

The topic of our workshop has been GREENING AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH VET in the 31<sup>st</sup> Efvet conference, THE FUTURE SKILLS REVOLUTION FOR VET AND CVET IN EUROPE. In that context, using the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS as a guideline, in this breakout session we have reflected on the role that VET institutions have in greening and sustainability objectives.

The challenge has been to round up the sessions with the commitment of participants writing a common manifesto.

We had 42 participants in the first round and 14 in the second one.

After a brief introduction of each of the participants we wanted to talk about the 17 SDGs and the targets each of the objectives has. For that purpose we created a Kahoot game. We saw how these SDGs are divided into three groups according to the main topic they deal with: PEOPLE, PROSPERITY and PLANET. We cannot forget number 16 and 17 because without peace, justice and strong institutions or without partnerships we could never achieve the rest of the goals, this is, HAVING A PROSPEROUS PLANET FOR THE PEOPLE.

2023 is going to be the European year of skills. We know that the risk of not investing in skills is too great and if we do not work on reducing the skill gap, we will never achieve the goals set by the United Nations for 2030. As the Finnish Minister of Education pointed out in her message, upskilling and reskilling, this is, continuous learning, is the key.

We showed some figures that help us understand the present situation. For example, it is quite striking that whereas 39% of employers say that a skills shortage is the leading reason for entry-level vacancies, 72% of education providers believe that new graduates are job ready! (Goldshmeding Foundation).

So, what can the VET system offer for the development of these goals? As we just mentioned, the SDGs can be divided into three groups, so we showed some examples of good practices that have been or are being carried out in the Basque VET system. To illustrate the first group, PEOPLE, Ainhoa explained two projects, one in which Artificial Intelligence is used to measure distresses at work and another project about suicide prevention.

Mikel talked about an innovative applied programme on the research and development of technologies towards zero emission which clearly contributes to taking care of the PLANET.

To illustrate how we can contribute to achieve the goals related to PROSPERITY, Oier talked about an energy model change towards a distributed renewable energy system. He pointed out that they want to open this local model to Europe.

In all the cases the speakers related the projects both with the contributions made to different SDGs and the skills in which students are trained (methodological, technical, personal, soft...)

After all these examples, data and information, we wanted participants to start preparing their manifesto. In order to do that, we asked them to do a kind of SWOT analysis we called FARO (Force, Areas of improvement, Real challenges and Opportunities).

There were very interesting reflections. Participants saw that our strengths are lifelong learning, virtual learning environments, multisectoral teams, international cooperation, that we have the ability to prioritise limited resources and we are a very versatile and flexible system.

Regarding the areas of improvement some of the ideas mentioned were the following: that we need stronger partnerships with companies, we need to pay professional attention to gender equality and that our own schools should be examples of prosperous and sustainable buildings.

As for the real challenges we have to overcome, participants highlighted our resistance to change, the lack of support of decision makers, the need to find common points or grounds among the members of such diverse and different countries, transitions to greener energies and that we need to be aware that if we want to change something, we have to start by ourselves.

But we also have very good opportunities as the strong European system we are. We know that change is possible and we have to be the change, together with the companies we work with.

Our manifesto is that:

THE EUROPEAN VET SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ENABLE LIFELONG LEARNING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

REMEMBER WE NEED A PROSPEROUS PLANET FOR PEOPLE!!!!