



*European Association for higher educated Professional
Europäischer Verband für höher qualifizierte Berufe
Association Européenne des Professions Supérieures*

New Organisation EURO-PROF backing European Engineers and Technicians (Cooperation of non-academic educational schools and institutions)

EURO-PROF which had its constitutional meeting in November 2009, is taking action to improve the situation of the national schools and institutions for vocational education by promoting their transnational cooperation.

Established as a top-organisation for the named schools and institutions of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, its representatives took part in the working conference of the “Bundesarbeitskreis Fachschulen Technik” (BAKFST) in Ingolstadt, Germany in March 2010 and found sincere attention among the participants. The conference declared its profound interest in the objectives of EURO-PROF, will cooperate closely and is discussing to join.

At the moment the most important issue is the rating of the mentioned institutes according to the respective National Qualification Frameworks and the soon to be revised scale of the International Standards on Classification of Education (ISCED). It was agreed upon that the graduates, having fulfilled all requirements of education, training and workplace practice, should be granted level 6 of EQF (and corresponding national level) and level 5 of ISCED. This would certainly be justified by the knowledge, skills and competences of these engineers and technicians, their vocational achievements giving proof to it, day by day. Following that conference, government representatives and those of economy and industry were contacted to promote this issue. The impression is that the awareness could be raised positively.

Some weeks ago, the “Swiss Conference of Höhere Fachschulen” accepted and positioned EURO-PROF as their platform for international affairs. In due course, contacts were made with the Bundesamt für Bildung und Technologie (BBT) to intensify and coordinate international cooperation on the afore mentioned issues.

In Austria, same contacts were made to the Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture – BMUKK (which was well represented at the constitutional meeting) to initiate a meeting of Austrian and Swiss ministry representatives which could well take place later this year.

Werner Wöhr, the German EURO-PROF vice-president, contacted Professor Georg Spöttl, chairman of the working group Elektro/Metall for the German Qualification Framework (DQR) to talk about justifiable ratings and EURO-PROF’s position was well considered. In September 2010, EURO-PROF’s annual general assembly will take place in Bregenz (Austria), where strategy and focuses for the next year will be laid out.

More information on EURO-PROF's objectives and activities can be found on www.europrof.net (as well as www.euro-prof.net).

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