transferring and developing organisational innovations in the vocational education and training sector

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the project is to support improvements in quality and innovation in vocational education and training (VET) systems, institutions and practices by systematically increasing and strengthening the co-operation between VET, rural micro enterprises and Higher Education/Research (HE/R). This improved co-operation will create a more effective link between education and working life, build up the expertise of VET staff and enhance the competitiveness of VET organisations as part of regional innovation systems.

In order to achieve this aim, the project has been divided into 5 objectives:

1) To make VET institutions more aware of the needs/opportunities provided by rural companies and HE/R.
2) To build connections between VET staff and both HE/R and rural companies to strengthen their knowledge base and ability to act as teachers and regional experts.
3) To provide feasible and practical models for co-operation to cover the whole VET-HE/R-rural micro enterprises knowledge chain by developing further the existing good practices and utilising the work of previous initiatives like WERT, Envolwe, LOVEt and Dialogue.
4) To establish long term co-operation between rural micro companies, VET and HE/R in order to start a change in VET working culture and practice.
5) To improve the connections between micro enterprises and students during their studies and increase students’ readiness for entrepreneurship.

TARGET GROUPS

• Rural micro companies.
• VET organisations – teachers, managers and students
• Higher Education Institutions – HE/R developers and researchers.
• Regional developers & policy makers.

RESULTS

1. Multimedia toolkit including good practice examples and experiences for successful co-operation between VET, HE/R and SMEs.
2. International seminar to present and discuss examples of good practice more widely.
3. The seminar proceedings will be published in the official publication series of University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, and widely disseminated through partners’ dissimination channels.
4. Description of current co-operation models used by project partners. The models can be used for comparison and adaptation by HE/R and VET organisations.
5. 5 documented pilots from 5 countries where the selected co-operation models have been tested and tried out in practice.
6. Practical 3-year co-operation plans for VET, HE/R, SMEs, regional developers and policy makers.

PARTNERS

7 countries (Finland, Italy, UK, Norway, Estonia, Spain, Belgium).
12 partners (VET, HE, SMEs and networks).

INFORMATION

For further information about the Connect-VET project, please contact the Co-ordinator or any of the partners (details overleaf) and see our website www.luontoyrittaja.fi/connect-vet/