



Newsletter – Edition December 2025

Time to say goodbye

I am stepping down from my role on the EBBD board as I am taking the next step in my professional development and can therefore no longer continue. It has been an inspiring and truly enriching journey—one where I learned a lot, gained fresh perspectives, and discovered new ways of working.

Being part of EBBD board strengthened my belief in the power of Studying, Living and Working in



Europe: crossing borders, exchanging ideas, and growing together.

Thank you for the experience, the teamwork, and the unforgettable moments!

Grit Arnold

EBBD has been part of my professional life for more than 15 years. For me, EBBD is a family of hearty colleagues in Europe. I have had the privilege and joy to work with dedicated colleagues in the three Erasmus projects for the development of program, in the annual events and in the board of EBBD e.V as the 2nd vice-chairperson.

The special spirit of people in the EBBD community ensures the sustainability and success of the program.



I will miss you all.

Kaisu Luukka

New EBBD college



Very happy to announce that we have recently accredited the first Norwegian EBBD college! All the way from above the Polar Circle, Bodø, how special at this time of year :)! 🎄

We warmly welcome colleagues and students of Bodø Upper Secondary College to the network.

This enlargement to ten countries, strengthens our European association further, opening doors for students, to Study, Work and Live in Europe and for teachers, and institutions to collaborate internationally.

Special thanks go out to Jan-Martin Sørensen and Tarjei Eck Hansen for taking on this challenge of implementing EBBD in your college.

We very much look forward to further cooperating with you.

Open positions in the board:

Secretary and Second vice chairperson EBBD e.V.

Grit Arnold and Kaisu Luukka are leaving the board per AGM 2026. As a result of this the positions of both the **Secretary** and the **Second Vice Chairperson** are vacant.

We are looking for motivated, ambitious and committed candidates who are willing and able to invest time to contribute to the development of EBBD and the management of the association.

Per position a task description can be found below:

Secretary

Communication with members:

- sends out the agenda of meetings to participants
- shares minutes of the meetings
- mails newsletters and other updates

The Secretary is an important link to German authorities like the association register, the notary etc. the applicant needs to be in command of the German language to an extent that enables him/her to produce documents which meet the requirements of German association law.

The Secretary takes minutes of all meetings: AGM, board meetings Steering Committee meetings and Strategic meetings

The Secretary keeps the member administration up to date.

Second Vice Chairperson

The Second Vice Chairperson has a position in the board of directors and in the Steering Committee of EBBD e.V.

Some of the details of the tasks of the Second Vice Chairperson:

The second Vice Chairperson takes care of marketing and communication activities for EBBD. This includes organising the EBBD newsletters and the communication through social media and the EBBD website.

The second Vice Chairperson supports the Secretary and Treasurer in their tasks.

In addition to these specific allocated tasks, the Secretary and the second Vice Chairperson actively contribute and participate in:

- online board meetings which are held every three weeks.
- Annual General Meeting and Training Event
- Strategic meetings organised twice a year which are in person meetings. One takes place adjacent to the AGM and the other at a later time in the year.
- Steering Committee meetings which are online meetings and organised twice a year.

Together with the other board members, the Secretary and Second Vice Chairperson actively contribute to the objectives of the Association.

Interested in becoming part of the EBBD e.V. board and taking on one of the described positions? Apply before 5 January 2026, by sending an article with a photo to chairperson@ebbd.eu. In this article please present yourself and motivate why you are the right candidate for this position. This article will be published in a special edition of the newsletter, prior to the AGM 2026. By applying you consent to the publication of this article and photo. An election will be organised during the AGM 2026, in which members are asked to cast their votes for the candidates presented. The candidate who gets the majority of votes will be appointed for the position.

Should you have any questions about these roles and the Board in general, please reach out to Cynthia Woolderink by mail: chairperson@ebbd.eu or phone: +31 6141 74325 or to any of the other board members.



Registration open

Dec 15, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026, max 3 persons/organization

Register here: <https://ebbd.eu/2026-annual-training-event-mainz-germany/>

The next Annual General Meeting and Training Event of EBBD e.V. will take place in the vibrant city of **Mainz, Germany**, on **March 19–20, 2026** – hosted by the Gustav-Stresemann Wirtschaftsschule Mainz. The venue is Gutenberg Digital Hub, Taunusstraße 59-61. You have many options in the city to book your accommodation.

Mainz, located on the banks of the Rhine River, is a city rich in history, culture, and hospitality. As the home of Johannes Gutenberg, it combines tradition with modern flair – the perfect setting for international exchange and inspiration.

Join colleagues from across Europe's EBBD schools to shape the future of our network, share best practices, and celebrate our shared commitment to excellence in business education. Let's connect, collaborate, and create new opportunities together!

We look forward to seeing you in Mainz!

Preliminary programme EBBD Annual Training 2026

	Time	Activity
Wednesday 18th March 2026	19:30	Informal Welcome Gathering Get together and welcome drinks
Thursday 19 March 2026, Gutenberg Digital Hub, Taunusstraße 59-61	8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants
	9:00 – 9:15	Opening of EBBD training event
	9:15 – 9:30	Welcoming of alumni and Presentation of alumni challenge
	9:30 – 11:00	Annual General Meeting EBBD
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break,
	11:30 – 12:00	Key note speaker 1
	12:00 – 12:30	Key note speaker 2
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:00	EBBD Training Workshop 1 – part 1
	16:00	Cultural activity
Friday 20 March 2026, Gutenberg Digital Hub, Taunusstraße 59-61	19:00	Dinner
	9:00 – 10:30	EBBD Training Workshop 1- part 2
	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
	11:00 – 12:30	EBBD Training Workshop 2- part 1
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	13:30 – 15:30	EBBD Training Workshop 2- part 2
	16:30 – 18:30	Cultural activity



Opportunity to take part in the 4th EBBD Alumni Challenge



In March 2023, Patrik Póka, Eva Ploshchadnaia, Hannah Berg and Dyon de Haas, were the first to take part in Eger, Hungary and made us all realise how important it is to keep our alumni involved and how

relevant their view on EBBD and the development of the certificate is.

In April 2024, in Helsinki, Finland Iness Belleili, Martha Viereckl and George Nicolas Hulea Damian joined and did a fantastic job, in inspiring the network with their ideas and experiences in EBBD. Impressive stories and inspiring ideas for the future of EBBD.

In April 2025, Delphine Austie, Luis Meyer, Sterre van schijndel and Alexander Frans, took part as alumni in the EBBD training event in 's-Hertogenbosch and

Tilburg. They especially highlighted the benefits of micro-credentials for EBBD students.

After three very successful alumni challenges it is time to kick off the 4th challenge.

For the EBBD training event in Mainz, we are looking for alumni who are eager to share what EBBD brought them and to inspire participants with their perspective on future developments for this European joint certificate. The event starts Wednesday evening 18 March and continues Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2026.

Do you have an alumni that could be interested in this opportunity? Please encourage them to apply, by sending an e-mail with motivation to: chairperson@ebbd.eu

The annual EBBD training is an excellent opportunity to meet other graduates in Europe and to share thoughts on EBBD with representatives of EBBD colleges throughout Europe.

Out of the applicants, two or three EBBD alumni will be selected. Preferably from different colleges in Europe. The association EBBD e.V. will cover the costs for the travel and stay, to a maximum of Erasmus+ funding for a KA1 staff mobility.

Do you want to contribute?

You are a (newly) accredited EBBD college and you wish to

- present your EBBD activities
- share good practice
- discuss ideas for further development of EBBD

Send us your article for the next issue of this newsletter latest by April 30, 2026.

Posts for IG or newsletter to hilla.helasaari@bc.fi



Follow us on Instagram!

[@ebbd_eu](https://www.instagram.com/ebbd_eu)





EBBD GRACE, an update of the European joint certificate in Business & Internationalisation – EBBD – with micro-credentials and GreenComp

EBBD is a joint European VET certificate of Excellence, with a focus on Business, Europe and Internationalisation, offered by almost 50 colleges, throughout Europe. As part of its ongoing evolution, EBBD is being updated through, EBBD GRACE, an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership. EBBD GRACE focuses on integrating sustainability competences based on the European framework GreenComp and on the implementation of micro-credentials issued as European Digital Credentials.

Objectives

- Update the EBBD certificate with green competences
- Provide more recognition of achievements for learners
- Increase recognition and value of the EBBD certificate in Europe
- Centralise and digitalise the issuing of the EBBD certificates

Recognition of Achievements

Micro-credentials – European Digital Credentials for Learning



Micro-credential means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. Learning experiences leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be stand-alone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.

(European Commission, 2022)

Why European digital credentials for learning?



**Digitalising
World**



**Security
and Trust**



Recognition



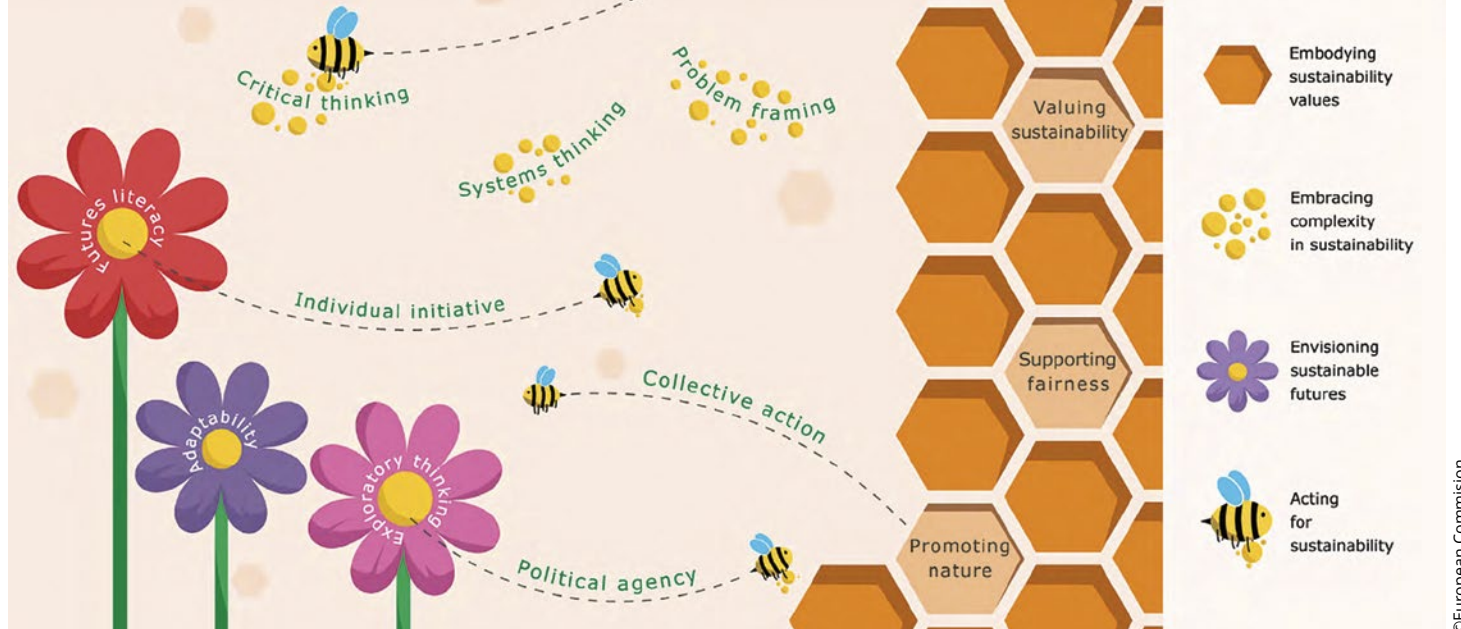
**Showcasing
Knowledge
and Skills**



**Ownership
of Data**

EBBD pilot micro-credentials

- Studying, Working, Living in Europe
- Europe and Democracy



Integrating sustainability in EBBD

Unit sustainability GreenComp focussing on

- Creative thinking
- Valuing sustainability
- Adaptability
- Systems thinking
- Supporting fairness
- Action-individual initiative and collective action

Project Partners

Berufliches Schulzentrum 1 der Stadt Leipzig Wirtschaft und Verwaltung, Germany
 Business College Helsinki, Finland
 Gustav-Stresemann-Wirtschaftsschule Mainz, Germany
 Nazaret Fundazioa, San Sebastian, Spain
 Rijn IJssel, Arnhem, Netherlands

Associate Partners

Andrássy György Katolikus Közgazdasági Technikum Gimnázium és Kollégium, Eger, Hungary
 International Business College Hetzendorf, Vienna, Austria
 Lycée Charles Péguy, Gorges, France
 Niels Brock, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Zespół Szkół Ekonomicznych, Czestochowa, Poland

Supporting Partners

ADEGI – Business Association of Gipuzkoa, San Sebastián, Spain
 Centre for Multiple Value Creation – HAN – University of Applied Sciences, Arnhem, Netherlands
 EFVET – European Forum of Technical Vocational Education & Training, Brussels, Belgium
 Haaga Helia, University of Applied Sciences Helsinki, Finland
 MicroVET, European School Heads Association, Utrecht, Netherlands
 Tknika – Basque VET Applied Research Centre, San Sebastián, Spain

2024-1-NL01-KA220-VET-000255535 – Green competences & Recognition of Achievements through Credentials in EBBD



Funded by
the European Union



europass



ebbd.eu/ebbd-grace/

Disseminating EBBD



In the 2025 EfVET conference round table we had the table full of participants interested in the EBBD program. They assured us that the updates in the GRACE project are important for the future of development of EBBD.



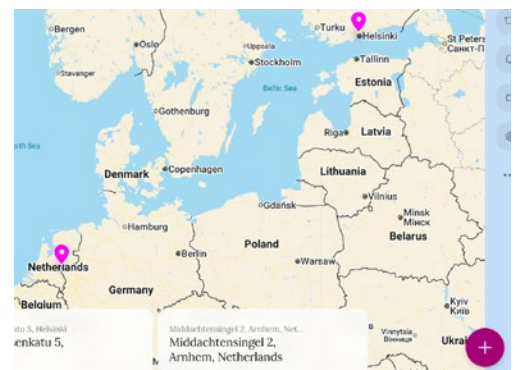
In the 2025 Finnish VET International Days the participants showed great interest in the possibilities to implement EBBD in their Business programs.

Platform for cooperation

The members of EBBD have been asking for a platform to share cooperation possibilities between the colleges. Some of the members recommended to use padlet map. We have now created a padlet where you can post for example invitations to events, possibilities for student and teacher mobilities or online student participation such as business games and projects. When you click the link given below you can find the posted offers.

When you want to add your own offer follow these instructions:

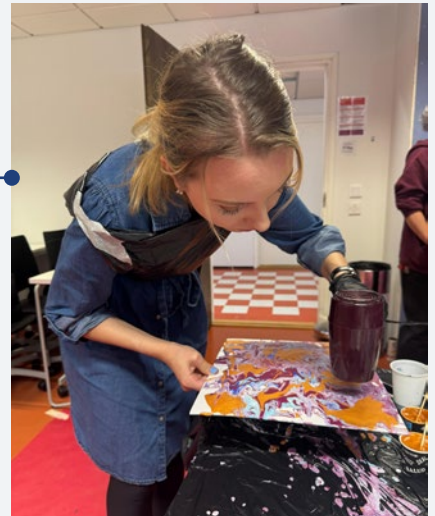
1. Create a padlet account for yourself using your email – padlet is free of charge
2. Click the link https://padlet.com/info33382/EBBDcollege_offers
3. You will get an announcement if you want to get the right to access the padlet-> give your approval.
4. Your approval will be automatically sent to info@ebbd.eu
5. EBBD e.V. board member checks your request and accepts it.
6. You will get the approval notice to your email by a sender "info33382" (EBBD e.V. account).
7. Click the padlet link, add your offer by using the "+"-button, remember to state the timing of your offer and the contact person.



We hope that you find this platform useful, however please let us know if you need more instructions or you have new ideas to improve cooperation. You can send your feedback to kaisu.luukka@bc.fi

Business College Helsinki EBBD student events

In September students planned Well Being week for the whole school as part of Working in a Project studies. They arranged art workshop, wellbeing fair, Volley-ball tournament, dance lesson, break exercises, karaoke and escape room – many smiling and happy participants.



In October students had customers for their practice enterprises from Africa and Spain as well as our own adult students coming from Asian countries.



Dear partners and members of our association, we wish you all wonderful and relaxing Christmas holidays and happy New Year!

***Holger R  th, Grit Arnold, Kaisu Luukka, Nereba Pe  a and Cynthia Woolderink
Board of Directors EBBD e.V.***



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- not professional or legal advice

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