



**Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Europäischer Gartenbaulehrerinnen und Gartenbaulehrer**

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**Europäischer Berufswettbewerb für junge Gärtnerinnen und
Gärtner in der Gartenbauschule**

**European Vocational Competition for
Young Gardeners in
School of Horticulture**

History of the vocational competition

Johannes Peperhove, president of the booster club 'European Horticulture Teachers'

I. The original thoughts of the Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners

On the 18th November 1995 Johannes Peperhove, ex-president of the German-French gardening teachers' community and since 2005 the president of the European horticulture teachers, initiate's the European Competition for Young Gardeners at a German-French conference for Young Gardeners and the German-French gardening teachers' community. Ms Prosser, the managing director of AdJ/Germany in 1997, introduces the ideas that had been developed until 1998 at the CEJH Congress in Austria. She informs the ELCA, AIPH and COPA about the European Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners.

From 13th - 15th November 1998 a meeting with representatives of Estonia, Austria, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany takes place in Grünberg. The following people are present: Klaus Schnaidt (the chairman of AdJ), Frederik Leys (the chairman of CEJH) and Mr Dr. Scholz from ZVG.

The first European Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners takes place from 2nd - 6th October 2002 in the gardening center in Münster-Wolbeck in Germany.

II. Description of the Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners

Young gardeners need to assert their position in professional life in a European environment that is growing more and more together. For this „new generation“ of gardeners flexibility and intercultural knowledge are crucial skills for a successful existence in professional life.

Therefore, it is important to provide young gardeners the opportunity to qualify on horticultural matters as well as to convey knowledge and understanding of other countries.

The European Vocational Competition offers a good opportunity to do so.

The aim of the European professional competition is to compete with like-minded in gardening professional skills, creativity and resourcefulness - away from real-life testing and competition pressures. Working together, developing new ideas and solving tasks in a team are at the very heart of the European Vocational Competition. In this informal atmosphere, new professional knowledge can be developed and existing knowledge can be deepened. Furthermore, this vocational competition establishes an ideal platform for making contacts and - last but not least - for gaining a good insight into the different disciplines of the horticultural profession.

III. Implementation of the European idea – the European Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners

1. Teamwork

The European vocational competition for young gardeners is conducted in teams of three people. Our current society is characterized by a strong individualization - a trend, which the European Competition tries to counteract. Part of the tasks during the competition are solved in "European teams" composed of representatives of different countries. The points gained from the "European team"-tasks are then also taken into consideration for the corresponding national team scores. This promotes the preparedness for cooperation of young people even across language barriers.

We (as organizers) want young people to communicate with each other, overcoming language barriers. Another important aspect of this project is joint action and team-work.

2. The European Aspect

As it becomes more and more interesting for young gardeners to take a look at the European (rather than the national) employment market, the European dimension in vocational education will become increasingly important. Therefore, another main focus of the European competition is put on professional issues of Europe-wide importance. Thus, some tasks in the competition refer to the regulations of the European Community, especially those effecting the horticultural production and marketing of horticultural products in the European countries. Young gardeners should be able to develop a more detailed idea of the importance and potential of European regulations (e.g. in role-plays, where they have to put themselves in the situation of a gardener in another country).

The growing together of the European nations can only be realized, if the youth in the member countries is given the opportunity to develop understanding and tolerance for each other – despite all differences. This is a major aim of the European Competition.

3. Principles

The supporting organization of the competition is the Association of European horticulture teachers. The competition takes place every two years.

IV. Purposes

All measures initiated in the context of the European vocational competition have to satisfy the principle of "cooperation instead of competition".

1. Improving the quality and innovation of vocational education systems and measures in the member states. Promoting the European dimension in vocational education.
2. Promoting life-long learning with the goal of continuously adapting skills to match the needs of Workers and enterprises, reducing unemployment and developing personally.
3. Promoting vocational education for young people and preparing them for adult and working life with regards to the requirements of society and technological change.
4. Promoting transparency of qualifications and educational systems in Europe.
5. Promoting the progressive development of an open „European area“ of horticultural training and professional skills, particularly through information and exchange of experiences.
6. Acquisition of demand-centered competencies and personal skills to promote the mobility of young people.

V. The technical aspect

Horticulture is a versatile and modern economic sector. It covers the production area (vegetables, fruits and ornamental plants, nursery, perennial gardening, plant breeding and seed growing) as well as the trade and service sector (landscaping, cemetery nursery, (retail) garden centers, florists, wholesale). On the one hand, gardening firms have to specialize more and more. On the other hand, employees have to become „all-rounders“. They have to satisfy the specific requirements of the firms, but they also have to flexibly meet challenges in between the different gardening sectors. A multi-disciplinary knowledge is essential for successful existence in the future employment market. Following this idea, the European vocational competition promotes knowledge within the different areas of gardening through diversified tasks. The emphasis is put on practical aspects, less on theoretical knowledge.

Many countries of the European Community have to face the problem of high youth unemployment rates. Especially poorly educated young people are often concerned by this development.

Employment markets should become more flexible. The competition aims at providing the participants additional non-scholar qualifications that will offer them new perspectives and opportunities in Europe. Uncertainty combined with increasingly complex environments has become a major pressure for young people. They especially suffer from a large job insecurity. In this respect, the European Vocational Competition should offer its participants detailed information on the possibilities and dimensions of the European employment market. By informing and by establishing personal contacts, inhibition barriers should be overcome and perspectives for new employment fields in the European Community should be created.

The demand for self-designed work and deliberately chosen freedom is increasing. This trend also affects the working environment. New job profiles and changes in work organization offer young people opportunities and prospects. Through the professional competition, young people should be introduced to self-dependent and autonomous acting and thinking. This most likely has a positive effect on the self-esteem of young people. A „good“ self-esteem will lead them to better recognize new challenges and opportunities and to seize them more likely.

Another important aspect of European vocational competition is the fact that (young) gardeners have the opportunity to look "outside the box" of their everyday life environment. New impressions and exchange experiences with young people from other countries sensitise them to other points of view and opinions and help raising tolerance; thus the competition contributes to the flexibility of youth. The need of alliance with like-minded is supported by the project as well: Finding groups of people with similar interests, ideals and values is very easy within a professional group and within a certain age group. This effect should support the success of the project.

VI. Summary of the objectives of the European Vocational Competition

Mission Statement: "cooperation instead of competition"

1. Improving the quality and innovation of vocational education systems and measures in the member states.
2. Promoting the European dimension in vocational education.
3. Promoting life-long learning with the goal of continuously adapting skills to match the needs of Workers and enterprises, reducing unemployment and developing personally.
4. Promoting vocational education for young people and preparing them for adult and working life with regards to the requirements of society and technological change.
5. Promoting transparency of qualifications and educational systems in Europe.
6. Promoting the progressive development of an open „European area“ of horticultural training and professional skills, particularly through information and exchange of experiences.

VII. European vocational competitions

- 2002 Gartenbauzentrum Münster-Wolbeck / Germany
- 2004 Obst-, Wein- und Gartenbauschule Laimburg / Italy
- 2006 Ecole d’horticulture et de Paysage de Roville aux Chenes / France
- 2008 Bildungszentrum Gartenbau, Langenlois / Austria
- 2010 R pina Aianduskool, R pina / Estonia
- 2012 Lyc e Technique Agricole, Ettelbruck / Luxembourg
- 2014 Gartenbauschule Niederlenz / Suisse
- 2016 ZAWM (Zentrum f r Aus- und Weiterbildung) / Belgium
- 2018 SO  zahradnick  a SOU Rajhrad / Tschechische Republik

Ansprechpartner/Nationalagenturen in den verschiedenen L ndern

Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europ ischer Gartenbaulehrerinnen und -lehrer organisiert den Europ ischen Berufswettbewerb.

Folgende L nder bzw. Institutionen sind daran beteiligt.

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Estland: | R pina Aianduskool, EE-R pina |
| 2. Polen: | ZESP L SZK L OGRODNICZYCH, PL-Bielsko-Biala |
| 3. Tschechische Republik: | SO  zahradnick  a SOU CZ-Rajhrad |
| 4. Slowakei: | Stredn  Z hradnick  Skola Piest ny/Slowakei |
| 5. Ungarn: | Bartha J nos Kertészeti Szakk pz  Iskola, HU-Szentes |
| 6. Kroatien | SREDNJA ŐKOLA "ARBORETUM OPEKA" MAR AN in Vinica |
| 7. Slowenien: | Őola za hortikulturo in vizualne umetnosti Celje/Slowenien |
| 8.  sterreich: | Bildungszentrum Gartenbau, A-Langenlois, |
| 9. Schweiz: | Gartenbauschule Niederlenz , CH -Niederlenz |
| 10. Italien | Obst-, Wein- und Gartenbauschule Laimburg/Italien |
| 11. Frankreich | TECOMAH - l'Ecole de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie, F-Jouy-en Josas
Ecole d’horticulture et de Paysage Roville aux Chenes |
| 12. Lettland | Bulduru D rzkop bas vidusskolu, Viestura iela 6, LV-2010
Jurmala, Lettland |
| 13. Luxemburg | Lyc e Technique Agricola L-Ettelbruck |
| 14. Belgien | ZAWM (Zentrum f r Aus- und Weiterbildung, B-Belgien |
| 15. Niederlande | Terra, MBO NL-Groningen/Meppel |
| 16. Deutschland | Verein zur F rderung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europ ischer |

17. Großbritannien

18. Rumänien

19. Dänemark

20. Schweden

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