



Report of VET Internationalisation

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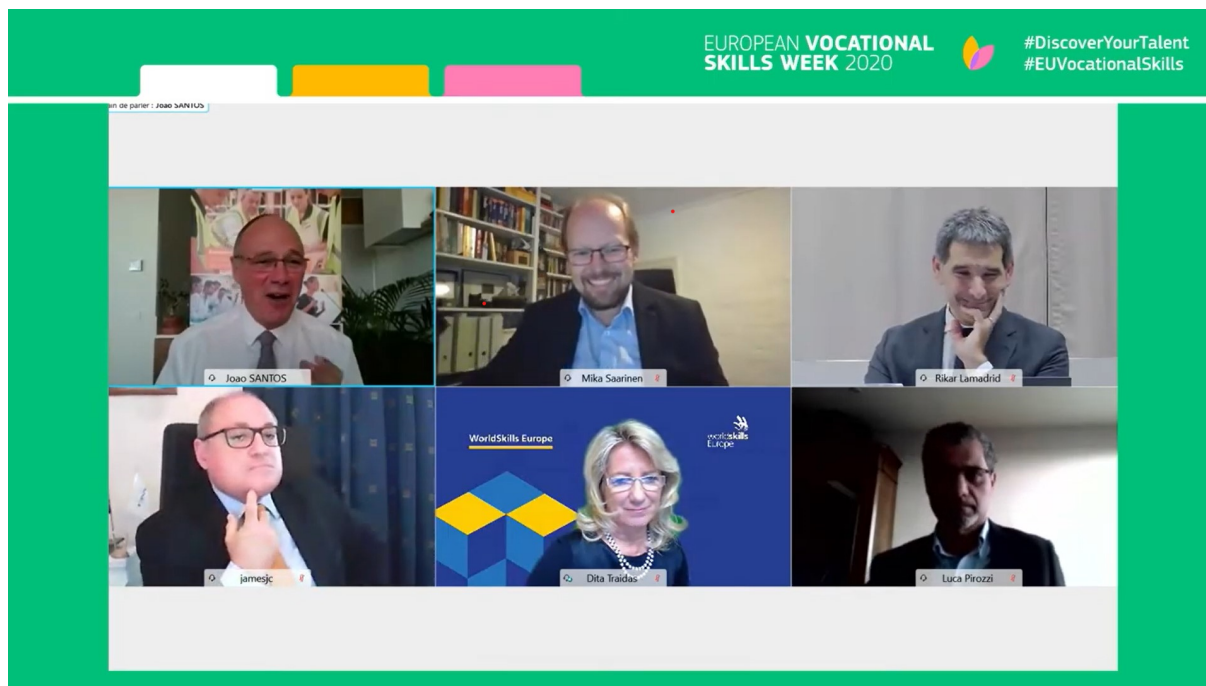
European Vocational Skills Week 2020
09-13 November 2020

EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL**
SKILLS WEEK 2020





Report



Format:

Online. Moderated by Mr. Joao Santos and Mr. Georgios Zisimos

Speakers:

Prof. Joachim James Calleja, President of European Forum for Vocational Education (EfVET)

Mrs. Soo-Hyang Choi, Director of UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Mr. Klaus Fahle, German Presidency - Director of National Agency - Education for Europe, Germany

Mrs. Tamar Kitiashvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Georgia

Mr. Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga, Director of Technology and Advanced Learning, Vice-Ministry of VET, Department of Education of Basque government, Spain

Mr. Cesare Onestini, Director European Training Foundation (ETF)

Dr James Otieno Jowi, Principal Education Officer, East African Community (EAC)



Mrs. Barbara Rambousek, Director, Gender and Economic Inclusion, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Mr. Mika Saarinen, Counsellor of education, Finnish National Agency for Education

Mr. Joao Santos, Senior Expert, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Mrs. Dita Traidas, President, WorldSkills Europe, Latvia

Mr. Ana Zacharian, VET, Labour Market and Private Sector Engagement Expert

Mr. Georgios Zisimos, Senior Specialist in EU Education and Training Policies, European Training Foundation (ETF)

Number of Participants:

More than 1700 people registered.

Main Message:

The challenges of today are best met by a global approach to skills, education and technics. For this, Internationalisation, mobility and exchange through for example Erasmus+ are key. The harmonisation of VET and TVET systems as well as the sharing of best practices are the chosen ways of implementation. Not only skills needs are global also skills themselves need to adopt. Learning languages and a global attitude has become a vital part of VET education.

Detail of the Meeting:

Klaus Fahle in his speech emphasized the impact of globalisation, internationalisation, mobility, new competences and Erasmus+. German companies need skilled workers and often do the training themselves. Germany is dependent on international trade, therefore the German government created a programme called “Training worldwide” which goes beyond the frontier of Erasmus+. Since 2017 the programme had 1300 participants. Also the German government aims to apply international competences, such as language and intercultural skills, into their VET systems. **Mrs. Dita Traidas** of WorldSkills Europe stressed the importance of their competition for the exchange of skills and skills system designs, for benchmarking and for the displaying of new technologies. In addition, the visibility and excitement of such events has an effect on the branding of VET education as well as the respective professions. **James Calleja** started by mentioning the VET professions on the “frontline” of combatting the virus. Mobilisation is more than a trend; the world becomes more and more connected and hence smaller. Internationalisation is now a necessity. Mutual learning is key for such



ambitions. Since business moves faster than education, the enhancement of skills must be the goal. The currency of VET internationalisation must be a mutual credits system. **Mika Saarinen** presented the Finnish approach to internationalisation in VET: strengthening the international competencies of their students and of their VET staff, and promoting the internationalisation of their institutions. The need for those measures stems not only from globalisation but also from local needs and from a changing world of work. The Finnish system was implemented by strategic planning support for VET schools, by national financing as well as by guides and tools. **Mr. Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga** of the Basque government explained his government's strategic plan. The plan is based on an international branding of the Basque country all over the world, on the promotion of regional interests, on the adoption of know-how and on contributions to the European project and global efforts for sustainable development.

On Slido.com the audience shared their questions. The speakers were asked about funding, the role of higher education in internationalisation and about specific schemes as well as on the role of regional and local institutions.

The speakers concluded that during the pandemic virtual cooperation has increased massively. Especially the technologies of online learning were very positively enhanced. Also, however, especially the younger students have suffered because of the online interaction. **Mr. Fahle** and **Mr. Intxaurreaga** stressed the importance of local and regional governments, because of their global networks (e.g. city partnerships). Of course, regarding events the time of the pandemic has been less fruitful.

In her contribution **Mrs. Soo-Hyang Choi** from the United Nations emphasised the unequal distribution of digitalisation tools. She warned of problems occurring due to these inequalities. More than cooperation is needed, rather Mrs. Choi asked for harmonisation.

In Session 2 on the external dimension of VET, **Mr. Georgios Zisimos** started off by stating that internationalisation does not happen by itself and therefore the following speakers will tell us how they do it. **Mr. Cesare Onestini** from the ETF highlighted the importance of collective action and harmonisation. Best practice exchanges as well as networks of practitioners are key here. **Mrs. Tamar Kitiaashvili** from Georgia emphasised the importance for internationalisation in Georgia. Important here was specially the adaptation of Georgia's education system to European and international standards, especially the EQAVET standards. Next **Mrs. Barbara Rambousek** from the EBRD stressed the importance of investment in green and digital skills. Internationalisation is important for mobility and for the harmonisation of practices. Benefits are a boosting in competitiveness and openness to market. Key is the sharing of best practices. **Dr James Otieno Jowi** from the East African community especially emphasized the cooperation between countries in the harmonisation of



TVET system. This is done by supporting efforts of mobility for students and best practice sharing. **Mrs. Ana Zacharian**, a start-up entrepreneur, showcased the practical application in the private sector. Technical skills, not degrees, are of importance to her. Skills have no nationalities, she concluded.

Conclusions:

Internationalisation in VET is not a trend but a necessity: necessary for development and competitiveness. The VET system has to become mobile and adapt to the skills needs and has to introduce new international skills needs, such as languages, to its curricular. These adoptions have to be reached by best practice sharing, by harmonisation and by openness to a global market.