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Open school meeting 15<sup>th</sup> of December – 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2011.

Before this Open School was organised we discussed and approved that the structure developed by CHAVET (Partnership -2009:855) will be used as it has demonstrated its strength and robustness. This Open School is an International events with participation of teachers, students, professionals & entrepreneurs at all levels. To develop the tools, AT, ES, FR, SL,SK and NL will contribute national information and participate in multilateral workshops in this Open School and in future meetings.

The first Open School is about learning together, education with the industry, (local) government, researchers and the local inhabitants. The innovation part is “Regioleren – learning with and within the region and the participants were from these 5 gremia”. A great number of students were involved and the participants visited the meeting of the students which was held at AOC Terra, the host education institute. On the agenda of the student meeting were the students school assignments and the ongoing process; the chairman was one of the students and the rest of the students has to report their development of the appointments of last week.

The most significant challenges facing green VET schools were analysed during the CHAVET project. Some of these have been selected to elaborate good practice and develop tools to help schools to meet them. Those selected are:

- a) “environment/climate change” (need for new farming techniques)
- b) “changes in farm enterprises” (need for entrepreneurial competencies)
- c) ECVET implementation in the green sector

Thus, the goals of COPCHAVET are to help European agricultural VET schools to adapt to the future, to overcome challenges related to environment/climate change, changes in farms/firms and ECVET implementation in agricultural sector. This Open School about “Regioleren” was a start to show and experience “changes in farms and enterprises and regional industries.” And the main theme was the collaboration between entrepreneurs, researchers and education. These partners will have the key role in green education in the Netherlands, together with the local government and reckon with the local people.

Specific objectives in COPCHAVET are:

1) To enhance knowledge & awareness among the green VET schools of challenges related to:

a) environmental issues and climate change that affect farming – in this meeting we met students who were involved in projects concerning nature conservation in nature reserves under capable management of the local rangers.

b) changes in farms/firms and the school-enterprise relationship – in this meeting we met entrepreneurs who worked with students on projects. The demand came from the entrepreneurs and the students completed their portfolio in these projects.

c) dissemination of the concept of ECVET in the green sector. In this meeting was discussed between the participants which parts we could use for ECVET-units. But it was an orientation on ECVET possibilities.

2) To improve knowledge, skills and competencies of teachers and managers of green VET schools as well as other major stakeholders (farmers/entrepreneurs, students etc.) regarding the subjects “Regionleren” and specially the changing role of the entrepreneurs.

3) To encourage innovative thinking and entrepreneurial behaviour in students. Students, when working in “Regioleren” needed to start their own small business. They are registered at the Chamber of Commerce and need to make profit, which will be used for charitable cause related to the Millennium Development Goals.

4) To strengthen the cooperation among partners (EUROPEA associations). This Open School in COPCHAVET were every partners was present by sending experts strengthened the EUROPEA network and the report of this meeting will be presented at the next EUROPEA International meeting in Denmark in June 2012.

The earlier partnership project demonstrated a good working structure with “studies/survey, open schools, student meetings and general meetings” and we plan to maintain that structure. And the Kick-off meeting of COPCHAVET was an Open School organised by EUROPEA NL. The host educational institute was AOC Terra, the green, agricultural school in Meppel part of Onderwijsgroep Noord.

The COPCHAVET project will organize events in 6 different countries with shared tasks and responsibilities. These events will facilitate sharing information and provide specific experiences of the host country. The events are as follows:

- 4 specialised and small international meetings of teachers and experts (Open Schools) where new information about the topics will be provided and more importantly the good examples (tools) that at national level they have collected. This meeting about Regioleren was the kick-off meeting and a good example of working together with the real life entrepreneurs which had a demand that will be solved by researchers of Wageningen University, Professional University VanHall-Larenstein and the hands on will be provided by AOC Terra.

By participating in the COPCHAVET Open School meeting in the Netherlands VET teachers will improve their skills in:

- \* technical matters, e.g. rural development, renewable energy, all of them within the tenet of sustainability

- \* social matters, e.g.. rural life in Europe, dealing with adults in rural society and overcome shrink in the region. The Green Education in the part of the Netherlands where the Open School took place has a role in the re-development of the region. To help entrepreneurs with innovative ideas to carry out their ideas, so that the region will be attractive again to stay and not to move to the urban regions.

- \* educational matters (teaching in partner countries, involving and cooperating with representatives of the green sector, new learning approaches, working with and for the new young generation, and a new and important subject of mobility in Europe: the ECVET dissemination to agricultural “green” VET). The new learning approach in this Open School is “Regioleren” – Learning in the region, with the region. Stakeholders are local government, researchers, education, entrepreneurs and the regional citizens. The demands are from the entrepreneurs, the citizens or the local government. The students play an important role in the Werkplaats, as so called. And can build their personal development in a portfolio in which all of their competences are written to be obtained.

- \* Languages, including specialist vocabulary which will help them to be mobile in Europe – the presentations about Regioleren provided new vocabulary of educational language.

- \* Cultural awareness and expression – the presentations of and visits to different projects showed cultural differences in working attitude and cultural heritage. And by attending a flower arranging workshop for Christmas.

- \* Communication in foreign languages – all the presentations and visits were provided in English, which is not the mother tongue of any participant.

Open schools (AT, NL, RO, CZ)

a) Organise a VET teachers’ workshop together with professionals from host country – Done on the topic “Regioleren”.

b) Introduce the vocational system related to the subject – Done by the presentations.

c) Invite professionals from host country – Experts from the University of Wageningen, expert of Regioleren and “inventor” of the Working Place, expert entrepreneurs who are working with the students in Regioleren.

d) Organise formal time for discussion, sharing experience. The End discussion of the Open Schools was about “the low hanging fruits”; what can a participants learn and take with him and use in his own situation.

e) Identify needs/challenges in the chosen field, report to General Meetings. Will be done in June 2012 at EUROPEA International meeting.

f) Prepare and spread seminar results - The results and presentations will be disseminated on the website of EUROPEA International, [www.europea.org](http://www.europea.org) and discussed in the national EUROPEA meetings.

Basically, our partnership involves the close cooperation of green VET institutions in order to find answers to present challenges in VET. To get a broader European view, VET teachers from at least 2 different schools in each country will participate, as well as entrepreneurs and students from their region. See the list of participants.

The activities to be carried out by these schools will be done in cooperation with 3 types of stakeholder (VET teachers, entrepreneurs and students). Planning, implementation, evaluation & dissemination may vary from one country to the next, but every national partner must try to involve all 3 stakeholder groups. In this Open School we succeeded in this planned goal. See list of participants.

During the seminars and open schools participants will be actively involved in collecting good practice for the repertoires and the development of ideas for the dissemination of ECVET in European countries. The results of the Open School in the Netherlands will be found on the intranet of EUROPEA International and available for everybody in one of folders on the website.

We will keep participant lists. See attachment and the evaluation have been written down in “country reports”. See attachments.

The integration of the project into the activities of national EUROPEA associations is clear, since in their statutes these activities are prioritised: studies, seminars, exchanging information and experiences, promoting student exchanges etc.

The project took place at the green school AOC Terra and teachers as well as students will collaborate, following a national implementation plan which every partner will create.

Enterprises cooperating with the VET school AOC Terra and VanHall-Larenstein (e.g.. on technical visits or work placements) have been invited by the school to join the partnership. Some of them were invited to provide a workshop and be present at the meeting and delivered information and opinions.

Representatives of the green sector (entrepreneurs, farmers, growers etc.) have been asked to give their views on the topics, e.g.. “What do you expect from a green school?”, “What do you require of your future employees?”, “How does the changing society influence your business?” That’s all part of the “Regioleren”.

To integrate the project into learning activities at school level, it will be advisable that School Boards confirm their engagement. The principal of AOC Terra Mbo Meppel was present at the meeting and gave his opinion and showed his drive to continue with this new way of teaching and learning.

A close cooperation between the school and the land based sector (all fields of agriculture and related services, horticulture, forestry, rural tourism, food processing, direct marketing, community service, animal husbandry, new entrepreneurship etc) will assist all stakeholders to influence policy makers. Both sectors will be more ready for the future; and can even coordinate their reaction to demands and be better prepared to meet challenges.

As chairman of this Open School I conclude that we have met all the aims we had foreseen in the preparation of this Open School about Regioleren.

December 2011, Ton Stok & Evelien Kist – EUROPEA the Netherlands.