Last updates about the project

Online webinar: “How ECVET improved the quality of mobilities”

PECVET partners have organised an online webinar “How ECVET improved quality of mobilities” on the 16th of October 2020. The event was part of the Erasmus+ Days 2020 organised in order to share a good practice in the framework of the project and present achievements within Erasmus+ programme.

Project coordinator Justina Pluktaitė - Officer for Foreign Relations at Upper Secondary School of Chemistry Pardubice (Czech Republic) - presented general information about PECVET project and invited the participants to share their expertise on implementation of ECVET.

This is a two-year project with the objective of linking European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training with the relevant National Qualifications Frameworks to be able to use learning outcome-based courses, in order to increase the quality and transparency of VET and increase students mobility.

PECVET will deliver learning outcome based modules (ULO) for Chemistry, Health Care/Pharmacy, Cosmetics, Mechanics, Gastronomy.

WEBSITE: www.pecvet.wordpress.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ PECVETproject
On our panel we had Jana Šedová – Deputy Headmistress for Study Affairs at Upper Secondary School of Chemistry Pardubice (Czech Republic). She is also a Head of Erasmus+ VET mobility group and manages Erasmus+ VET mobility projects that were annually granted from 2008. She has been implementing ECVET principles as long as it was presented in Czech Republic.

Numerous times she was invited to present best practices and share her knowledge. She has presented how ECVET principles and tools were introduced and integrated in mobilities, what the challenges were and how it was or are minimised.

It was a great pleasure to have our guest speaker Paulius Čepas – Director of Kaunas Technical Vocational Education Centre (Lithuania). He is one of the 7 ECVET experts in Lithuania. He presented the key scenarios of what kind of future we could imagine for ECVET concept.

More information available at this link.

Multiplier event: “Partnership for ECVET quality of mobilities”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the multiplier event “Partnership for ECVET quality of mobilities” was held online on the 19th of November 2020. It was among one of the more than 1240 events organised in the context of the EU Vocational Skills Week 2020 and was organised by EfVET.

The virtual event was opened by Justina Pluktaite who introduced the project results and background of the PECVET project. PECVET’s objective was to link ECVET with the relevant NQF to be able to use learning outcome-based courses, in order to increase the quality and transparency of VET and increase students’ mobility and it quality: Students of secondary vocational schools can easily transfer from one education institution to the other or from one education system to another. It would be easy for them to declare the learning outcomes they already achieved and build on them while studying elsewhere. This will be achieved by the development of learning outcome-based modules (ULO) for chemistry/pharmacy, cosmetics, car mechanics, gastronomy and health care.

The event will be an opportunity to present the project progress and share knowledge about ECVET applications by other VET providers.

PECVET partners have gathered the list of professional qualifications according to National Qualification Framework. Units of learning outcomes (ULO) will be developed reflecting some of those qualifications as a base of common areas between partners.

Afterwards, an open discussion started with participants and partners of the project. The event was successful and we had some interesting exchange.
Interview to Demetris Englezakis, Head of Academic Affairs of KES College and Cyprus local coordinator for the PECVET project

Can you provide a short description of you and your roles in PECVET projects?

I am the Head of Academic Affairs of KES College, which is a Higher Education Institution in Cyprus offering mainly vocational programmes of study. In my long career, I have been involved in Vocational Education and Training. At the beginning, as an instructor and later as a supervisor of vocational teachers in state vocational schools, ending my career in the public sector as the General Inspector of the Secondary Vocational Education and Training of Cyprus. During the years 2005 – 2010, I have had the opportunity to participate in the discussions at European level about ECVET and the former ENQA-VET, being a member of the Advisory Committee for Vocational Education and Training. In the last years, up to December 2020, I used to be one of the Cyprus ECVET Experts. I am the Cyprus local coordinator for the PECVET project.

What is the situation of ECVET in Cyprus?

Formal Vocational Education and Training at EQF levels 5 and 6 in Cyprus, is offered by Private or State Institutions of Higher Education, which by Law are accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA). Programmes of study offered by these institutions are accredited by CYQAA as well. CYQAA has directed Higher Education Institutions to use ECTS, so the transfer of ECVET points would not be possible in any case. It could be possible though to use ECVET for short mobility of students using ECVET principles. In any case, Learning Outcomes are being used. In the formal Secondary Vocational Education, which is mainly offered by public schools, courses syllabi are written using ECVET principles.

What benefits do you see in using ECVET system in Cyprus?

I think that the systematic way of describing a vocational qualification using Units of Learning Outcomes, is a first benefit for all educators working in VET. VET students’ mobility around Europe is extremely important for sharing knowledge, skills, and good practices. Units of Learning Outcomes can be the basis for agreements between institutions in different countries regarding students’ mobility, considering this as another important benefit of ECVET. I think that these principles apply not only for our country but also for the whole Europe. In this way, I consider the coming changes in ECVET to support more learners’ mobility as being in the right direction.
🔹 Which skills do you believe VET teachers should have in order to motivate the youth of today and tomorrow?

The profession of a teacher differs substantially from all other professions. A teacher in order to be successful, should love being with learners, he or she should be patient and get satisfaction when learners attain educational objectives. Additionally, a VET teacher should master the latest technology and innovations in his/her field. Therefore, I think that a VET teacher should be continuously in close relation with the industry and the corresponding technology of his/her field.

🔹 How have you experienced the lockdown during the project meetings? What lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 lockdown?

Judging from my experience, I think that COVID-19 pandemic has damaged a lot the quality of Education and Training all over the world. Distance learning, which has been necessarily applied, could not entirely substitute instruction with the physical presence of teachers and students in the classrooms, considering that distance learning has been applied in a very short time, without having time for the necessary preparation of learners. Our institution as well as for sure, the most of institutions, have done our best but we cannot be pleased seeing our students’ reactions. Students do want to be present in schools and we are convinced that in this way they learn better. Additionally regarding VET, it is almost impossible to have quality practical lessons using distance learning and we all know the importance of practical lessons for VET. Our project meetings were frequent and well organised. I feel though that it would be much better and much more effective if these meetings had a face-to-face form.

🔹 What would your message be to the PECVET coordinator?

I would like to thank the PECVET coordinator Ms Justina Pluktaite for the excellent job she is doing under so difficult conditions.
European Vocational Skills Week 2020: Post Event Key figures

The fifth edition of the European Vocational Skills Week, as originally announced by the Commissioner Ms. Marianne Thyssen, was supposed to take place from 9-13 November 2020 in Berlin (Germany), however, due to the pandemic restrictions, it was a 100% online event organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The 2020 theme has been VET for Green and Digital Transitions, in line with the Commission priorities of a “European Green Deal” and a “Europe fit for the digital age”. A series of partner activities took place digitally across the EU. The top countries by number of events and activities were Hungary, Spain, and Italy. There were 49.5 million impressions across social media, and a record 4.2 million people participated in 1.293 events in 39 countries during the year. Across the five days of the Week itself, more than 6.000 people from 74 countries took part in 18 sessions.

The edition of 2020 was an inspiring showcase of the benefits of vocational education & training. We heard from learners, teachers, high-level politicians, training providers and many other stakeholders from around Europe and beyond. The Pact for Skills was officially launched at an online event watched by almost 800 people, and the Awards for Excellence in VET were presented.
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EPALE does this by supporting and strengthening the adult learning professions. It enables members to connect with and learn from colleagues across Europe, through its blog posts, forums, the Partner Search tool, complemented with physical gatherings.

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EPALE is funded under the Erasmus+ programme via the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. You can contact DG EAC at eac-epale@ec.europa.eu

We have reached 80,000 members!
Thank you to every single one of you EPALE members! Let’s keep on growing together!

EPALE Community Conference 2020
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Shaping the future of Adult Learning in Europe

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Partnership:

Stredni prumyslova skola chemicka Pardubice (Pardubice, Czech Republic) - Coordinator

Byåsen videregående skole (Trondheim, Norway)

EfVET - European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Brussels, Belgium)

ITT Michelangelo Buonarroti (Trento, Italy)

Kes College (Nicosia, Cyprus)

Sächsische Bildungsgesellschaft für Umweltschutz und Chemieberufe Dresden mbH - SBG (Dresden, Germany)

Stredná odborná škola chemická (Bratislava, Slovakia)

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