

Position Paper on Renewable Energy

Brussels, 21 April 2021

Taking the leading role in the development of renewable energies, the EU is supporting a European Green Deal for achieving the target of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change¹ and the full decarbonization of the European economy by 2050. The renewable energy technologies are booming, and new job opportunities will arise for various trades and job functions with no practical expertise on the field.

Lifelong Learning and Vocational Education and Training can make a vital contribution to delivering of the European Green Deal: by helping define and implement the so-called **green renewable energy skills**. ***This topic was already defined and shared of energy data on Eurostart².*** To deliver the Green Deal, making Europe the first climate neutral continent, renewable energy production should become the main source energy for the entire economy, and this would bring a strong demand for education in this field.

Cedefop³ defines Green skills as:

The knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable resource-efficient society (CEDEFOP, 2012)

The ongoing COVID -19 outbreak has shown the vulnerability of our supply chains, markets have shrunk, and its must be a priority for all of us to respond to this and to secure the pathways for clean energies. The goal should be to support citizens' livelihoods by investing in renewable energies instead of fossil fuels. It is now the time to start reducing the fossil-fuel subsidies in low -carbon economies. To meet these ambitions reaching the decarbonisation goals there is a need to integrate active efficiency measures, including electrification and digitalisation, with renewable energy resources.

Ambitious renewable energy objectives require the engagement of all national/regional government levels, and most importantly, citizens. The Local authorities, private sectors, and VET providers, must be on board in the efforts towards providing and securing the quality and stability of renewable energies. Such an ecosystem approach is essential to ensure local ownership and working towards the same ambition, goal and objective in supporting the energy of their straight and caring for the planet and the well-being of society.

The European Pact for Skills, have officially launched in November 2020, to incentivise public and private organisations to join forces and take concrete action to upskilling and reskilling working age people in Europe. The initiative aims to support a fair and resilient recovery and deliver on the ambitions of the EU Industrial and SME strategies and the green and digital transitions.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Renewable_energy_statistics#Wind_and_water_provide_most_renewable_electricity.3B_solar_is_the_fastest-growing_energy_source

³ <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/skills-green-economy>

As a part of the European Green Deal, offers the best opportunity to strengthen such collaboration and to obtaining the success in the green transition. These changes are already needing the acquisition of a whole new set of skills, from technical to soft ones, including our mindset, that can allow full participation in the economic activity and the labour market, but furthermore Green energy skills needs to be developed also in the training support.

There is a lack of pedagogical knowledge in some European countries, practical and theoretical training expertise, and curricula do not regularly include the requirements of companies and business. However, the performance level of teaching staff, especially in public schools, but also in all other levels of education and training, needs improvement of skills and competences to adults who are capable and willing to enter the labour market.

The UN Development Goal of ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all while helping to achieve the EU to be world leader in renewable energy⁴.

By acting on climate and providing **Greening skills and competences**, we are helping communities building and improving health and wellness, stimulating local economies and protecting the environment. The EU goals reduce CO2 emissions by 30% until 2021 and offer carbon-neutral concrete by 2050 at the latest.

Through a lifelong learning perspective, renewal energy needs to be mainstreamed and incorporated into education policies and practices, including schools/VET/HE, as measures to provide a skilled labour force that is also **an agent of sustainable development and growth**.

Recommendation and conclusion

We invite EU Member States policy makers to consider thoroughly our recommendation and sustainability education through vocational education and training, supporting learning sector to become effective lifelong learning across the formal, non-formal and informal sector.

We jointly agree that we give priority to specific focus areas in VET sectors, by supporting the objectives for skilling and training people to understand, live and work in a society based on renewable energies, making our world greener.

We will focus on analysing and identifying skills for renewable energy technologies and sustainability in curricula and training programmes, at all levels of education, for students and adults in lifelong learning.

We support the heating and transport sectors in their effort to become Green and more sustainable.

We will focus on establishing trainings centres, where innovation, sustainability, renewable technologies and e-training are given the highest priority.

EFVET members to demonstrate a more ambitious commitment to the sustainable education by supported the dynamic and innovative pedagogies and cross-sectoral approaches that bridge learning and everyday life.

⁴ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>