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The TEF project aims to innovate tourism VET provision in the participating organizations thanks to the development of upskilling activities for teachers and trainers and innovative learning activities for students. Moreover, the project aims to equip schools, teachers, trainers and students with the knowledge, skills and competences to provide training aligned to labor market needs and EDU-VET policies.

The specific objective of the project is to reduce skills gap between schools and tourism industry through three results:

- Improved digital competences of teachers and students
- Improved soft skills of students
- Improved professional competences of students and professionals

The project will lead to a better quality of VET provision, to an increased employability of students and professionals, and to an improved quality of the tourism offer in the partners' tourism ecosystems.

First project meeting in Zwolle

The Tourism Education of the Future kick-off meeting took place on the 18th and 19th of January 2022 in Zwolle (Netherlands). This is a KA2 Erasmus+ project which gathers 7 partners from different European countries (Italy, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Belgium).

The future of the hospitality industry, and therefore hospitality education, has been a growing question in the minds of professionals and investors. As the pandemic has swept around the globe, it has impacted nearly every industry, but hospitality has been hit particularly hard.

Students also need to have creativity, agility, and the ability to pivot as needed to change circumstances. As industries, including the hospitality industry, navigate their path forward after the changes of the past year, and they need to have adaptable skills that allow them to learn and meet those needs.

Soft skills training also helps students transform their learning into a viable future career.

The project partners will develop blended upskilling activities for teachers and trainers and innovative learning activities for students. In Particular, they agree to share best practice in dedicated seminars, masterclass and to prepare the discussions into actionable items where possible.

The first kick-off meeting was successful, and next meeting will take place in Alba, Italy.



Masterclass: Autonomous and sustainable learning through (digital) projects – Project ideas for the tourism classroom”

On May 8th, 2023 IUS Professional development coordinator, Prof. Emir Sehic held a masterclass on the topic of “Autonomous and sustainable learning through (digital) projects – Project ideas for the tourism classroom”.

In this masterclass, participants had a chance to develop an understanding of what underlies a project-based approach to learning. Specifically, participants learnt about the benefits of project-based learning in terms of the sustainable development of key competencies and the use of digital tools for school.

In addition, participants were provided with a table that will help them in future project planning. The masterclass also aimed to provide several examples of project ideas that can be implemented directly in class or that can serve as an impulse for new ideas.

European Tourism Day 2023 in Brussels

Apró Formazione, coordinator of the Tourism Education of the Future project, participated in the European Tourism Day held in Brussels on 5 May, hosted by the European Commission and DG GROW in the beautiful 'Alcide de Gasperi Room' of the Charlemagne building. The day dedicated to the future of Tourism and the transition path the sector is facing is back after 5 years since the last time.

Participating in events like this allows us to stay up-to-date on the decisions and strategies that Europe intends to adopt in the coming years, enabling the FET project to work effectively on the challenges of the future. For the event, the European commission organised an opening discussion between the Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry Breton, and the Chairwoman of the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, Karima Delli; an orientation debate to discuss the resilience of the ecosystem and three roundtables, each focusing on different important aspects such as the twin transition and upskilling the workforce in the EU tourism ecosystem.

During these weeks, the TEF project partners are collecting answers from field research on the analysis of market trends and the skills gap that will allow us to develop activities in line with the real needs of professionals.



Project meeting in Kalamata

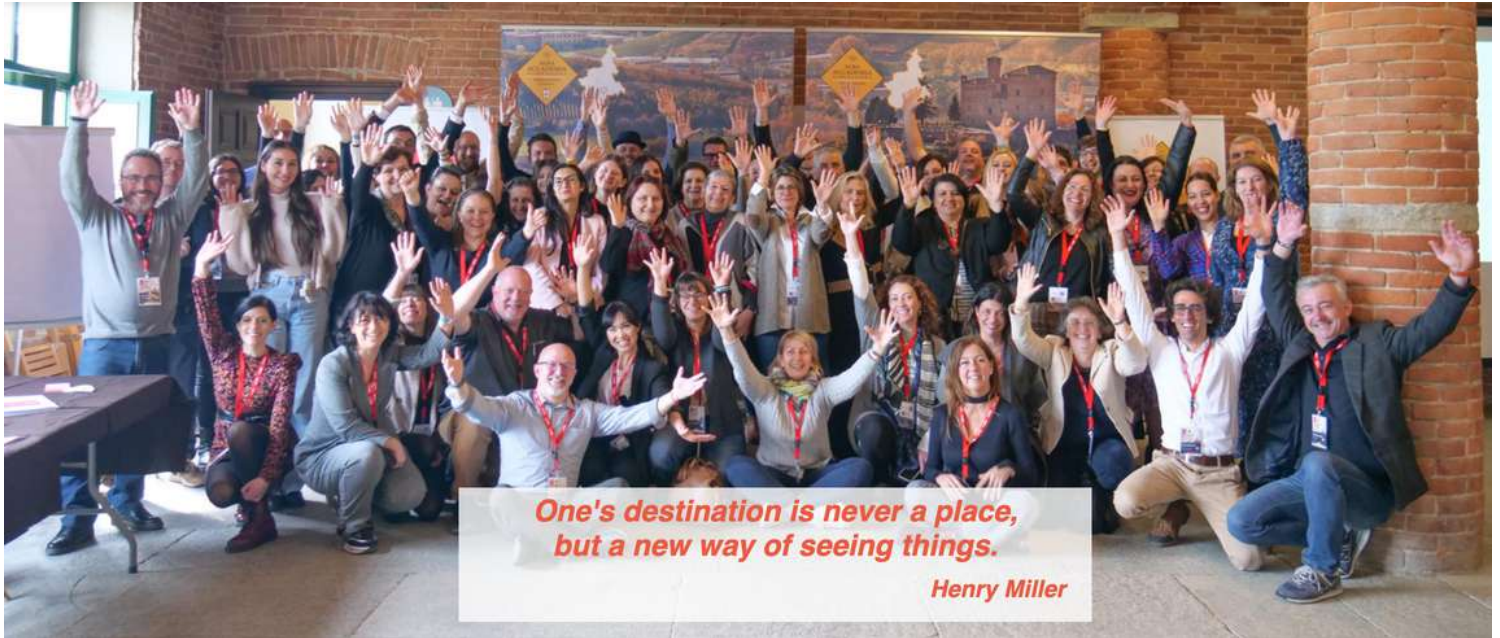
I.E.K Orizon Kalamatas hosted the TEF project meeting this masterclass, participants had a chance to develop an understanding of what underlies a project-based approach to learning. Specifically, participants learnt about the benefits of project-based learning in terms of the sustainable development of key competencies and the use of digital tools for school.

In addition, participants were provided with a table that will help them in future project planning. The masterclass also aimed to provide several examples of project ideas that can be implemented directly in class or that can serve as an impulse for new ideas.

Regular TEF transnational project meetings will lead to a better quality of VET provision, increased employability of students and professionals, and to an improved quality of the tourism offer in partners' tourism ecosystems.



Tourism Glocal Conference in Alba, IT



From 6th to 8th March 2023, Apro Formazione organized the Tourism GLocal conference, in Alba. The annual event of the EfVET Tourism Thematic Team (TTT), involved 27 international organizations, coming from 14 different countries, with the presence of 12 managers, 8 teachers, 5 students and 35 international coordinators.

Established in 2021 and coordinated by Apro Formazione (Italy), Landstede Groep (Netherlands) and Sedu (Finland), the thematic group focuses on innovation, development and sharing of good practices for VET education in the tourism sector. Furthermore, 7 member organizations are as well involved in the TEF Erasmus+ project, that specifically aims at reducing skills gap between schools and tourism industry.

Thematic workshops and targeted roundtables were organized at the Ceretto cellars meeting room and at the Beppe Fenoglio conference room, to discuss the key issues of professionals' training and to analyze the skills needed to respond quickly to market trends and business needs. Fundamental to achieving those objectives is the strengthening of the network of entities and institutes that are part of the thematic group, but also the direct and active dialogue with companies.

Making use of the outcomes and goals achieved during the annual conference, the upcoming activities will be developed on encouraging and implementing student exchanges, improving teacher training and developing inclusiveness in tourism education. The TTT has already planned further masterclasses dedicated to educators on teaching methodologies and international workshops for managers, international coordinators and teachers. During the 3 days of work of the Tourism Thematic Team, the delegates had as well the opportunity visit Alba and the iconic landscape of Langhe UNESCO World Heritage Site.