
Report of the workshop's outcomes

Moderator: **Norbert Ruepert**

Presenters: **Alfredo Garmendia, Irene Psifidou**

Rapporteur: **Niina Puumalainen**

Every person has the right to participate. The UN Convention (Article 24) states that everyone must have equal access to VET and lifelong learning. Education and training is seen as one of the most important factors supporting social inclusion and integration in labour market. The role of VET was the key question in workshop 6.

The workshop started by brainstorming what is social inclusion. Common understanding can be summarize in key words *equal opportunities, participating* and *being accepted*. The main aspect is to see possibilities, not restrictions and understand the power of education and training in social inclusion.

Alfredo Garmendia presented good practice from Basque country, Spain. People with intellectual disabilities without prior qualifications were provided to have professional certificate and that way improve their access to labour market. Internationalization has been one part of that process.

“Junior Job Coach” presented by Norbert Ruepert is one good practise tackling drop out in VET. Trained peer tutors “Junior Job Coaches” are helping younger students in their studies, especially on work-based training and apprenticeships. Coaches are available by using instant messaging (WhatsApp, Snapchat) so they can help in daily situations.

Workshop continued by defining recommendations for VET to foster social inclusion and labour market integration. VET can support personality and positive self-image by offering equal chances for participating and growing as an active citizen. This individual aspect is the base on VET. Education and training can lead the way in fostering social inclusion. Equal opportunities and concentrating on capacity should be our leading themes. Tailormade working methods for different target groups, focusing on practical skills, teaching in companies, peer teaching etc are the ways VET can show that diversification is possible not only in education and training but in society in general.

VET providers can't do this work alone. VET needs cooperation with companies and other stakeholders. In fact VET should be the core of this network. Dialogue and right kind of information are needed to foster social inclusion

Final aspect for VET's role in social inclusion is the quality of selected working methods. Irene Psifidou presented CEDEFOP toolkit for tackling early leaving (www.cedefop.europa.eu/TEL-toolkit). All the methods presented there are monitored and evaluated by common evaluating framework so it is proved that they have the aimed impact on preventing drop out in VET. Ensuring the quality of VET's methods in social inclusion it is possible to strengthen the visibility of VET.