

SELF-MANAGEMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY (SMART VET)

2020-1-UK01-KA226-VET-094430



What is this project about?

SMART VET Summary

Responding to the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, **SMART VET** brings together a Strategic cross-sectorial Partnership of VET organizations, SMEs and youth organizations aiming at preparing a high quality improvement program specifically designed to increase the ability of VET teachers, trainers and mentors to foster VET students' transition to the labour market.

Despite being the most academically qualified generation ever and facing all this pressure to succeed professionally, employers consistently report that young people are unprepared and unequipped to enter the workplace when they leave full-time education – lacking a broad range of soft skills. The project contributes to the VET students' employability skills increase, especially during suspension periods as the lockdown due to the COVID-19 crisis. This will directly support “apprentices who are forced to take breaks in training within the workplace or are unable to work due to COVID-19 related prevention measures or illness” as allowed by the UK Department for Education, 2020.

For this reason, the 7 partners, coming from different sector sands with different specialties and capitalizing on experience in VET services, employment services, skills development, formal and non-formal education, decided to share their expertise to develop new tools and design materials to support apprentices/VET students to enhance the transversal skills needed by the current labour market.

The **SMART VET** training program and its interactive tools aim at equipping VET teachers, trainers & mentors by:

- applying innovative mentoring and fostering techniques based on non-formal education to tackle some of the challenges offered by the remote-learning situation,
- learning how to use digital, interactive materials and tools to offer more engaging learning possibilities to (ex) VET students and
- gaining knowledge on how to foster (ex) VET students' soft skills via mentoring while on remote learning situations.

The project offers (ex) VET students a concrete way to prepare for employment and demonstrate to be proactive in their preparation. **SMART VET** materials can be used by VET students and job seekers with a VET background about to be enrolled in apprenticeship programs aiming to demonstrate their new / prospective employees that they will be an asset to the company, not just a trainee. In particular, by introducing a set of serious games in the process, the partners expect to increase both engagement and learning outcomes. The products will be digital to make them easily shared among young people, who are more used to online environment, but also because, digital solutions will offer an easy way to deliver and transfer them, with a wider impact and easier possibility for implementing follow up activities.



Public Employment Services and local and regional labour offices will offer free guidance to support people in need for upskilling possibilities. The unemployed and job seekers will take advantage of the project products as they provide a new method to facilitate employability skills improvement, thus increase their chance for employment. It is clear that education and training need to be adapted and linked more closely to the world of work, by bridging that gap between academia and labour market that now appears to be obsolete. Effectively anticipating which skills will be required in years to come by companies is crucial, if workers with the right competencies are to be trained.

The Consortium was assembled based on the need of ensuring a comprehensive representation of the different national contexts facing the challenge of VET students in their labour market entry for the first time, and of the trainers in charge for preparing them. All stakeholders are benefitting from the project's results as they include a useful program to help companies in identifying the gap between employers' needs and expectations in terms of sustainable and responsible behaviors by employees: how to deal with colleagues, how to solve a common problem, how to talk with superiors, but also more ethical and moral situations involving misbehaving / polluting companies, managers that do not respect basic labour rights, and other situations that will push them to find sustainable, responsible solutions to an issue.

SMART VET partners

- **Restorative Justice for All International Institute cic (RJ4All) - UK**
- **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OF SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION-RESET LTD (RESET) - Cyprus**
- **Namoi - Russian Federation**
- **FRAMEWORK Association (FRAMEWORK) - Italy**
- **Karavan İnsan Kaynaklarını Geliştirme ve Gençlik Derneği - Turkey**
- **Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute (Fifty-Fifty) - Greece**
- **AB Çalışmaları Merkezi Derneği - Turkey**



The 7 partners from 6 countries involved in the **SMART VET** consortium represent a wide range of European diversity, as they are situated in different areas of Europe (UK, CY, RU, IT, TR & GR) and represent different organizations and socio-economical contexts (towns of different sizes, economical environments and culture) and most of them have different expertise, stakeholders and audience with different backgrounds and needs.

SMART VET activities

IO1 SMART VET CHALLENGES

IO1 takes the form of interactive materials (exercises, quizzes, games) presenting challenges based on work-related situations. The games are associated with an OER LIBRARY to offer (ex) VET students that have never worked before a solid understanding of workplace etiquette, what are the functions of the different departments in a company and what are the associated tasks and typical transversal skills needed, providing a better perspective of their roles and work position when they will be hired, as well.

IO2 (e-TC) SMART VET SUPPORT

This training course (formalized in a syllabus, skills framework, interactive materials) will be useful to a variety of VET educators in charge of preparing (ex) VET students for their labor market entry. Following the training, VET educators such as VET teachers, mentors, trainers, HR managers and (private and public) employment centre operators will develop knowledge and skills needed to foster and facilitate the integration of (ex) VET students into the labor market with a specific section on how to foster skills development of students with disabilities.



Multiplier Events

Each partner will celebrate 1 local Multiplier Event in order to inform about the project and show its results. The local Multiplier Events are targeting professionals and organizations belonging to key and strategic stakeholders that can become sponsors of the initiative in the future, such as: VET teachers, VET schools, trainers, but also - public, schools, ministries, employer and employee organizations, unemployment offices, businesses, chambers of commerce, professionals or persons belonging to employer organizations, trade unions, chambers of industry, trade, commerce and crafts, national entities involved in planning, organizing or promoting education/training, employment services, education and training providers, intermediary and sectoral organizations, civil society organizations, local and regional economic actors and community services.



CONTACT US

<https://smartvetproject.org>

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