

The EURIAC project has now carried out four student exchanges, called mobilites. During the exchanges we tested our newly developed training units in industrial automation.

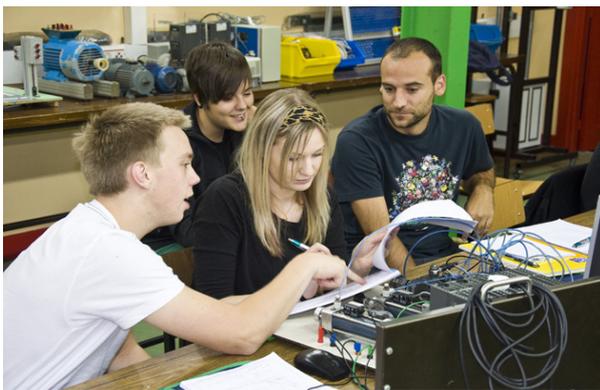
Read more about our mobilities and the other progress in the EURIAC project in our newsletter:

Mobility 1 in Bilbao, Spain

EURIAC Units of Learning Outcomes have been tested and evaluated

David and his fellow classmates in the European class were thrown into work from day one. After a short introduction to a new software application their assignment was to create a program to control a manufacturing system. However, the application was all in Spanish. But no challenge is too big for the European class and in collaboration the students immediately created a translation list of all the menus and tools in the software application to be able to carry on with the assignment.

- This is so great, Kenneth Karlsson, the Swedish vocational teacher in EURIAC, says. This is exactly the kind of situation these students will experience when they start working as a technician or engineer in automation.



Finnish students working together with Spanish students in industrial automation

The manuals and programs will be different to what they are used to and they will need to solve many problems quickly. We would never have been able to create this kind of learning context for the students just staying at home in the classroom in Sweden.

- It was two weeks of very hard work, but it has been really amazing. To see the interest and the enthusiasm of the students, feeling them wanting to learn and work was a stimulus for me to continue working with them, says Xabier Ugarte, vocational teacher in EURIAC.

Aspects of interest

Aim

- o Deliver 4 European vocational education units of learning outcomes in industrial automation at EQF 4
- o Offer students in vocational education the opportunity to learn abroad

ECVET

We make practical use of ECVET

Programme

Lifelong Learning Programme

Duration

October 2011 – October 2013

Final Conference

September 19-20, 2013 in Kungsbacka, Sweden

Read more about the European Class in Spain here:

http://www.euriac.eu/News/EURIAC%20Students%20studied%20in%20Spain/EURIAC_students_in_Spain.html

Mobility 2 in Breda, the Netherlands

EURIAC carried out and tested unit 2

In the Netherlands, the educational programmes for initial vocational training are not divided into courses or described in terms of learning outcomes. The programme involved in the EURIAC project, is school based but carried out as work procedures and described in terms of competences.



The first assignment for the European Class students; to make a PLC program.

On the contrary, in Sweden all educational programmes at upper secondary level are divided into approximately 25-40 different courses where the students get a grade for each finished course making it possible for them to accumulate learning results.

Since the EURIAC training is organised into units and learning outcomes, Radius College had to work in a new way to handle the training for the EURIAC mobility.

Ad Stam, the teacher responsible for the Dutch unit, thought it was no problem working with a two week course.

The content of the unit corresponds to what he normally does with the students in the Dutch qualification. The difference was that the learning outcome approach required a higher degree of formality than he is familiar with, the way the training is predefined and described in detail. The training Ad Stam carried out with the EURIAC students in two weeks within this field of technology, corresponds to what he normally does with his own students in one semester.

- Usually I spend much more time on explaining the theory. But I think this way is better for the students since they got to work much more with the equipment, he says.

Read more about the European Class in the Netherlands here:
http://www.euriac.eu/News/Mobility_2/Mobility_2.html

Mobility 3 in Jakobstad, Finland

Finland is one step closer to ECVET

The Finnish weather was at its best when Christian Dahlin, vocational teacher at Optima, Finland, greeted the new European Class in January 2013. The temperature during the day was between -5 and -8 Celsius and there was no wind, plenty of snow and white frost in the trees.

There were plenty of things to organise before the two week mobility; the classes, picking them up at the airport and evening activities. But the timing was good since most of his ordinary students were away at internship.

It was difficult on beforehand to know what the mobility students were capable of. He soon discovered that they were really good at certain things, but had difficulties at others.

The other vocational teachers involved in the EURIAC project participated for a few days in the mobility in Finland to discuss and evaluate the training.

The teachers are still working on the assessment scheme – how to assess the students' knowledge, skills and competences. The discussions about assessment have proved both difficult and very interesting since the teachers have very different experiences of and requirements on assessment.



During the weekend Christian Dahlin arranged an appreciated day with snowmobiles.

Read more about the European Class in Finland here:

[http://www.euriac.eu/News/Finland closer to ECVET/Finland closer to ECVET.html](http://www.euriac.eu/News/Finland%20closer%20to%20ECVET/Finland%20closer%20to%20ECVET.html)

Mobility 4 in Kungsbacka, Sweden

European vocational programmes lack training in advanced safety systems in automation

This is one of many interesting conclusions that the EURIAC project has arrived at and that proves that transnational EU-project adds extra value. In the autumn of 2011, the EURIAC project distributed a questionnaire to the industry investigating what competences they require in automation.

The project team then selected the four competence areas most asked for and developed four units of learning outcomes based on those competences. One of these competences was safety systems. The unit was tested in Kungsbacka, Sweden, in the end of March.

This meant that for two weeks, the students at the Programme of Mechatronics at Elof Lindälvs gymnasium received new classmates. Students from Finland, Spain, and the Netherlands conducted part of their training in automation together with Swedish students creating a European Class. The unit of learning outcomes in safety systems was taught in English and consisted of lectures, workshops, projects, and study visits at companies.



VET teachers and students, testing and evaluating the unit of safety systems.

When working with the unit, the four involved VET teachers discovered that the educational program curriculums in all four involved countries do not cover the more advanced levels of safety in automation, which is a competence the industry wants, according to our market analysis.

Read more about the European Class in Sweden here:

<http://www.euriac.eu/News/Mobility%204/Mobility%204.html>

List of ECVET products soon to be completed and ready for download at EURIAC's website:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Learning Agreement
- Units of Learning Outcomes in Industrial Automation
- EURIAC Assessment Procedure
- ECVET Glossary
- Framework for Implementing EURIAC

Find downloads here: <http://www.euriac.eu/downloads.html>

Swedish College wants to use EURIAC products in a new partnership

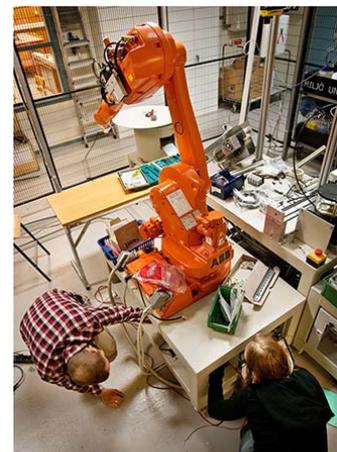
The Swedish technical college GTG (Gothenburg Technical College) in Gothenburg has now decided that they would like to use the EURIAC concept to set up a new consortium to continue the verification and development of the European Class in automation. They are planning to apply for funding for a Leonardo da Vinci partnership by the 21th of February 2013. Together with a number of European partners they aim to test the functionality of the units of learning outcomes developed in EURIAC.

- It would be very exciting to put the units into the hands of our teachers in automation, says Gisela Bohlin, International Coordinator at GTG.

She sees many positive potential effects of testing and implementing the EURIAC concept. The partnership project will have a direct effect on the teachers and the students since they will be highly involved. This kind of EU-project is an updating of skills for not only the students but also the teachers.

Read more about the project here:

http://www.euriac.eu/News/Swedish%20college/Swedish_college.html



Students working on robotics at GTG

Invitation to contribute to BIBB's discussion paper on the ECVET process in Europe

The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) is recognised as a centre of excellence for vocational research and for the progressive development of vocational education and training (VET) in Germany. In the EURIAC project, BIBB is responsible for cooperative evaluation and has now invited the project to share its experiences and results contributing with an article in the discussion paper on ECVET that will be presented at the ECVET forum in Brussels in the fall of 2013.



Christiane Eberhardt, BIBB, responsible for cooperative evaluation in the EURIAC project.

- It has provided me both joy and headache, Kenneth Karlsson, Swedish vocational teacher participating in the EURIAC project, claims smilingly. It was tough work at times but it has given me insights and increased professional competence that I would not have gained any other way.

I now understand what is great about Swedish vocational training, but also what we need to change to improve it.

Learning how to handle the ECVET tools has also improved my understanding of the Swedish and other European educational systems and I think we have a lot to gain if we would 'ECVETise' Swedish vocational training.

The complete report from BIBB will be ready for download on the EURIAC website when published.

Read more about the report and EURIAC's contribution here:

<http://www.euriac.eu/News/Invitation%20to%20BIBB/Invitation%20%20to%20BIBB.html>

EURIAC partners apply for funding to continue cooperation

The EURIAC partners are very eager to continue the development of the European class and to carry on the mobility exchanges. The Finnish, Swedish, and Dutch vocational institutions involved have therefore applied for funding to carry on the collaboration. However, the Basque vocational college in the EURIAC project will not be able to join the new collaboration scheme since the institution and the vocational programme is sorted as higher VET. Due to this, the Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierra can only apply for mobility funding from the Erasmus programme. Since different rules and requirements apply to the Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus programmes it will not be possible to carry on the mobility exchanges as the European class is designed today.



European Class in Kungsbacka, Sweden 2013

- We do hope that the new programme Erasmus for all will solve these matters. Even though the Spanish vocational programme is sorted as higher vocational education, the students are still at the same competence level in automation as the EURIAC students from Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands. It is a great pity for all of us that we will not be able to continue the exchanges with Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierri. Pernilla Öhberg, project manager of EURIAC, explains.

Read more about the new partnership for mobility here:

<http://www.euriac.eu/News/EURIAC%20partners/EURIAC%20partners.html>

Interim report approved

Much has been accomplished since the EURIAC project kicked-off in October 2011. As a result, the Swedish National Agency financing the project approved the interim report in mid January, 2013. There were many positive statements about the project in the evaluation of the interim report:

“The partners are all involved & dedicated to the project process & results. They know each other from previous project & this constitutes a major advantage for the project. The consortium has the knowledge that is required for producing the desired outcome.”



“All partners have been active in dissemination & exploitation activities & have taken part in many different occasions presenting the project & the results to come.”

- We should be really proud of ourselves. Along the way we have made experiences that have made us want to push further and deepen our understanding of matters such as ECVET and the challenges of European vocational education. Pernilla Öhberg, EURIAC project manager, explains.

Read more about the response on the interim report here:

<http://www.euriac.eu/News/Interim%20report%20approved/Interim%20report%20approved.html>

ClimaVET - New consortium applying for funding to transfer EURIAC results

A consortium of five European vocational institutions has contacted the EURIAC project to ask for permission to transfer and use the EURIAC ECVET products and process in a new Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project.



Usurbilgo Lanbide Eskola in the Basque region, Spain

- We are of course very happy about the great interest we have received from other vocational schools and colleges in Europe. We hope that our experiences and results from the EURIAC project can support and inspire other schools to create international learning opportunities for students in VET. Pernilla Öhberg, EURIAC project manager, says.

The ClimaVET project was initiated by the Usurbilgo Lanbide Eskola in the Basque region in Spain. The aim of the ClimaVET project is to create a common curriculum in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning installations (HVAC). As stated in the project outline: “This kind of maintenance is widely used and the way of working is very similar in every country. Therefore, it is a very positive situation for the mobility of students for academic and work purposes.”

Read more about the ClimaVET project here: <http://www.euriac.eu/News/ClimaVET/ClimaVET.html>

Project partners in EURIAC

Sweden: Kungsbacka Municipality, Elof Lindälvs gymnasium and UTEK AB

Germany: Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung (BIBB)

Finland: Optima Samkommun

Spain: Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierrri, S Coop. Ltda

the Netherlands: ROC West Brabant and Radius College

Switzerland: Wear Management

Read more about the partners here:

<http://www.euriac.eu/partners.html>



Fredrik from Sweden travelled to Spain in September, 2012, to receive training in FMS (Flexible Manufacturing System) system

The newsletter is created by the Communication Coordinator in the EURIAC project - Carin Johansson. Tips and comments about the contents of the newsletter, please contact Carin Johansson at carin.i.johansson@kungsbacka.se.

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