

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: VET learner and staff mobility

Project Title

J2E - Journey to Excellence: enhancing professional competences of VET staff in WBL

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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EC Contribution 37,103.25 EUR
Partners CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE (UK) , Casa-Escola Agrícola Campo Verde (PT) , Cheshire College South & West (UK) , STICHTING REGIONAAL ONDERWIJS CENTRUM 'S HERTOGENBOSCH (NL) , THE CEDAR FOUNDATION (UK) , Jordbrugets Uddannelsescenter Århus (DK) , ESPOON SEUDUN KOULUTUSKUNTAYHTYMA OMNIA (FI) , Vlaams Agentschap voor Ondernemersvorming - Syntra Vlaanderen (BE) , Kunskapsskolan i Sverige AB (SE) , STICHTING VOOR ALGEMEEN VOORGEZET ONDERWIJS, BEROEPSONDERWIJS EN VOLWASSENENEDUCATIE (NL)
Topics New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses ; Quality Improvement Institutions and/or methods (incl. school development) ; Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education

Project Summary

In the last years the Italian VET system has undergone deep changes that have affected both the organizational model and the type of services provided. The last major change concerned the launch of the experimentation of Dual System (according to the State-Regions Agreement approved on the 24/09/2015) that marked the definitive transition from a traditional school system to a work-based learning (WBL) approach, fostering an integrated training model between school and work in order to reduce the skill mismatch between competences required by the companies and those owned by the students. The experimentation promotes the continuity between IVET and work and actually transforms Italian VET centres into “meeting points” among initial and continuous education, active labour market policies and personal services. This paradigm shift implies considerable challenges for the IVET system in terms of: organizational model because it is necessary to provide several services for different targets; relationship with the companies that become strategic partners active in the organization of the personal educational path of the student; new professional profiles to manage the relationship with the companies and to manage curriculum which alternates learning periods in company and within the VET centre.

The “J2E - Journey to Excellence” project aims to face these new challenges and to improve the competences of the staff, working in the VET centres involved in the project, to manage WBL paths, giving the opportunity to 40 IVET staff (trainers, tutors, coordinators, project managers and directors) to discover new organizational and educational models from other countries where the WBL education (alternance / apprenticeship) has achieved good results and a more consolidated tradition.

The project represents an opportunity and a moment of strategic orientation with the Italian experimentation of the Dual System. The VET centres involved in the project have, in fact, the need to understand how the WBL is planned and managed in other countries, how to build an area dedicated to the active labour market policies in their centres, to review the roles of tutors and teachers, to structure an efficient service for the relationship with the companies, to introduce new teaching and inclusion methodologies (including more use of ICT). All these aspects are crucial for the success of the Dual System in Italy.

The aim of the project is therefore to support the VET staff participating in the project in developing innovative strategies to optimize the teaching organization structure related to the Dual System, personalise the WBL training paths, invest in guidance and placement services, extra-curricular and inclusion activities.

To achieve the objectives the project will realize short Job Shadowing activities (4-5 days) around 3 topics:

1. Study of excellent organizational and teaching models, including personalized teaching, to promote the WBL in all its forms (alternance, apprenticeship, school based enterprise)
2. Study of significant experiences (and related methods/devices/tools) to promote the social and work inclusion
3. Study of effective use of ICT for a more active, engaging and motivating teaching (also intended as a rethinking of time and space for education)

The foreign partnership is composed by organizations that over the years have adopted and developed good practices on the issues mentioned above. The 10 project partners ensure a wide geographical coverage (7 countries) and will allow the comparison and understanding of different practices, policies, educational and training systems.

The project will have a positive impact on the modernization/internationalization of the sending organizations. In the short term, it will be possible to record a positive impact on the participants (staff) in terms of competences that can be spent in the implementation of the Italian Dual System and on the sending organizations (VET

centres) in terms of updating organizational and teaching methods and tools. Foreign partners will benefit from the project too in terms of enlarging their European network. The students attending the VET centres involved in the project will also take advantage from it since the organizations, on a reciprocal basis, will organize mobility exchanges for students attending the Dual System training paths (alternance students and apprentices).

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