EfVET Workshops online2020
WORKSHOP 3: New Reality in VET

5th November 2020,
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The Workshop about “New Reality in VET” registered about 50 participants in total, split in two different sessions. However, not all of them attended, so finally we had the opportunity to talk with about 25-30 people from different countries and types of organizations.

Most of the participants were more interested in a discussion about the current situation and how VET school are facing the pandemic and the current school year, the development of European projects and the use of ITC in education. Because of this, we focused on this during the first round of the workshops, and tried to lead the discussion for the second round about the future, about how the new reality in VET will be after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We started the workshop with a quick introduction and we proposed a list of topics to decide which ones we should address during the workshop. Those that were more relevant for attendees were:

1. Developing digital structures which are likely to enable all students to get ahead
2. Cooperating with VET partners as companies in another quality
3. Organizing and creating motivating learning atmosphere while using digital tools

We proposed a story as an example, so we could consider different scenarios and alternatives, and we link this story with the different situation the participants in the workshop are experiencing. A list of main challenges was identified and finally we agreed with a set of solutions and key points where schools and authorities should focus:

- Individualisation of the learning process
- Grant access to digital devices and connection
- Teachers training needs (digital competences + environment)
- Adaptation of learning process to digital context (even in mobility)
- Imagination: SELFIE, cooperation with companies
- Find out solutions for making blended learning (and mobility) possible.
During the second round, the main topic was how VET education will be after pandemic, and even if it was very difficult to think about that in the middle of the fire (a very descriptive example was “How to think about building a new house while you are looking at yours on fire”), we agreed with key messages like:

- Learn how to manage stress
- Clear direction from Governments is needed (too much contradictions)
- Establish a system based on culture of trust (flexibility and new work organization).
- Train the trainers (avoid teachers drop out!)
- Future with much more blended education and Lifelong Learning, but tendency to come back the old way. New opportunities and retraining based on COVID+Economic crisis.
- Imagination: bringing companies to schools, SELFIE, digital methodological groups

At the end of the session a common conclusion was shared, that EfVET might contribute to ask all levels of governments to have a more common pathway and avoid contradictions, because schools are being told to go for digitalization, but at the same time they are facing too many obstacles and barriers coming from the same governments.

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Nacho Camacho