



September 2018

VET_GPS - Guiding tools for Professional Skills development in VET Erasmus+ funded project is celebrating 1 year of partnership

VET_GPS celebrates this month one year since the partnership started to work towards the development of a wide set of tools, guides and materials addressed to trainees, VET managers, VET counsellors and VET trainers/teachers, in order to improve their soft skills, which are essential for their personal development, social participation and workplace success. VET_GPS is a European funded project managed by a consortium of 9 partners coming from different EU countries; Portugal, Spain, Italy, Austria and Belgium.

The first year of the partnership, has focused on developing the Intellectual Output 1 “Guide for the integration of the Soft Skills in VET offer”. This output includes national reports to find a global definition of the main subject of the project: Soft Skills and include a summative list of soft skills appropriate to include in the VET_GPS project. Beside this activity, the consortium has developed two reports relating to two previous projects (In-VET and EMPLOY) which are being used as contextual start to the progression of VET_GPS.

VET_GPS project aims to collect feedback from all the stakeholders involved in the improvement of VET trainees’ soft skills, such as companies, chamber of commerce, labour officers, teaching staff, management and student trainees, etc. That is why partners have conducted a series of focused group on a local basis through May-June 2018. The idea was to present levels and perceived needs for future development of soft skills in VET training programmes. Local focus group took place in Austria (Blickpunkt Identität), Italy (Pixel), Portugal (Mentortec and ANESPO) and Spain (CECE and Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierri) debated 6 key areas and offered their shared experience and vision to the VET_GPS project. The insights provided from the Focus Groups along with prior international research into soft skills development in VET will be used to create the basis of a VET_GPS Guide for VET providers to support the sustained development of soft skills at all levels of vocational and adult training. The results show a great deal of convergence of opinion particularly regarding the importance of Soft Skills Development in vocational education. This Intellectual Out will present their final results in August next year.

Moreover, VET_GPS was presented during three international conference in this last year. Austrian partner, Blickpunkt Identität had the opportunity to participate at the IBOBB Netzwerk Steiermark (Information, advice and orientation for education and work) fair 2018 where the introduced first preliminary results. In June, VET_GPS was presented at the “The Future of Education” International Conference, organized by the Italian partner Pixel. Finally, as every year, EFVET (Belgian partner) participated at the Lifelong Learning Platform Annual Conference in July. There our partners had the chance to exchange views on the last developments of VET_GPS and learn from other experiences align with our project.

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