



# Craft and SMEs VET NET Networks And Partnerships Of Vocational Education And Training

# Project Description

VET systems are characterised by fragmented nature, complexity and a large variety of actors. To be future-proof, European policy initiative need implementation, impact and awareness at grass root level, which require strong cooperation mechanisms, also among VET providers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of Europe's economy and society. Digitalisation and technological changes are listed as the biggest challenges but the vast majority of SMEs raises a lack of skilled staff. The main aim of the project is to foster, through a bottom-up process, a shared global vision and specific practical collaborations between VET systems in order to make them more attractive, career oriented, innovative, accessible and flexible, to foster mutual learning, peer counselling, capacity building and exchange of best practices between VET SMEs and Training Networks provided through a virtual learning environment that is based on the mix of formal and informal education. The project proposes an innovative model of a "Community of VET's Practices". The basic structure and program design of the Community are based on the adoption and adaptation of "higher education" models and procedures. The dissemination and communication of the project will take place through Information and communication campaigns also through innovative web tools, Erasmus + platforms, networks and contacts of the participating organization. The target groups can be distinguished between direct (Craft and SMEs VET Providers, Association of SMEs, crafts and freelancers, Policy and Decision Makers) and indirect (universities, schools, associations and networks of workers ..)

The impact is achieved in particular in terms of: enhancement of the ability to participate, development of co-design, collaboration and cooperation skills in virtual and innovative environments, strengthening of professional skills, building a more open, purposeful and effective mutual dialogue with policy makers.

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## Activities Description

The aim of the project is to foster mutual learning, peer counselling, capacity building and exchange of best practices between VET SMEs and Training Networks provided through a virtual learning environment that is based on the mix of formal and informal education.

The virtual environment foreseen both four learning phases and four distinct sections:

**Communication:** The project's virtual learning environment should encourage a strategic discussion on future European cooperation between VET SME and craft providers related to outline a series of potential paths - scenarios – pointing towards plausible and consistent pictures of how VET can evolve in the next future depending on today's decisions and policy choices. Particularly this section should also enable an exchange of mutual help between members on the most relevant problems and possible solutions, related to daily work experiences, about concrete issues and experiences on the introduction of innovation in their national VET systems. The goal of this section is to start the community developing and encouraging the peer counselling, mutual help process and mutual multilingual platform networks and links.

**Sharing:** The project's virtual learning environment will provide a section to share resources (i.e. project realized, technological tools, documents, etc) from any national experiences to foster the development of innovative VET strategies and

activities. In this section a tool box is provided to deposit and share resources in order to accomplish the section goal.

**Collaboration:** The project environment should encourage the collaboration of the members on specific themes and issues focused on some specific VET topics and sectors (to be defined) through exchange of knowledge, experiences in a perspective of short term collaboration. In this application the term collaboration means action or activities of working with someone to create the necessary knowledge and experience. The collaboration will facilitate cultural change, trying to reduce the separation between study and work, intellectual activity and manual activity, which represents a characteristic trait of the VET system.

**Cooperation :** In this phase the collaboration it is foster in a long term perspective. The cooperation among the members is focused on set apply and deposit in a repository the best practices. This section is based on more formal and organized learning process. The goal of this section is also to establish partnership among VET Providers on a selected and strategic set of activities and topics like:

- A labour market driven VET provision: in a scenario where technological and social changes requires to prepare people not only for existing jobs but also for future employments and job creation there is the need to develops a flexible C-VET system more open in terms of provisions trough new form of digital learning, blended learning, internationalization strategies, etc.
- Innovative didactical models and technologies in order to make VET more flexible and accessible
- Competences of trainers, teacher and VET professionals
- Expertise on the effective use of European funding instruments

# Partners

The consortium is composed by five distinct training, research and SMEs representative bodies at National and European level (ECIPA CNA, EPFQL, IME GSEVEE, PIMEC). The consortium aims to establish a network for the development of value added continuing vocational and educational training and to support Craft & SMEs in their cross sector digital transition.

The five collaborating partners are closely involved in the promotion of SMEs policies and vocational training, to address the major issue of digital skills and competences transformation, analyze and adopt modern vocational training models and offer useful insights for the effective operation and transition of SMEs and crafts in Europe in new digital era.

