



**Recognize and Validate skills and qualifications gained  
by alternating school and work experience  
at National and European level**



Project No. 2014-1-IT01-KA202-002629  
Project duration: from 2014-09-01 to 2016-08-31

[www.vetatwork.eu](http://www.vetatwork.eu)

**Newsletter No. 01**

**March 2015**

# First VET@WORK Project Newsletter

## Background

VET@WORK project looks at one of the main challenge of the Europe 2020 Strategy: to reduce Early School Leaving (ESL) to less than 10% and contribute to increasing attainment in tertiary education to at least 40% by 2020.

Completing upper secondary education is recommended as the minimum entrance qualification when making the crucial transition from education to the labour market.

Schools and especially VET Institutions play an important role in addressing ESL but they cannot and should not work in isolation. Comprehensive approaches that focus on the root causes of ESL are required to reduce ESL.

The following EU key policy messages identify the critical conditions for successful policies against ESL:

- Support schools to develop a supportive learning environments that focus on the needs of individual learners;
- Promote strong commitment from all stakeholders in efforts to reduce ESL;
- Enable staff to provide differentiated learning support to learners in an inclusive and personal way;
- Strengthen guidance to ensure that young people are aware of the different study options and employment prospects available to them.

## Welcome to VET@WORK First Newsletter!

The six-month newsletter is part of the informative material published to disseminate and promote the aims, activities and outputs of the VET@WORK project.

This first issue of the newsletter introduces the project, which was selected in September 2014 and it is now in its first six-month of work in implementing its content and technical specifications. Here are explained the main contents and the implementation of activities discussed by project Consortium during the Kick-off Meeting & Start up Dissemination Workshop held in Campobasso (IT) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

At the end we are glad to show some pictures took during the Kick-off Meeting and the first Dissemination activity with schools, companies and the representatives of local institutions.

Next Newsletter will contain the progress as well as a thematic article and the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the project Consortium and the Dissemination Workshop, which will be held in Tallinn (EE) on the next 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May.



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## The Project

To reinforce the motivation of learners and prevent ESL, the EU strongly fosters the commitment to offer them the opportunity and to have new flexible approaches based on Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) elaborated by VET staff (teachers, coaches, trainers, tutors) in cooperation with Enterprises staff and recognize the experience in their formal curriculum. This is in the line with most EU countries educational policies which by law promote School-Work Alternation and/or Dual Systems paths aimed at supporting the stay in the educational context. VET@WORK project represents a reply to the above mentioned problems as it is inspired by the following factors:

- Develop flexible pathways which connect the VET formal school curriculum to Work Based Learning;
- Enrich the learning gained at school level with the acquiring of professional skills to facilitate the entrance to the labour market;
- Foster the implementation of ECVET principles and tools;
- reinforce a NA and EU Network of VET schools/providers, enterprises and social parties to allow the active participation in the School-Work Alternation or in the frame of the Dual system.

Further, taking into account that schools (especially VET) are no longer the only place of learning but part of a set of more or less formal contexts in which the learners acquire and enhance their skills, VET@WORK project enlighten the need of developing new approach aimed at:

- Tailoring educational interventions on the characteristics of the learners;
- Adopting innovative teaching methods based on working experiences at NA and EU level;
- Designing flexible PLPs by improving the skills of VET and Enterprises staff;
- Implementing the PLPs in the formal learners/students Curriculum;
- Training VET staff at EU level on implementing ECVET in the PLPs.



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## The Kick off Meeting & Start up Dissemination Workshop

The *Kick-off Meeting* and *Start up Dissemination Workshop* were held in Campobasso (Italy) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

During the meeting and the workshop, the participating institutions and their representatives introduced themselves to one another. Presentations and comparative discussions on the national educational systems and on the School-Work Alternation, Dual systems as well as on WBL helped to build up a common base to working on the project central issues. In the course of the project the partners will investigate national legislations, competences needed and case studies/best practices in partner countries to validate School-Work Alternation /Dual systems and, in general, Work Based Learning (WBL) pathways in Europe.

First project activity is the Research, divided in two different parts:

1. Desk Research on NA legislations and case studies/best practices;
2. Survey on skills gaps and competences needed by VET staff/teachers/VET providers and Enterprises staff to design Personal Learning Plans (PLPs).

The Survey is developed through 90 questionnaires (15 surveyants in IT-Florence; 15 surveyants in IT-Campobasso and 15 surveyants per each partner in AT, UK, DE and EE).

During the meeting particular attention was given to the Quality Assurance Management.

The Quality Assurance Management and Quality Plan was discussed in deep, as one of the most important point to guarantee the best results to the final outputs and the project itself.



*The partners*



*The Consortium Meeting*



*The Start up Dissemination Workshop*



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