



Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2007

The meeting was held at the Vendôme Hotel in Brussels. The social partners, EFFAT and CEETTAR, welcomed the participants¹ and proposed the following agenda:

- 1- Approval of the minutes of the Münster meeting and assessment of the conference.
- 2- Questionnaire discussed in Münster: initial summary and decision on the contents
- 3- Training modules: proposed content
- 4- Future work
- 5- Any other business.

The participants approved the agenda as presented.

- 1- The **minutes** of the Münster meeting were approved. The participants thought that it had been a good idea to hold this working group meeting in Münster during the exhibition by rural services companies. All the participants (both employees and entrepreneurs) felt that the exhibition had been very interesting.

The participants had also appreciated the meeting with the representatives of the new countries given that a fruitful exchange of views had taken place.

The CEETTAR GENERAL SECRETARY, Mr MARIS, informed the working group that their Board had been held in Berlin and that Mr NAPIAS from France is

¹ The list is in the annex.



standing as candidate for the post of future President. He also welcomed the joint request by the two social partners concerning their wish to establish a formal social dialogue at European level.

- 2- Patrick CAUDRON, speaking on behalf of the “**Projectives**” network, presented the first **report of the answers to the questionnaire** as well as a draft summary so that positions could be adopted. These documents are attached to these minutes.

The ensuing discussion was very fruitful and naturally concerned the various models and stages of vocational training. Several modifications were requested in order to incorporate the answers by employers’ representations which undertook to return the questionnaire after this meeting. The expert explained that these additional answers would be integrated, but said that in any case a deadline would have to be set that could not be missed in future (see date of end of project). Arnd SPAHN agreed with this constraint, and proposed that the deadline should not be longer than fifteen days.

Several members tackled the issue of harmonisation at European level. Most members considered that the key issue was not just harmonisation, but rather the identification of needs relating to the various modules and the supply of training which must be homogenous, not harmonised, as this last term could be interpreted in different ways.

Lastly, the feedback emerging from the questionnaires raised several points for discussion as regards the inclusion or non-inclusion of the following items in training modules:

- Environmental safety.
- How to transpose European measures at national level.
- What intermediate examinations are held during training, at what levels are they held and how frequently?

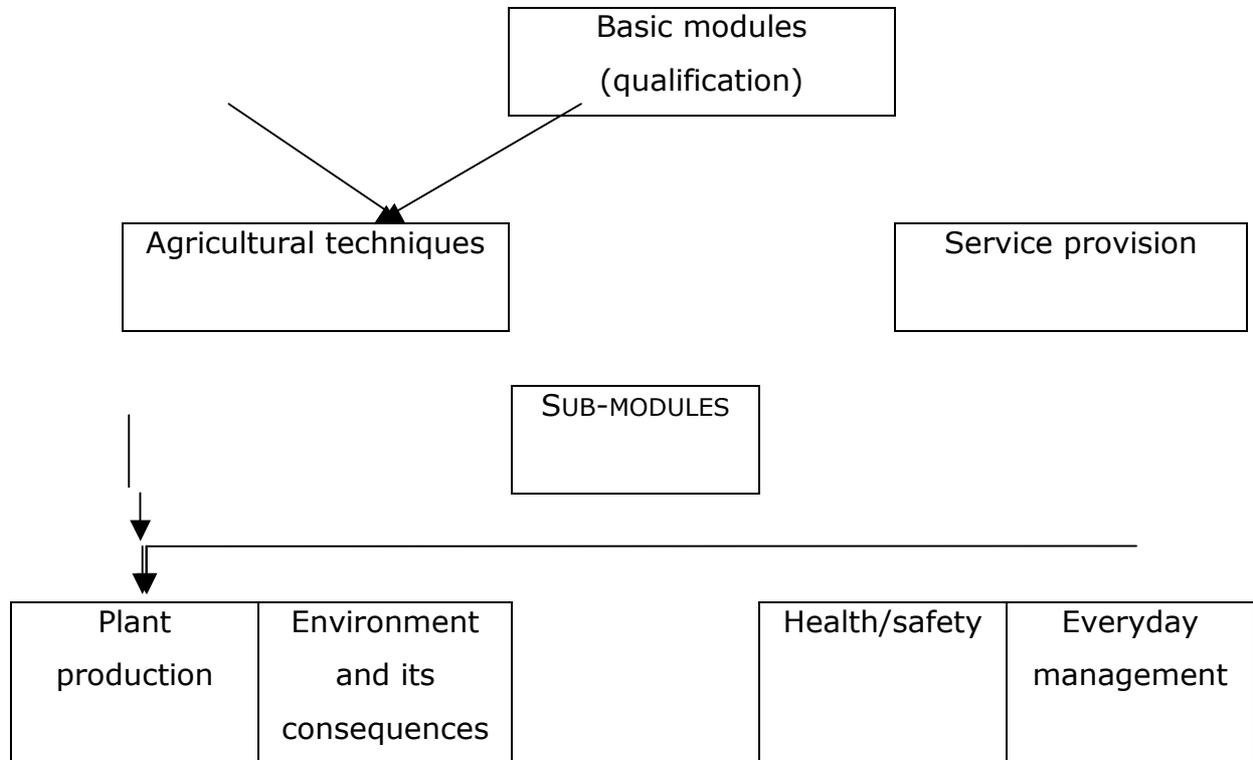


- After how long a period of training should examinations be held?
- Questions about the integration of seasonal workers.
- Linking theory and practice.
- What information should customers be given in the context of office work?
- What rights do workers have and how are they represented?
- What training is given to drivers of machinery who must drive on roads?

To conclude the debate, it was proposed that a consensus be reached on the various modules at the meeting on 4 April, with proposals for decisions to be taken at the plenary session on 26 April 2007. It is clear that the participants will be mandated by their respective bodies in order to adopt these decisions. The modules are presented below.

3- Training modules

Arnd Spahn introduced the debate on the modules by summarising them in the following diagram:



Other subjects and topics were presented as possible strategies for development in future, for instance forestry activities such as:

- Forestry workers: tree felling
- Winter services
- Local services
- Importance of winter services in northern Europe.

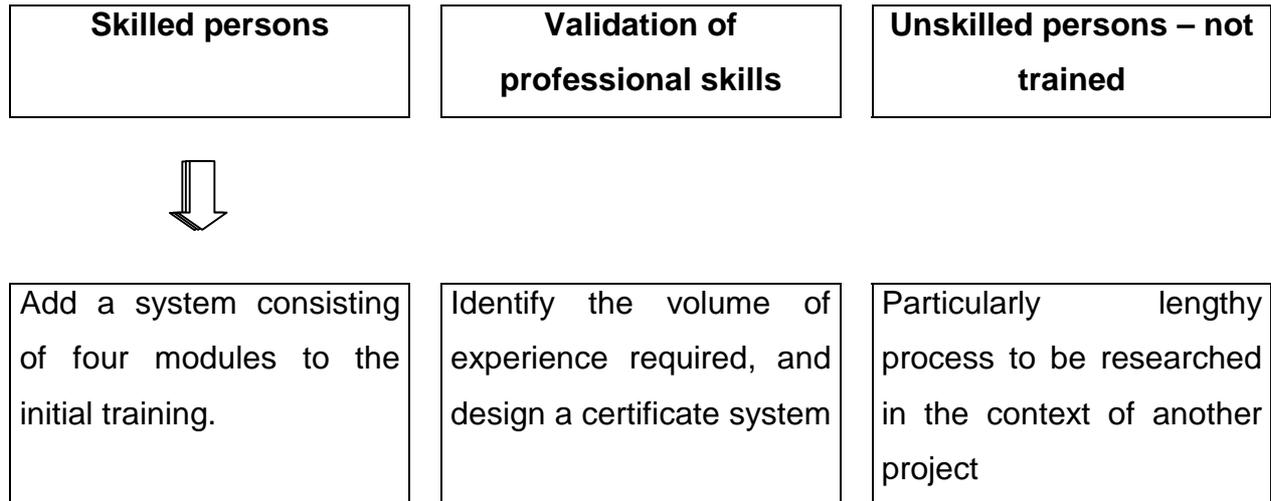
The European modules form the basis for devising the training supply.

Debate with the meeting:

The question of added value was raised in relation to the development of new fields of activity. Even though training has a cost, it provides decisive added value.



Arnd SPAHN went back to the diagram presented at the November meeting concerning the classification of groups identified as beneficiaries of the research process. This diagram contains the following three groups:



He then mentioned the priorities defined as such at that meeting, and pointed out that the debate must be conducted according to this diagram, in the order of the priorities decided on in November.

Eddy KLÖCKER also emphasised again the importance of efficient training and the certification of services companies as a decisive element in their development. He pointed out that the debate had been developed in the various working groups in this same spirit. This was the spirit in which the working group had acknowledged the need to develop Rural Service Companies. The learning of new techniques would permit the development of other qualifications which were in fact vital for the development and the future of companies in the sector. He emphasised the value of developing modules in every country, mindful of the way training systems were organised, and in particular of what they cost and how they were paid for, in each Member State. In some Member States, it was the State which paid, while in others there was a joint system, or training was paid by companies. These modules would be the basis for future work. The



discussions must also be held at national level with those involved in training.

4- **Future work:**

The two project managers, Arnd SPAHN and Eddy KLÖCKER, announced that the project would be followed up by applying for assistance from the European Commission, in particular so that modules could be devised as proposed at this meeting. The next meeting, scheduled for 4 April 2006, must enable us to:

- finalise the experts' report, once the additional information from the questionnaires had been received;
- adopt a position on the design of the future project concerning the modules to be developed.

5- As no item on other business was proposed, the managers thanked the interpreters and wished the participants a safe journey home.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /TEILNEHMERLISTE/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS S

| Country | NAME, First name | European social partner |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BELGIUM | VAN BOSCH, Johan | CEETTAR |
| DENMARK | GROTH, Erik | CEETTAR |
| FRANCE | SUPLICE, Pierre | EFFAT |
| GERMANY | BARTELS, Holger | EFFAT |
| | RENFTEL, Pirko | CEETTAR |
| ITALY | MOCCIARO, Giacomo | CEETTAR |
| NETHERLANDS | MARIS, Jan | CEETTAR |
| POLAND | SZUSZKIEWICZ, Barbara | CEETTAR |
| | SIENKIEWICZ, Marian | EFFAT |
| Experts | KLAPUCH, Jean-Pierre | Réseau Projectives |
| | CAUDRON, Patrick | Réseau Projectives |
| EUROPEAN Secretariats | KLÖCKER, Eddy | CEETTAR |
| | SPAHN, Arnd | EFFAT |