Annual VIRTUAL EfVET International Conference 2020

Workshop sessions - Thursday, 5th November 2020

Title of workshop: **WS4 Sustainable development goals in VET**

Number of persons attended: **17 & 18**

Workshop facilitator: **Louis Aquilina (MCAST, MT)**

Workshop Rapporteur: **Giorgos Giorgakis (Eurosuccess Consulting, CY)**

**Description of the workshop:**

The **COVID-19** has resulted in a risk of losing millions of jobs – amongst them a lot of jobs related to the VET sector. At the same time, we face an increasing political focus on sustainability as huge climate challenges lie in front of us. We discuss how to mainstream green skills and incorporate them into education policies and practices as one of the measures to promote sustainability among European students/workers. And we look at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as tools to take action and promote change within the VET.

Two main points for discussion emerged during the workshop:

1. Supporting Sustainability and the 17 SDGs through the promotion of Green Skills within VET;
2. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of our way of living;

Based on the above points, we discussed with the participants the below questions, in 2 scopes: a) general framework and b) in the scope of the COVID pandemic:

- How are education and training systems going to facilitate the transition towards a **blue and green economy** – and which skills are needed?
- Which new **dilemmas and paradoxes** are we faced with as results of **Covid-19**?
- How do we **work together transnationally** to find sustainable solutions within the VET institutions?
- How do we **facilitate collaboration** between civil society organisations, companies, industries and public education colleges towards a sustainable future?
Feedback from participants:

- First and foremost, we need to develop sustainable thinking
- Sharing of national and EU practices regarding the above issues (blue and green economy); different levels of involvement according to type of stakeholder, experience and knowledge
- Necessity for upskilling VET institutions and educators
- Necessity to sustain and even strengthen communication and collaboration among EU countries, considering the current pandemic situation
- Significant investment and focus on online trainings from VET providers; necessity for proper preparation of trainers, for the delivery of effective online training sessions
- Educational technology is vital, but physical interaction and teaching is and will be in need
- Joint projects and mobilities involving different VET institutions and local contexts, very important for the exchange of good practices and development of innovation/knowledge to be in flow

Summary:
We discussed with the participants on the various elements which affect, both positively and negatively, the VET system and in general education sector. Elements such as unexpected crisis situations (such as COVID-19 pandemic), technological advancements and challenges, opportunities in blue economy etc

And how the education system, the SDGs set, and the communication and collaboration among the various stakeholders can transform any negative or challenging situation into future prospects.

SCRENNSHOTS
2. How do we work together transnationally to find sustainable solutions within the VET realisations to allow us to move towards a blue and green economy?

3. How do we facilitate collaboration between civil society organisations, companies, industries and public education colleges towards a sustainable future and to allow us to move towards a blue and green economy?

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Questions

1. How are education and training systems going to facilitate the transition towards a blue and green economy - and which roles we needed?

2. How do we work together internationally to find sustainable solutions within the VET context to transition towards a blue and green economy?