

EULIVET – European Leadership and Management in VET –partnership

Background

The Bruges Communiqué states that by 2020 European VET systems should be more attractive, relevant, career-oriented, innovative, accessible and flexible than in 2010. According to the 2011 Eurobarometer report, VET has a relatively high profile in most member states. However, predicted socio-economic and technological changes will have an impact on a wide spectrum of industries and a spillover effect on VET.

The European economy faces major challenges and youth unemployment is high in most member states. In addition we have low-skilled adults who are or will be out of a job due to nonexistent or wrong qualifications. If we are to ensure a competitive and thriving Europe, VET has to take a proactive role in reforming education. This requires formulating a new strategic approach; innovation in both policy and practice, the goal being to transform vocational education into a renewed lifelong learning model capable of promoting prosperity in Europe.

A new Rethinking Education Strategy of EU Commission expresses the same concern. It states that education systems also need to modernize and be more flexible in how they operate to respond to the real needs of today's society. Europe will only resume sustained growth by producing highly skilled and versatile people who can contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship. Efficient and well-targeted investment is fundamental to

this, but we will not achieve our objectives by reducing education budgets. Rethinking Education calls for a fundamental shift in education, with more focus on 'learning outcomes' - the knowledge, skills and competences that students acquire.

Upskilling is needed in both education and industry. Without 21st century working and learning skills together with dynamic leadership and management competencies and skills, the future of teachers, trainers and management in VET is bleak. Inadequate knowledge and skills also prevents us from becoming more flexible. The role of VET is of great importance both in capacity building and in upskilling the workforce. Unfortunately, it is a well-known fact that VET funding will decrease in most European countries, which causes challenges in refreshing VET.

The crucial role of management and leadership in VET has been recognized. The potential success of current reforms and changes in vocational education and training in VET in Europe rests largely with VET staff transforming policy into practice. Ongoing developments have a great impact on VET leaders' roles, work tasks and competence requirements.

What kind of leadership and management is needed to achieve the objectives of the Bruges Communiqué and to reshape the landscape of VET?



Objectives

The project will focus on the present priority topics in common VET policy at the European level. The aim of the project is to identify and share good leadership and management practices of VET providers to support the short term deliverables of the Bruges Communiqué in fostering the quality and relevance on Vocational Education and Training in certain thematic areas.

Thematic areas of EULIVET-partnership

The chosen thematic areas this partnership is focusing on are:

Quality Assurance / Quality Management in VET

- evolving roles of VET teachers and trainers / development of capacities, skills and competencies of VET staff
- labour market relevance of VET / co-operation with the world of work and the structures for the involvement of the world of work
- evolving role of VET leaders / attributes of the individual leader

The project also aims to strengthen the international cooperation of VET leaders and managers to share innovative practices of VET provision.

Identifying innovative leadership and management practices in above mentioned areas.

The objectives of the partnership are to identify, share and develop good management and leadership practices in chosen thematic areas.

Operative partners

The EULIVET-partnership consists of the representatives of following organizations with the amount of mobilities listed below:

Ammattiosaamisen kehittämisyhdistys AMKE ry, Finland

MBO Raad, The Netherlands

Irish Vocational Education Association, Ireland

Stitching Regionaal Opleidingencentrum Noord-Kennemerland/West-Friesland (Horizon College), The Netherlands

SOSU Sjaelland, Denmark

TKNIKA (Institution of Innovation for VET and LLL), Basque Countryh

Social- og sundhedsskolen Fredericia-Horsens, Denmark

Suomen Ammatilliset rehtorit ry, Finland

Main results

Desk review

- on the main similarities and differences in VET systems (steering system), in the organizations of VET providers and in the roles and work tasks of VET leaders and managers in participating countries

Expert meetings

- at least four expert meetings/PLA's; forums to share and develop good leadership and management practices on the main themes of the partnership

Report on VET specific leadership qualities

Annual forum for VET leaders and managers

- to share and develop good leadership and management practices in VET / dissemination seminar for the project results

Report

- on good leadership and management practices in VET in accordance to themes on focus
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Project duration

10/2012 – 09/2014

Target Group

EULIVET-target group is leaders and managers in the field of vocational education and training.
