

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REACTI-VET UPSKILLING TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

Teachers

for Reactive and Responsive
Vocational Education



In phase 4 of the project VET teachers who took part in the initial upskilling training delivered their own pilot responsive projects to their students, supported by a team of teachers and local companies.

The teachers contacted business organizations relevant for their professional field of education and asked them to collaborate in designing an upskilling course for students aiming at reducing skills gaps identified.

Project teams were formed, involving VET teachers, students and a representative of the company they contracted. The company assigned a project task to students, related to the identified field with existing skill gaps. As a next step, the knowledge and skills of the students needed to complete the project task were assessed through self-evaluation.

A short, 30-hour extra-curricular mini-course was designed by each project team to improve the skills of students that were vital for the successful completion of the project task. Part of the course was integrated into standard lessons, while they were off-curricular, online activities, as well as practical sessions at the company's premises. The course finished with a closing event of students' presentation and final evaluation. In Hungary and Estonia altogether 7 VET schools (meaning 30+ teachers and at least 100 students) involved 9 companies and implemented responsive projects in various professional fields, such as:

Business and Management

- Advanced Excel for Accounting of SMEs
- Designing Webshop Solutions for SMEs



Pedagogy

- Designing a Project Week on Sustainability for Elementary School Students



Information Technology

- Managing Cyber Security in SME
- Implementation of the Website of a Medical Station



Gardening, Horticulture

- Construction of a Green Wall



Although these experimental mini training courses were off-curricular, their success has been well-proven by the fact that the majority of VET institutions involved have decided to integrate them into their standard curricula. The companies were also satisfied with the project results and stated that they would welcome students of the project team as future employees.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

VET schools simultaneously have to meet two opposing requirements: to remain true to tradition, delivering stable, tested knowledge approved by relevant parties in society and the economy; and to equip students with a set of skills and competencies relevant to newly emerging demands.

Despite great efforts by national and European policy makers to drive VET schools into 'rethinking' their curricula and teaching methods, changes have been slow to keep up with labour market requirements. In most European countries VET qualifications are based on standard curricula that precisely define what is taught, leaving little freedom for teachers and schools to train for just-in-time labour market demands. Most systems also have lengthy and complex accreditation procedures, so the approval of a new curriculum - or even the modification of an existing one - can take a long time.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The project aims to provide effective and necessary training and support for VET teachers to enable them to identify and respond to skill-gaps in the labour market, but also involving other relevant stakeholders - students, parents, teaching staff, and particularly employers experiencing difficulties finding skilled workers to fill vacancies. The consortium will develop, test and deliver standardized, comprehensive toolkits packaged as a set of teaching, collaboration, and communication methods and a rapid curriculum development methodology for VET teachers, to be used in conjunction with potential employers to identify skill-gaps, and to design, develop and deliver up-skilling training for students.

The toolkit will be tested within the IT sector, but the standardized version will be equally applicable to other vocational education subjects.

TARGET GROUP

Teachers and trainers in Vocational Education
Beneficiaries: VET students, industrial partners, companies

PROJECT BASICS

Title: Teachers for Reactive and Responsive Vocational Education
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Program: Erasmus+ KA2
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