



Report of Inclusive excellence

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European Vocational Skills Week 2020

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EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK** 2020





Report

Format:

On-line

Speakers:

Marta Anielak, Improving the Employability of People with Hearing Impairments - ProHear project

Preeti Dasgupta, CREUS project

Giulia Meschino, Executive and development manager, European Vocational Training Association (EVTA)

Malgorzata Kozak, Policy Officer, Schools & Multilingualism Unit, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Anna Nikowska, Policy officer, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Paola Vulterini, Valueable Network Project

Marta Zieba-Szklarska, Oni Ucza

Enzo Pellegrini, CREUS project

Steve Medlin, CREUS project

Number of Participants: 224

Main Message:

The potential of vocational education and training to support or even drive competitiveness, innovation and growth policies has largely been neglected in education and training policies. The latter underestimate the crucial importance of high volume and high-quality VET, being it for low skilled and high skilled occupations, needed for retaining and developing the economy, for an inclusive growth with social cohesion impact. Social inclusion goes hand in hand with economic development, and neither should exclude or progress at the cost of the other.

Detail of the Meeting:

The session was introduced by Mrs Nikowska, who stressed the importance of an inclusive VET. The relevance of VET has been underestimated: this has to change and the purpose of the session will be to discuss how to bring about such change.

Mrs Nikowska invited the audience to interact via Slido, answering the following question: "Inclusive VET for me means..." The resulting word cloud showed words such as "equality" and "diversity".



The possibility to interact remained open as the first speaker was introduced.

Mrs Zieba-Szklarska presented the ONi Uczą project, offering all-around training, including in financial and entrepreneurial skills, to persons with disabilities.

Mrs Meschino presented the Erasmus+ SOLITY project for the creation of a Self-Assessment Tool for VET social utility.

Mrs Kozak introduced the second part of the session.

Mrs Dasguta and Mr Pellegrini presented the Erasmus+ CREUS project, supporting mentors and young peer mentors in the field of arts by testing pilot activities, producing case studies and recommendations, developing a learning curriculum, building recognition tools and creating an e-learning guide. Mr Medlin, from the same project, answered some general queries on VET.

CREUS [project](#) has developed training tools and [support](#) for mentors who support young people who are at risk of leaving education or training in unconventional spaces and non the -formal learning [settings](#). Project's activities confirmed that full involvement of learners in school life, learner centered approach and bullying's prevention are key factors in effective reducing of early school leaving.

Mrs Vulterini presented the Erasmus+ Valueable Network project, an European network of socially responsible companies of the hospitality sector. If projects are dreams with deadlines...[Valueable](#) project is a dream of the [European network](#) of socially responsible companies in the hospitality sector. The project draws attention to inclusion of workers with disabilities in a view of equal [working opportunities](#). To achieve a successful integration of workers with disabilities in companies following aspects should be envisaged: adapting legal frameworks, reinforcement of the role of social partners, [internships](#), long - term partnerships between employers and VET providers, spreading successful practices, for example: Booking.com has mentioned [Valueable](#) in the profile of Axis, which is a Portuguese member of the network

Mrs Anielak presented the Erasmus+ ProHear project, addressing the employability of people with hearing impairments with the aim of mitigating their employment gap and the barriers they face on the labour market.

[ProHear](#) project - has developed integrated training support tailored to the needs and specificities of people with hearing impairments to improve their employment prospects and social inclusion. The use of online solutions, which facilitate the daily life of deaf people, reinforced role of employment organisations, communication campaigns about the recruitment of people with these disabilities and equal access to social resources, are of key importance to better integrate people with hearing impairments. Deaf people can [do anything except](#) hearing!

The session was the closed by Mrs Nikowska and Mrs Kozak.

Conclusions: Inclusive practices in VET can support inclusion and enhance the realisation of economic and social benefits. VET institutions (and through them the system) must address diversity in themselves and of learners. They need to adapt to demographic changes through integrating inclusive



practice and training as a core business element. Enhancing the inclusiveness of growth is a long-term process that requires long-lasting commitments across a multitude of stakeholders to mobilize resources, time and effort, and in order to do so, they increasingly require more coordinated and better information to help them identify the right decisions and prioritize actions.