

2014 EUCEN AUTUMN SEMINAR

Barcelona, Thu 06-Fri 07 November 2014



POSTER

TITLE	How universities and colleges can communicate with small businesses more effectively
ABSTRACT	<p>The Connect-VET project has created bridges between different sectors to share experiences and transfer knowledge in the area of Vocational Education and Training (VET) education. The sectors represented in the partnership are VET providers, HE institutions, SMEs and Networks.</p> <p>One of the experiences developed during the first year of the project has been an idea from the Norton Radstock College (UK), where they have enabled "Employers Forums" in rural areas to establish current and future skills needs. The employer forums have been set up as practical workshops, where exchange of ideas and networking has been facilitated. The participants were small businesses from different sectors, employment support agencies, practitioners, researchers and students. The participants in these forums have been given the chance to identify and discuss the needs in their sectors, what can be offered to potential students and how to adapt the current curriculum to the real needs of potential employers.</p> <p>The main benefits of these forums are to: attract new employers, identify skills shortages, get practitioners up to date with needs, spot opportunities for training and vacancies in both VET and HE, work with employment support agencies and engage in practical research with businesses.</p> <p>Whilst the pilot is still in its early stages, there has been a high level of interest and engagement from all parties in the process.</p>
KEY WORDS	VET, Research, Practice, SMEs, Communication, Transfer of Knowledge, Cooperation
AUTHOR(S)	Carme ROYO (eucen) Rosaleen COURTNEY (Norton Radstock College)
SHORT BIOGRAPHY FROM EACH AUTHOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carme Royo has been the Executive Secretary of eucen since July 2008. In this position, she is on the one hand supporting the EUCEN Steering Committee in the strategic positioning of the Association at European level and coordinating relationships to external stakeholders. On the other hand, she is responsible for managing the day-to-day business of the Association. Due to the specific character of EUCEN, her responsibilities include building up effective collaboration with academic experts for the development of expertise in University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) and relevant products such as publications, including the development and the project management of European projects. She has worked in over 25 EU-funded projects and coordinated personally 5 eucen projects funded by the EU since 2011. - Rosaleen Courtney is Project Manager at Norton Radstock College, UK and has worked on a wide range of EU funded projects over the past 10 years as Coordinator and partner. As a specialist in business, project management and working with SMEs and young adults, she has been involved in course design, delivery methodologies and e-learning content. Rosaleen has presented at a EUCIS policy debate on entrepreneurship skills and facilitated sessions on employability, teaching and learning and Erasmus + at the annual EfVET Conferences.