



EfVET VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS 2020 “COVID-19 beyond 2020: A new generation of VET?”

Workshop sessions – 5th November 2020

Title of workshop: **WS2 Blended Mobility: A Challenge for the future**

Number of persons attended: **46 and 28**

Workshop facilitator: **Andrea Lombardi (UNISER, IT), Andre Schoonhoven (da Vinci College, NL)**

Workshop rapporteur: **Justina Pluktaite (SPSCH Pardubice, CZ)**

Description of the workshop:

The Covid-19 situation raised the urgency to find alternative solutions to replace temporary physical mobility. In this context Blended mobility has been promoted as a new possibility within Erasmus+ by the EC and National Agencies. However, combining physical and virtual mobility was already a priority of the new Erasmus 2021-27 and its relevance for the internationalisation of a VET institution goes far beyond this time of crisis.

It is well known how challenging the organisation of blended mobility is and with this workshop we want to focus on the start-up of it, to provide participants with practical input and ideas to get started.

We'll hear from two keynote speakers sharing their experiences about how their institutions managed to develop blended mobility and we'll then work in small groups to define the roadmap to follow in this challenging pathway.

During the workshop we discussed these points:

- What is blended mobility?
- What are the benefits and challenges?

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- What is the current situation of implementation of blended mobility activities in VET organisations?
- How can we do it?

Feedback from participants and presenters:

What is blended mobility?

We have reviewed what Blended Mobility (BM) actually means. Main characteristics which define it is the combination of online and physical activities whether it is online+physical or physical+online activities or online+physical+online. It can be accomplished in a hybrid learning process (involving studies, courses, work placement, making research, etc.).

We should focus where students actually can train their skills and become workers of the future. BM gives a lot of opportunities: collaboration with different level students, providing more opportunities for those where there are limitations and learning process can be more attractive and interesting.

Throughout the session we have identified what brings added value of BM, such as inclusion, opportunity for all, increased motivation of students, increased digital and soft skills development and international experience.

Important to go overview that organisation get also added value.

Sustainable way to be international and competitive and Increase Attractiveness of vet education and improve curriculum quality. Improve skills and competences of students and teachers. It's a future

You can find results of the participants polls here:

What is the current situation?

Roadmap creation session showed that many participants are positive about this idea of BM. It brings many benefits in challenging times and how it was stressed by participants and speakers. More than half of participants confirm that BM fits in organisations strategy or they have started to consider it. As it was indicated, it would be part of Internationalisation at Home (I@H). But when it comes to the current practice - majority of participants does not have it at the moment.

How could we do it?

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What are the key actors in making it work? Even there have been mentioned international coordinators, organisation leaders, but mainly we have identified students and teachers as the key actors so that BM would work. Presented good practice also confirms the importance of teachers' motivation. So we should really focus on supporting teachers by taking away tasks (e.g. technical one) as they are overloaded.

Make small first steps with few motivated participants and little by little you would grow. Considering continued global changes in education and the labour market we should review how international activities would be a normal part of education.

There have been identified challenges or barriers that we need to overcome:

- Lack of time
- Funding opportunities and investment in your staff to support the initiatives
- Finding partners with similar thinking - opportunities to network with like minded partners
- User friendly approach - so there is a need of sharing good practice
- Recognition of the activities or integration in curriculum

Tips and tricks:

- Start from the teachers
- Look for inspiration and likeminded partners
- Make it normal in your education
- Keep it simple
- Small steps
- Like from the last conference we remembered the motto: be surprised, fear and embrace this challenge. It is part of lifelong learning.
- Blended Mobility is the future

Therefore during roadmap session we have invited participants to share their ideas of projects related to this topic. Participants were also actively sharing their best practices in the chat.

Screenshots

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