

Austria - Green Village – Training centre (GVTC)

Title of inspiring practice	Green Village – Training centre (GVTC) (" <i>Green Village – Ausbildungszentrum</i> ")
Geographical area	At local level in Graz, which is the capital of Styria (Austria).
Period of implementation	The project started in September 2020.
Rationale	<p>The establishment of National Green Skills Competence Centres as fulltime vocational schools and colleges in Austria was envisaged by both the National Implementation Plan referring to the Council Recommendation on VET and the Osnabrueck Declaration.</p> <p>The Green Village Training Centre (GVTC) was the first prototype of these National Green Skills Competence Centres and was established at the Higher Technical College Bulme in Graz. This Higher Technical College offers several EQF 5 full time I-VET courses, with a focus on topics such as electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, mechatronics, electronics. In the Green Village, students are given the chance to familiarise and address all types of renewable energy, by getting a hands-on experience with photovoltaic, small wind turbines, solar thermal energy, battery storage systems, heat pumps, E-mobility as well as smart home automation. As the Green Village gets known to the industry, it is getting easier to receive the newest components as a loan.</p> <p>The practice is an inspiring example to others, because it is the first and very only school in Austria that concentrates on green technology in every course of initial VET and CVET offered by the school. It highlights the cooperation between Industry and public school, also in terms of providing training for the industry partners.</p>
Scope of the practice	Initial Vocational Education in green technologies referring to the curriculum and advanced training in collaboration with partner companies
Educational level	NQR 5; EQF 5
Introduction and context	<p>The Higher Technical College (HTC) Bulme in Graz is a technical college with around 2000 students and courses focusing on electrical engineering, electronics, mechanical engineering as well as industrial management.</p> <p>The stakeholders involved in the project are some partners in GREENOVET as the University of applied Science FH Joanneum and other industrial partners.</p> <p>The participation of the HTC Bulme to GREENOVET, which is a well-known Centre of Vocational Excellence Project, was one of the drivers behind the realisation of the Green Village project. The idea that every student at the HTC Bulme should deal with green technology and should be able to act as early adopters in the Green transition dates back to 2013. The participation to GREENOVET, together with the participation to the Greentec-Cluster in Styria and the growing demand of green-tec workforce, accelerated the ambition of the HTC Bulme to focus on green technologies in every training course established at the school.</p> <p>The project foresaw the opportunity to attract students into vocational education at technical colleges, especially girls. The provision of technical equipment from motivating industry partners was probably seen as a risk, but so far the industry partners were highly motivated to contribute to a modern and green vocational education.</p> <p>The project targets two different groups. The first group is made by the students at the HTC Bulme (I-VET). The objective of the practice for this target group is to delve into a hands-on approach to green-tec education. For instance, every student in electrical engineering is expected to build a photovoltaic system of his or her own, beginning with the mounting of panels, installing and initialising the converter and the measurement for approval of the whole system. To provide a deeper educative insight, students will handle several diploma theses in green topics every year.</p>

	<p>The second target of the project are employees, who need tailor-made upskilling or reskilling in the handling of newest green technologies.</p> <p>The project does not rely on a separate funding, because the HTC Bulme is a public school and attending the school is free of charge for the students. Besides that, a fee is charged for attending tailor-made courses for employees of the industrial partners.</p>
Key activities and outcomes	<p>The key activities implemented as part of the project included the implementation of renewable energy curricula in the electrotechnical engineering college, the building up of an Education network “Green Transition” with institutions in the primary education as well as Technical Universities and Universities of applied Science.</p> <p>The initiative also entailed the sharing of projects with the students of HTL Bulme as well as the university of applied science, the offering of training courses with industrial partners, and the establishment of industry accepted certificate in cooperation with TÜV-Austria.</p> <p>As part of the initiative, there were no specific tools developed, beside the fact that the industry partners made available the technology equipment to the school for free.</p> <p>The initiative succeeded in gaining the strong interest of students in green technologies and in encouraging industry partners to cooperate with HTL Bulme.</p> <p>The main obstacles encountered as part of the initiative were found while trying to achieve significant commitments of teachers in fostering green topics, as well as finding the right partners and gaining the interest of companies in providing the training centre with the latest components on a rental base (as we do not want to act as a museum).</p> <p>A main factor contributing to the success of the initiative are the few proactive and highly motivated teachers and the support received from the headmaster.</p> <p>The project entailed the creation of an award in cooperation with TÜV -Austria the so-called Green Energy Solutions Award. The project was also awarded the Energy Globe Award Styria (for three times). Thesis delivered from students were awarded the OVE Energietechnikpreis, Umweltpreis der Stadt Graz and the Ökolog Award (more information here).</p>
Other information	https://www.tuv-akademie.at/diverses/photovoltaik-das-neue-green-village
Contacts and sources	<p>HTL Bulme Graz</p> <p>www.bulme.at</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)</p>
Date of update	28 December 2022