

# Organising high-quality and recognised mobilities in Europe



NETIN VET

# EDITO

**Hugues Pouzin**  
CGI\*, President



## Good to see each other again!

The NETINVET Forum and General Assembly 2018 in Dublin was indeed the 8<sup>th</sup> annual event that we organised for the network's members. And again, I could observe this special moment when we all take the opportunity to share experiences and best practice, discuss difficulties as well as solutions or expectations for the future. It must be highlighted that we were lucky this year to benefit from the strong support of the "Teacher's Union of Ireland" and especially its Assistant General Secretary, Aidan Kenny, to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

Many goals have been achieved since our last annual meeting:

- A step forward in terms of qualifications covered by the network: the Automobile Services Sector joined the network.
- A step forward regarding the number of members that joined NETINVET in order to offer more and more mobility opportunities.
- A step forward in terms of tools that we developed to facilitate and promote these mobilities and to improve the sharing of information between us.

The Annual Forum in Dublin was even more special because we had the pleasure and honour to welcome four policy makers: the Irish Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, the Member of the European Parliament, Jean Arthuis, the Irish Senator Gerard Craughwell as well as Miguel Santos, representative of the European Commission. Some of the key messages addressed by these four high-level speakers were the following: the need to put

forward the value of mobility for new graduates and trainees; the importance of a greater convergence of the mobility policies in the different European countries, the necessity of better developed twinning possibilities for mobility purposes between VET centres, the promotion of the new challenge of long term mobility through Erasmus pro and more provision for second language acquisition.

These considerations were expressed in a very specific initiative in the context of the European Union's ambition to strongly increase the budget dedicated to mobility for the following years. It is an important opportunity for our network to strongly support this challenge. Thanks to our experience and through what we represent, we are entitled to bring in our contribution to the improvement and development of mobility; the way we did with our NETINVET memorandum.

We must also continue to be promoters of sustainable, affordable and recognised mobility based on a quality approach and mutual trust between the members.

So yes, it is great to see each other again with this ongoing ambition that the mobility we are building and facilitating together must be available to all the VET learners that we are preparing to get into our sectors and companies and to give them the feeling that everything is possible regarding their career perspectives including intercultural knowledge.

I am looking forward to see you at our next Annual Forum in Madrid on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2019! ■

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What is NETINVET? Save the date!



▲ Annual Forum 2018



# NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL FORUM 2018

The 8<sup>th</sup> NETINVET Forum took place in the office of the Communications Workers Union, William Norton House, Dublin on 22 and 23 March 2018.

160 members from eighty-eight centres across ten countries attended the forum and took the chance to make contacts and develop cooperations.

**Mobility must not be a privilege for the few, but available to all VET learners and graduates.**



🚩 Hugues Pouzin, CGI, President

Already the cheerful “Hello`s”, “How are you`s” and “good to see you again`s” during registration gave an idea on how important the annual forums are for the member schools. The meetings are the chance to get to know new people, meet partners and talk about projects, ideas and cooperations face-to-face and to be updated on the network`s various offers to support mobility projects. And, above

all, it is about meeting friends who you see only once a year.

The forum was opened by Hugues Pouzin the President of NETINVET, who, in his opening speech, stressed the need to increase VET mobility together with further expansion of sectoral twinning in the fields of international trade, transport and logistics, and car repairs. He argued that NETINVET needs to be more visible in Europe through pro-active communication and engagement of high-level policy speakers at its events.

He also stressed that the political and policy message should be that mobility must not be a privilege for the few, but available to all VET learners and graduates who wanted it.

Finally he explained that NETINVET is essentially a network of trust and generosity and that these qualities are essential for its sustainability, qualities which became apparent in the two days of the forum.

After the opening speech by Mr Pouzin, Minister Mitchell O`Connor also addressed the audience. Minister Mitchell O`Connor stressed that the importance of mobility in education and training should be made known to all learners. In relation to the theme of the NETINVET Forum, the Minister outlined the value of mobility for trainees and new graduates.

Alan Milton, Head of Communications of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Alex Keys, Apprentice Quality Manager of Qualifications and Quality Ireland (QQI) and Ms Fiona Maloney, a member of the

**NETINVET needs to be more visible in Europe through pro-active communication and engagement of high-level policy speakers at its events.**

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) informed the audience about the value of mobility, the Irish culture and the Irish educational system.

Alan Milton explained to the audience the uniqueness of Gaelic sports and the model of the GAA that reflect well the Irish culture and mindset.

Alex Keys described the Irish Qualifications Framework and where all types of awards are placed within it. She explained the term ‘Further Education’ as used in Ireland and where apprenticeships and VET related to that category. >>



🚩 Minister Mary Mitchell O`Connor



➤ Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament

## VET and lifelong learning are of primary importance for Europe.



« Some networks are already structured to promote these twinning arrangements, such as NETINVET. This network brings together training organisations and professional organisations from the transport, logistics and wholesale trade sectors in order to promote European mobility, in particular by facilitating the search for partner organisations. »

**JEAN ARTHUIS,**  
Member of the European Parliament

Extract from the report  
"Erasmus Pro: Lift constraints on mobility of apprentices in Europe" for Muriel Pénicaud,  
French Minister of Labour, January 2018.

Ms Fiona Maloney explained the structure and governance of apprenticeship and further education in Ireland.

She explained why the structure of the seven phases of the apprentice system based on national standards and strict examinations was not readily adaptable to weeks of mobility and that the strength of the system is in its national occupational standards and their recognition internationally for work mobility by its graduates.

She also explained that the new enterprise-led apprenticeships in new areas of employment are more flexible than the traditional, trade/craft apprenticeships, and that work-placement is a key component of the new model.

The talks and speeches were followed by a panel discussion. Jean Arthuis, Member of the European Parliament, Mr Miguel Santos, European Commission, and Senator Gerard Craughwell discussed the advantages of international work placements and mobility for trainees to find their job and position in a globalised world.

Mr Arthuis opened his presentation by confirming that VET and lifelong learning are of primary importance for Europe as it prepares for an uncertain future in a

more competitive environment. Mr Arthuis stressed the need for organisations such as NETINVET to provide evidence-based research findings if they intend to influence EU policy-makers. He further suggested that more could be done on twinning of VET centres for mobility purposes. In this regard, an EU-wide Apprenticeship Charter would be a useful instrument, similar to the NETINVET Charter. He suggested that longer term mobility for apprentices could combat regional youth unemployment by linking mobility towards regions with greater employment opportunities. In this regard there would need to be more provision for second language acquisition among VET students. Mr Santos agreed with Mr Arthuis that longer apprentice mobilities would benefit trainees, employers and society. Senator Gerard Craughwell raised the question of there being no standard certification/recognition for mobility and suggested that the blockages could be at National Agency level. He proposed by-passing National Agencies if necessary.

## More convergence of mobility policy is now needed at EU level.

He also suggested that the lack of second and perhaps third language training for apprentices greatly restricted their potential to be mobile.

It was agreed by the panel that more convergence of mobility policy is now needed at EU level as comparisons of systems frequently show large differences in curriculum and pedagogies.





➤ Miguel Santos, European Commission

Five different workshops were offered in the afternoon to give the NETINVET members the opportunity to widen their understanding of the different fields of mobilities and to encourage them to promote international experiences in their schools. The workshops tackled core problems like the reluctance of students to go abroad for a longer period of time, the teachers' attitudes towards mobility and also the shared references that finally make long term mobility feasible. Positive examples of learner and teacher mobility were presented in order to encourage even more mobility projects within the network.

The first round of the market place that followed the workshops provided a suitable follow up. New NETINVET members were given the opportunity to get to know experienced members and to talk about options of cooperation. New projects were introduced, partners were invited to join already existing projects and the teachers used the chance to exchange ideas on all the different tasks that are connected to carrying out projects within the network and also within the framework of Erasmus+. All in all the market place was the example of networking in an international context.

The evening programme, a dinner and an Irish dance show in the centre of Dublin, a typical Irish tourist attraction, was attended by most of the members. Judging by the atmosphere and the noise level, the members really enjoyed themselves



and once more experienced the friendly, family-like atmosphere that could be observed already in the morning.

On the second day of the forum Mr Santos updated the participants on the new Euro-pass and Erasmus pro. He also outlined opportunities for mobility of administrative staff and for advance-planning visits to potential mobility partners, tools which make the carrying out of successful mobility projects even more successful.

The presentation of the five videos handed in for the mobility prize followed. All five contributions proved that all the projects that are carried out within the network of NETINVET provide a great chance for the trainees to widen their professional competences and their intercultural knowledge, make friends and learn to use a foreign language effectively.

The mobility prize was given to Sephora, a student of Lycée La Matinière Duchère in Lyon, who handed in a video on her experience during the 2-week-international programme carried out by Albeda College in Rotterdam.

After the general assembly in which the participants were informed about the administrative and financial affairs of the network (see next page) the second market place was offered, this time on the basis of self-selected grouping. Again one could find a lot of activity going on. In the entire building one could find groups of teachers

sitting together, exchanging business cards and email addresses and discussing options for new projects.

Everybody is now looking forward to a year full of mobilities, international experiences and friendships and the next annual forum in Madrid in March 2019. ■

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# NETINVET GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

**T**his year Assembly took place, as usual, in the frame of the NETINVET Forum. Ms Caufapé, secretary of the network informed members of the actions undertaken by the Steering Committee, which met four times in 2017.

First, a summary of the newsletters was presented. Some news were highlighted, such as the New Skills Agenda, the VET Skills Week, the Adenauer-De Gaulle Award received by the NETINVET Berufliche Schulen in Kehl, the Vetmo4TL project, the Forum in Poznan and the Mobility prize. Participants in the Assembly congratulated both Mr Peter Cleiss and Ms Sabine Schick from Kehl for the recognition obtained.



➤ *Neus Caufapé, Secretary of the network*

Members were also informed on the good performance of the new website, which was launched in July 2017 and received 900 visits in 6 months. Moreover, 61 mobility projects were already registered before the Forum and a great percentage of members

(88.9%) showed satisfaction with the tools and services offered in the extranet.

## Great news and a promising future for NETINVET!

Information on the participation of NETINVET at European level was also presented to the Assembly participants. Members of the Steering Committee attended different meetings, such as the EU Commission's Sectoral Social Dialogue for the commerce sector, a Peer Learning Activity on mobility support tools, the European Alliance for Apprenticeships meeting and the High Level Meeting of the European Alliance for Apprenticeship as well as the European Vocational Skills Week. All in all the EU Commission and other European stakeholders currently know of NETINVET and value the activity done by the network in the frame of recognised learner mobility in VET.

Results on other actions, such as the promotion of NETINVET in social networks and the participation of learners in the Mobility Prize were also highlighted. Twitter gained 78 new followers during the year and the NETINVET Mobility Prize gained four more participants, with seven videos which submitted its entry for the prize.



Attendants to the Forum were also informed about the financial situation. Ms Schick, treasurer of the Association, presented the fiscal year income statement as well as the balance sheet and the budget for 2018.

Eventually, Mr Pouzin asked for the vote of the Assembly on the Governance of the network. Mr Jean-André Lasserre and Mr Jean-Luc Eckelmans left the Steering Committee and Mr Philippe Gaumet from AFT and Mr Andreas Gabriel from ANFA were appointed to take their place.

Last but not least, members were informed that 10 more centres joined NETINVET last year and, so far, 88 training centres belong to the network, together with 5 support organisations, which makes a total of 93 members and 11 countries involved. Great news and a promising future for NETINVET which will hold the next Forum in Madrid in March 2019! ■

# MOBILITY PRIZE 2018



**Sephora LOANGA PEPO**  
2018 Mobility Prize winner

« I went to Rotterdam for two weeks with two of my classmates for an intercultural seminar at the Albada school. During this seminar, I visited companies, attended English, Dutch and marketing classes and participated in a group project: creation of a company, a product, a brand; conducting market research; creation of advertising, etc.

At the end of the stay, each group presented its project in front of others and was scored by teachers. The best group won chocolate medals! »

## WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS DURING YOUR PERIOD OF MOBILITY?

I enjoyed the Dutch History course and the involvement of the country in the energy transition. I enjoyed also the funniest moments and the very interesting professional encounters. The "goodbyes" have also been highly emotional. We were together every day, so cheerful, caring for each other and sharing. Saying goodbye to each other was a difficult moment.

## WHAT LESSONS HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

Professionally, I left with more knowledge in marketing and a great professional network abroad, which is very useful for my future mobility. Personally, I learned to work with people from different backgrounds and to make the difference between personality and the culture of a specific country. This confusion can sometimes lead to misunderstandings.

## HAVE YOU KEPT TIES WITH PEOPLE YOU MET DURING YOUR PERIOD OF MOBILITY?

I became friends with two Parisians I met in Rotterdam. And I helped a student to find an internship and an apartment in Lyon. I speak from time to time with other students who guarantee me an internship in Germany in case of need. I also plan to go to Belfast to visit the Irish friends I met during the seminar. It is a professional and social network which I can count on.



## HAS THIS MOBILITY CHANGED SOMETHING IN YOUR TRAINING PATHWAY?

Rotterdam is my second experience abroad. This experience made me look at my BTS International Trade differently and opened my eyes to business opportunities. Students often come in BTS IT because they want to travel, without really knowing what "living abroad" means. Once they experience living abroad, they change and grow up.

## HOW DID YOU EXPERIENCE WINNING THE MOBILITY PRIZE?

It's been a great joy and honour, I am proud to see my work recognised. I have invested a lot in making this film, because I knew that the members of NETINVET were involved as much as me. I wanted to show them that I became more enthusiastic regarding Europe and mobility. I apparently managed to convey this enthusiasm. That was a great pleasure.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE TO GIVE TO FUTURE CANDIDATES FOR MOBILITY?

I would advise them to break all their inhibitions, whether they are concerned about their level of language or the fear of the unknown. Mobility is a wonderful way to learn about yourself and others, and those skills will be valued by employers and teachers. I would also advise them to always have an open mind, prepare to be amazed and to look astonished. It is good to be European, enjoy! ■





# EXTRANET: NEW SUPPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

The NETINVET extranet is an online platform that supports the network's members in organising mobility projects. Different tools facilitate the search for a partner, allow exchange on experiences and best practice, help setting up new mobility measures and ease the filling of Learning Agreements. This new extranet is available since June 2017, more and more members use it regularly for their activities within the network.

## INFORMATION ON VET SYSTEMS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

The section "Member and country profiles" provides both, information on the VET systems of the different member countries of the NETINVET network as well as detailed presentations of all the member schools and training centres. New members are highlighted and the search is facilitated through the possibility to select a country and sector(s).

## MOBILITY OFFERS AND DEMANDS

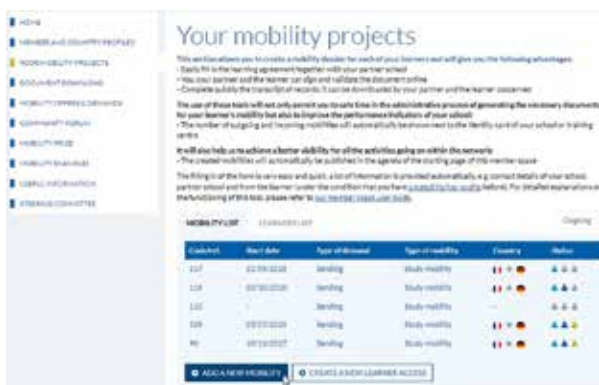
Members have the possibility to present a specific mobility project they would like to implement within the network to search for partners. They can either propose to host a learner at their institution or to provide an internship in one of their partner companies or ask other members for possibilities of sending a learner abroad.

## ONLINE LEARNING AGREEMENT

The NETINVET extranet provides members with the possibility to fill the Learning Agreement online which avoids sending a lot of e-mails and exchange dozens of versions of a Word document. The creation is simple and quick, a part of the information is filled automatically. Sending and hosting schools can complete information on the content of the mobility, the learning outcomes to be achieved and other useful information and then directly validate the document online. The learner also has access and validates the file's content online. The Learning Agreement can then be downloaded in its Erasmus+ version: it contains all the information requested by the financing programme. A Transcript of Records is moreover connected to the Learning Agreement and facilitates the evaluation of the learner's performance abroad.

## MORE USEFUL TOOLS

The tools named here above are only some of the useful functions that the extranet provides. An internal forum enables discussions and exchange of good practice, a download area makes available useful documents, information material such as newsletters and much more. Take a look if you haven't discovered the extranet yet! ■







# MOBILITY TESTIMONIALS



## ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR MY FUTURE CAREER

« I am an International Trade student in Spain. Together with another classmate, I had the chance to do an internship for three months (March to May) in Wuppertal (Germany) thanks to an Erasmus+ grant. In May we were invited to visit the school Barmen Berufskolleg Europaschule and attend an event that the school organised to celebrate "Europe Day". We participated by talking about our experience in the German company, our opinions about German culture and life and about the European Union in general. It has been a very enriching practice in terms of career, to see how a German company works and also personally. We have even been able to live with a German family sharing their daily life which has also helped us improve the language. We recommend to anyone who has the chance to realise such an internship abroad. Thanks to INS Escola del Treball and NETINVET. »

**LAURA SERENTILL, INS Escola del Treball, Lleida (Spain)**

## OUR STAY IN VIC IN APRIL 2018



« As usual, the students and I have been delighted with our stay in Vic, and the warm welcome, as well as professionalism and efficiency of Cristofol's crew on board the ship Institut de Vic!

This year we've experienced a new formula: part of the students (3 of them), preparing for a vocational baccalaureate in Logistics, have done a 2 week work placement with ISERN, a partner company of the Institute, and the other 5, preparing for a BTS in Transport and Logistics, have attended the 2 week seminar at the institute, together with German, Dutch and Catalan students. For all of them, it has been a wonderful opportunity to test their ability to adapt to a new environment, to new working methods, to get to know other European students and to communicate in English and in Spanish.

Many thanks to Institut de Vic's headmaster and teachers for allowing us to share these wonderful days and to ISERN's manager and team for this great experience for our Baccalaureate students! Thank you NETINVET for doing such a great job in maintaining our network and encouraging our partnerships, thank you also to the Occitanie Region that financed our trip through Erasmus+ and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs! »

**FRÉDÉRIQUE LUIGI, AFTRAL Pérols (France)**

## ORGANISING MOBILITY FOR MY STUDENTS



« As a teacher of English and German it is very rewarding to be able to send some students abroad and give them the chance to do an internship in Germany (since I am in charge of this country). Thanks to an Erasmus+ agreement, students can work at a foreign company and also learn about daily life in another country.

At our school we offer them English, French and German so they can really boost their level of language apart from widening their CV and career prospects.

My main concern and difficulty is always to find a contact school that can help us get in touch with companies to allocate our students. But once that is set up and organised, it has always worked fine and we feel hopeful to continue our bond. NETINVET makes it easier! »

**MONTSE CAUFAPÉ, INS Escola del Treball in Lleida (Spain)**



# MEMBERS' CORNER



## JULIE POWELL

*Northern Regional College, Northern Ireland*

<< Northern Regional College joined NETINVET in 2016 after attending an International Business workshop in Albeda College. To date we have hosted 7 Spanish students and last year we sent 4 students to Spain on 9 week work placements. This is now our third year participating in the workshop in Albeda and both staff and 8 students have benefitted from this experience. In January, 3 of our students gained experience in a similar workshop over 2 weeks in Reims. The opportunities availed to us from our NETINVET membership has been invaluable as it is enabling us not only to provide education and qualifications to our students but to offer them an enriching student experience. We have witnessed considerable change in our students that have taken part in these European events and placements. They are much more ambitious, confident and have a real desire to travel and work in other countries. >>



## CARLES PEIRO

*INS Montserrat Roig, Catalonia, Spain*



<< INS Montserrat Roig started international projects before the year 2010 with the Lycée Pierre Bayle focused on international trade and we are exchanging teachers and students each year. After joining NETINVET we began a strategy sharing partners and

procedures with other NETINVET members in Catalonia, Italy or Netherlands. Sharing information with other schools on procedures and knowhow in implementing mobilities has been a key factor to add innovation and extra value to our International projects. We check the whereabouts of the students having participated in mobilities and noted that most of them are working in international trade now with good professional expectations. Furthermore, NETINVET enabled us to improve the notoriety of our school as we presented our international strategy at the Forum in Dublin and our students were each year among the winners of the Mobility Prize. >>

## ANNE QUISPÉ

*Lycée Edgar Quinet, France*

<< We are pleased to be NETINVET members to offer our students mobility.

For the past 4 years, two to three of our students joined each year the Cross Culture Programme organised by the Albeda College in Rotterdam. They all had a great



experience meeting students from different European countries, also studying international trade, discovering other ways of learning with Dutch teachers, having an intercultural adventure and making new friends. Other students experienced courses in Spain at Centre Estudis Prat or Institut Provençana. This year we are planning a new partnership too. We organise Skype interviews, the students introduce themselves, they can ask for advices and which company to target for their internship abroad. We appreciate taking part in the Annual Assembly which enables us to meet the current and new NETINVET members. **Thanks NETINVET! >>**



# WHAT IS NETINVET?

NETINVET is a European network of schools, training centres and professional organisations. It promotes recognised mobility in Europe for learners in vocational education and training (VET) programmes in the sectors of International Trade, Transport & Logistics and the Automobile Services sector by establishing mutual trust between the members and developing various tools to facilitate the organisation of the mobility.

## CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

Initiated in May 2011, the number of members has been constantly increasing and the network is currently composed of over 80 schools and training centres from 11 European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, UK - Northern Ireland), conducting over 600 mobility operations a year within the network. Moreover, NETINVET is actively supported by five professional organisations.

## ENCOURAGE RECOGNISED MOBILITY IN EUROPE

By integrating the ECVET process (European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training), NETINVET favours and encourages recognised mobility. The implementation of shared references, integrated and approved by the network members, enables the transfer and validation of Units of Learning Outcomes accomplished within the framework of academic mobility and/or a work placement abroad.

The mutual trust established between the members since the creation of NETINVET is a powerful driver of these efforts. The network also applies a quality approach as another key element, allowing the integration of new members and ensuring consistent quality based on two charters. The first is intended for training centres and must be signed and recognised upon joining the network. The second is intended for companies hosting international trainees and mainly sets out the conditions required to be able to organise work placements within NETINVET.

## EXTENDING THE NETWORK

Thanks to its quality and its mobility offerings, the objective of the NETINVET network is expanding. Always in contact with schools interested in joining the network, it aims to extend to more members and new countries. These efforts also concern the level of qualifications concerned. In its beginning, NETINVET only addressed vocational trainings at level 5 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). In response



to a widespread demand from training centres offering Transport & Logistics courses at EQF level 4, the network decided to develop new shared references which made it possible to progressively open the network to this new level from 2018 on. ■

# SAVE THE DATE



The next Annual NETINVET Forum will take place at our member school IES El Lago in Madrid on 28 and 29 March 2019. Next year's theme will be the strengthening of NETINVET to push forward mobility in vocational education and training in Europe and reinforce the visibility of our network.

The first day of the forum will be a full day starting in the morning and the second will end with lunch.

**Save the date to join the Annual NETINVET Forum 2019 in Madrid! ■**



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Philippe Gaumet, *AFT,  
Vice-President*

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Video from the Annual Forum 2018:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZAgml1mrwl>