**Prof. dr. Martin Mulder elected as Honorary Fellow of the Vocational Education and Training Research Network (VETNET) of the European Educational Research Association (EERA) on September 16 in Berlin**

Martin Mulder received the award because of the fact that he created [VETNET](http://vetnet.mixxt.org/) with colleagues during the 1990s. He was the chairman of the network during the first five years of its existence. Mulder: ‘This was obviously prepared in the greatest secrecy because I knew nothing about it, and it came as a total surprise’. He was elected with Sabine Manning, so VETNET now has its two first Honorary Fellows.

**Network**VETNET was a big and active network of researchers in the field of vocational training in Europe from the outset. Martin was the driving force behind the development of the network and has put VETNET on the map within the [EERA](http://www.eera-ecer.eu/). During this period he also was co-opted member of the Executive Council of the EERA and editor of the EERA Bulletin, which is now the thriving European Educational Research Journal.

**Exchange**His drive to create the network was the result of his work at the University of Twente when he was actively publishing about corporate training and human resource development issues. He noticed that there was limited European exchange between researchers in the field of initial and continuing vocational education. He organised with a large number of colleagues in the Netherlands and abroad various national and international conferences and created a European network of researchers in this field. This network later immersed in the EERA.

**Competence development**Martin with his co-workers within the chair group of Education and Competence Studies still works worldwide verij actively on problems in the field of initial and continuing vocational education and training. He was seconded to the European Agency for the Development of Vocational Training of the European Commission in Thessaloniki, Greece, during the academic year 2004-2005. There he was studying agri-food education within the European Union.

Since his appointment in Wageningen University he specialised in competence development of professionals in Wageningen domains such as entrepreneurship, open innovation and quality management in the agri-food sector. He acted as chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Education and Entrepreneurship of the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Education, Science and Culture.

Martin also holds the Outstanding Paper Award of the Journal of Workplace Learning in 2008, the Outstanding Service Award from the Asia-Pacific Educators Association for Agriculture and Environment in 2007, the Award of Honorary Scientist of the Rural Development Agency, Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2005, and the Training Award of the Dutch Association of Training Professionals in 1999.

During the last years he extended his work to eastern Africa where he is engaged in vocational and higher education development in the field of floriculture and horticulture.

**Recent publications**

Mulder, M. (2012). European Vocational Education and Training. Wilson, J.P. (Ed). *Human Resource Development: Learning, Education and Training* 3rd Edition. Kogan Page, London.

Mulder, M & J. Gulikers (2010). Workplace learning in East Africa: A Case Study. Malloch, M., L. Cairns, K. Evans and B. O'Connor (2010). *The SAGE Handbook of Workplace Learning*. London: SAGE, pp. 307-318.

Mulder, M., Gulikers, J., Biemans, H. & Wesselink, R. (2009). The new competence concept in higher education: error or enrichment? *Journal of European Industrial Training, 33,* 8/9, 755-770.