professionals and stakeholders*
  - *Investment in diversity, variety and innovative practices (room for experimentation)*
  - *Organisation of active counter forces on local and regional level (clients, ombudsman, stakeholders) – demand articulation and learning organisations*
  - *Focused public accountability (public information and quality-methods)*
  - *Integrated, sober and selective inspection.*

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- On behalf of EfVET and BVE-Raad: thank you very much for your experience based actions and focus on the future of VET in Europe
- I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful workshop.



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