

**Social Dialogue “Vocational training and Youth”
Meeting held on 24th November 2014 in Brussels**

Minutes

The meeting is chaired by Mr. Lair (FIEC).

1. Welcome

Mr. Lair (FR-FFB), welcomes the participants and indicates that in the absence of a representative of the European Commission the minutes of the meeting will be jointly elaborated by FIEC and EFBWW.

2. Approval of the minutes of the SD VET meeting held on 25/2/2014

The minutes of the previous meeting are approved without modifications.

3. Presentation of ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations)

Mrs. Lepur (TenForce) presents the ESCO initiative (*a copy of the PPT presentation can be found at the following link <https://prezi.com/tboci5vrbyqv/esco-multilingual-classification-of-european/>*), the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations, part of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The ESCO project was launched by the European Commission’s services in 2010 and is jointly coordinated by DG EMPL and DG EAC, with the support of Cedefop.

The first version of ESCO was published on 23 October 2013. The ESCO classification identifies and categorises skills, competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training. It has been developed in an open IT format and is available for use free of charge by everyone and can be accessed via the ESCO portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home>).

One of the particularities of ESCO is that the various concerned stakeholders are closely involved in the development and dissemination of ESCO.

Mrs. Lepur indicates that a Sectoral Reference Group (SRG) for “construction” was supposed to be set up at the beginning of 2015, but the European Commission decided to change the working method and from now on the SRG will be replaced by a wide consultation process. She encourages the social partners to take part in this consultation.

4. Presentation of the “Bolster Up” project

Mr. Doom (OCH-CFB) presents the “Bolster Up” project in the furniture sector (*a copy of the PPT presentation is attached to these minutes*) in which the EFBWW, amongst others, is a partner.

The aim of the project is to develop two common European competence profiles for upholsterers and cabinet makers who together make up some 50% of skilled workers in the European furniture sector. Although the national systems of vocational education vary widely, the work processes and resulting competence requirements are very similar and therefore the project aims to make use of this by developing profiles based on these similarities. The profiles to be developed will be based on an extensive examination of national qualifications and competence requirements in the sector and will also take into account future needs. The long-term goal of these activities is to achieve a broad acceptance and mutual recognition of the core occupation profiles.

The countries covered are : Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

5. Social Dialogue project “*Initiatives for youth employment in the construction industry Construction*”

Mr. Campogrande (FIEC) summarises the main steps and the methodology that lead to the development of the website and thanks in particular those persons who have been involved in the Steering Group of the project and those member federations that have sent some input.

The website (www.construction-for-youth.eu) is now accessible and a joint FIEC-EFBWW press release will announce it.

All the participants are invited to disseminate the information about the website at their national level, amongst others by putting links to the FIEC-EFBWW website.

Mr. Gehring (EFBWW) explains that as follow-up of the project the following issues should be taken into consideration :

- During the last meeting (January 2015) of the Steering Group that is monitoring the project a dissemination plan needs to be reflected and discussed between FIEC and the EFBWW.
- The project could be linked to the “Youth Guarantee” initiative for example by defining minimum requirements for traineeship and apprenticeship.
- In order to improve the image of the sector negative experiences could also be brought forward with the aim of making the sector more sustainable and the issue of design of material/machinery could also be addressed.

6. Joint project presented : EU Sector Skills Council Construction

Mr. Campogrande (FIEC) refers to the joint project submitted in July. Unfortunately, the Commission has not yet finished the assessment of the projects presented and we therefore don't know yet whether or not the project has been accepted. The information will be circulated as soon as it will be available.

Note : in the meantime we have been informed that the project was not approved; we are currently waiting for the official information, in order to understand the reasons for this rejection.

7. Erasmus+ : Call for proposals 2015

Mr. Campogrande (FIEC) briefly summarises the new call for proposals of the Erasmus+ programme for 2015 with the aim of identifying possible issues for joint social dialogue initiatives.

He adds that in its preparatory meeting FIEC has identified the following issues for possible joint projects :

1. recognition of informal and non-formal learning
2. transfer of companies (*i.e. young people willing to take over a family business*)
3. "incubators" (*i.e. structures supporting/helping young people to set up and start their own company*) / promoting entrepreneurship.

Mr. Gehring (EFBWW) indicates that the "key actions" 2 (Exchange of best practices) and 3 ("Youth") could be the starting points for joint initiatives. He adds however that in 2015 there will be a congress of the EFBWW and that they are therefore not in a position to coordinate any additional new project.

8. Next meeting

The next SD "VET and Youth" meetings will take place in Brussels on :

- Friday 27th March 2015 :
 - Preparatory meetings in the morning
 - Social Dialogue "VET and Youth" : from 14h00 until 17h00

Mr. Lair (FIEC) thanks the participants and the interpreters and closes the meeting.