

Recognize and Validate skills and qualifications gained
by alternating school and work experience
at National and European level



Project No. 2014-1-IT01-KA202-002629

Project duration: from 2014-09-01 to 2016-08-31

www.vetatwork.eu

Newsletter No. 02

September 2015

Second VET@WORK Project Newsletter

The Project

VET@WORK project looks at one of the main challenge of the Europe 2020 Strategy: to reduce Early School Leaving (ESL) to less than 10% and contribute to increasing attainment in tertiary education to at least 40% by 2020.

Completing upper secondary education is recommended as the minimum entrance qualification when making the crucial transition from education to the labour market.

Schools and especially VET Institutions play an important role in addressing ESL but they cannot and should not work in isolation. Comprehensive approaches that focus on the root causes of ESL are required to reduce ESL.

VET@WORK project enlighten the need of developing new approach aimed at:

- Tailoring educational interventions on the characteristics of the learners;
- Adopting innovative teaching methods based on working experiences at NA and EU level;
- Designing flexible Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) by improving the skills of VET and Enterprises staff;
- Implementing the PLPs in the formal learners/students Curriculum;
- Promote strong commitment from all stakeholders in efforts to reduce ESL;
- Training VET staff at EU level on implementing ECVET in the PLPs.

Welcome to VET@WORK Second Newsletter!

The six-month newsletter is part of the informative material published to disseminate and promote the aims, activities and outputs of the VET@WORK project, implemented within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, KA2 Strategic Partnership for VET.

This second issue of the newsletter contains a summary of the main project aims, the progress of the project on the VET@WORK Research as well as the thematic article and the outcomes of the 2nd Meeting of the project Consortium and the Dissemination Workshop, which have been held in Tallinn (EE) on the last 28th and 29th May.

Next Newsletter will contain the progress as well as a thematic article and the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the project Consortium and the Dissemination Workshop, which will be held in Frankfurt Oder (DE) on the next 18th and 19th January 2016.



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The VET@WORK Research

The main aim of the Research was to investigate partners national legislations, competences needed and case studies/best practices in partner Countries to recognize and validate skills and qualifications gained by alternating school and work experiences at national and European level.

To ensure an adequate basis for the design of VET@WORK Guidelines for training VET Staff and Guidelines for training Enterprises Staff, a methodology was designed using different stages to ensure 'checks and balances' and have multiple viewpoints. More in depth the Research was divided in two parts:

1) Desk Research on partners national legislations and case studies/best practices;

2) Survey on skills gaps and competences needed by VET staff/teachers, VET providers and Enterprises Staff to design PLPs. The Survey was developed through 90 questionnaires (15 respondents in IT-Firenze; 15 respondents in IT-Campobasso and 15 respondents in each partner Country in AT, UK, DE and EE).

For the Desk Research secondary data was used in order to retrieve the necessary information. The Survey was realized through semi-structured interviews that were realized through questionnaires delivered to the members of the target groups.

After the compilation of the Desk Research and the Survey a national Report was drafted from each partner Country. The activity leader P4-Reattiva used the data from the national Reports to draft the comparative study and the final conclusions.

Research Report is divided into the following sections:

PART I - Sections on documentary research conducted in IT, AT, UK, DE and EE;

PART II - Sections dedicated to the investigation:

- Introduction and description of methods (by the Research leader P4-Reattiva);
- Results of research in the 5 different Countries (by each partner involved);

PART III - Comment and summary of the results (by the Research leader P4-Reattiva).



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The 2nd Consortium Meeting & Dissemination Workshop

The 2nd Consortium Meeting and Dissemination Workshop were held in Tallinn (EE) on the last 28th and 29th May.

During the meeting P1-ISIS Leonardo da Vinci, P2-FormAzione Co&So Network and P4-Reattiva presented the state of the art and the progress of the project. All partners participated to the discussion and sharing of ideas and project contents, included the activities to be carried by the next meeting to be held in Germany.

More in depth, the main results and figures of the O1-A1 VET@WORK Research were presented by P4-Reattiva, while the main aims, targets and methodology to be used for the development of the intellectual outputs O1-VET@WORK Guidelines for Training VET Staff and O2-VET@WORK Guidelines for Training Enterprises Staff were presented by P2-FCN.

VET@WORK Guidelines for Training VET Staff aims to supply skills to VET staff/teachers to design PLPs which valorize and recognize WBL in the formal learners curriculum. Guidelines are developed by using a Learning Outcomes approach and are focused on theoretical, procedural and action learning based tools to train the VET Staff on developing PLPs and generating value in terms of personal and professional development for the learners.

VET@WORK Guidelines for Training Enterprises Staff aims to supply skills to Enterprises Staff (mainly Enterprises' mentors) to assist VET Staff to design PLPs which valorize and recognize WBL in the formal learners curriculum.

As well as the Guidelines for VET Staff, the Guidelines for Enterprises Staff are developed by using a Learning Outcomes approach and are focused on theoretical, procedural and action learning based tools to train the Enterprise Staff on assisting the VET Staff for the development of PLPs.



The Partners



The Consortium Meeting



The Dissemination Workshop



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The Evaluation Concept Paper and the variance analysis developed by the External Evaluator were presented too during the meeting and explained the way they help the partnership to take the project under control in terms of quality and deadlines.

During the Dissemination Workshop with stakeholders of the second day of project meeting, held at P8-Tallinna Ehituskool venues, the content and expected results of VET@WORK project together with the state of the art related the implementation of WBL approaches and methodologies in Europe were presented to the audience and discussed.

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During the debate, it has been in particular underlined by attendees how, through WBL, learners have the opportunity to align theoretical learning with the expectations of their future sector or profession.

WBL offers more than just occupational or vocational skills development, with many learners confirming that workplace or work-based activity brings forth a whole range of other skills and competences.

In this respect, WBL provides an opportunity to be creative, take initiative and actively communicate with other staff (including in foreign languages for those aligning WBL with international mobility) and might afford access to new technologies that traditional learning environments have yet to embed.

Staff development programmes are also easier to achieve when aligned with company input, or in-company placement, and can lead to more relevant and better informed programme delivery. Also, by partnering with local companies, access can be afforded to new techniques or technologies that might facilitate the teaching of specific vocational or occupational practices.



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