

Cyprus - Classic car restoration and electric car conversion

Title of inspiring practice	Classic car restoration and electric car conversion (<i>"Ανακατασκευή ρετρό αυτοκινήτου και μετατροπή του σε ηλεκτρικό"</i>)
Geographical area	The initiative is implemented at national level.
Period of implementation	The practice was first implemented in the school year 2021-2022.
Rationale	<p>The aim of the project is to make the next road users aware of the importance of driving zero-emission vehicles.</p> <p>This process helped new road users to understand and promote climate-friendly modes of transportation.</p> <p><u>More specifically, this initiative helped the students in a practical way to develop ecological awareness.</u></p>
Scope of the practice	Initial Vocational Education and Training
Educational level	Level 4
Introduction and context	<p>The key stakeholders involved in the initiative are the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, the Cyprus Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training school's teachers and trainers in Nicosia.</p> <p>The project was introduced by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training school's teachers in Nicosia.</p> <p>The focus chosen was the promotion of climate-friendly modes of transportation among new road users and the cultivation of environmental awareness and pro-environmental behaviour within Cyprus road network. The opportunities foreseen by this initiative are found in the implementation of the most modern technologies such as electronically controlled toolboxes (Computerised Numerical Control – CNC), security systems, lighting, air-conditioning using Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) as well security systems and supplementary restraint systems (SRS) such as ABS, cameras and parking sensors.</p> <p>The initiative aimed at reducing transport pollution of the new users of the road network, the targeted pupils of the program.</p> <p>Regarding the funding/budget of the project, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training School of Nicosia was granted a budget for the purchase of the car. Furthermore, the school received a fund as part of the sponsorship by the Cyprus Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works.</p>
Key activities and outcomes	<p>The project's implementation actions focused on the design of the systems and of the necessary parts of the vehicle body using a computer. The complete reconstruction took place in the school laboratories and was carried out by the students themselves. Finally, the project was presented to the mass media outlets and social media.</p> <p>Specifically, modern technologies, such as electronically controlled toolboxes (Computerised Numerical Control – CNC), security, lighting, air-conditioning systems, etc., using PLC, as well as modern safety and protection systems SRS (Supplementary Restraint System), such as ABS, cameras and parking sensors were some of the advanced "tools" used by the students to implement their project.</p>

	<p>The obstacles to be overcome were the enormous amount of study and preparation before implementation, partly deriving from an extremely complex wiring.</p> <p>As major effects on the target group, the initiative led to increased cooperation between pupils and improved community awareness.</p> <p>The collaboration of students from many disciplines, the support of the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and the Cyprus Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works were all key factors behind the success of this initiative.</p>
<p>Other information</p>	<p>The Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DSTVET) belongs to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth of Cyprus and is responsible for the organisation, supervision, and coordination of all the educational and administrative issues related to public VET in Cyprus. The DSTVET supervises the smooth operation of eleven Technical and Vocational Schools, as well as VET programmes that are hosted in the premises of general education schools.</p> <p>The Department offers the following initial, continuing and higher VET programmes addressed to eligible gymnasium graduates and adults:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (morning classes) 2. Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education (second chance schools) 3. Lifelong Learning programmes of VET (Afternoon and Evening Classes) 4. Apprenticeship System of VET 5. Public school of Higher VET <p>The DSTVET offers formal and informal VET programmes to children and adults (working or unemployed). The age range of the programmes are from 15 years old and over.</p> <p>The DSTVET also offers the preparatory apprenticeship programme, which is designed for students that have not completed compulsory education (third year of Gymnasium-lower secondary education). Students who complete preparatory apprenticeship may proceed to the core apprenticeship level or, if they wish, and they succeed at a special set of exams, they may re-enter the formal education system.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Strategic Planning and following the Decision by the Council of Ministers on 15 April 2015, the Directorate of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training implemented the Technical and Vocational Education and Training System (STEEK) with the core aim of addressing the impact of the economic crisis, of adapting to the continuous economic changes as well as of developing specialised skilled, suitably qualified and flexible human resources.</p> <p>Additionally, a major challenge that the Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DSTVET) is facing, is the need of increasing the proportion of in lower secondary education students, who choose to follow VET. Cyprus has one of the lowest percentage of students attending VET programmes amongst EU Member States. The achievement of this objective is very important for Cyprus, as VET systems can lead to a decrease in school dropout and unemployment rates and, as a result, contribute to the prosperity of the country's society and economy. The low percentage of people in Cyprus enrolled in VET is due to two main factors.</p> <p>The first factor is the lack of social acceptability of VET where people believe that the educational level in VET schools is worth less than the one provided by general education schools.</p> <p>The second factor behind the low participation of Cypriot students to VET is the lack of valid information regarding the perspectives of VET. Many parents believe that VET is a dead-end pathway that only leads to the world of work and that their children will only be employed in the field they have graduated from. This belief is sometimes very discouraging also for the students, as they have to decide about their field of study at</p>

	<p>the very early age of 15, when many times they are not in a position to decide what career they wish to follow and they falsely believe that, in the case they will change their mind, this decision will trap them for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>The organisation aims at changing all the above false beliefs and prejudice that the parents and society have about VET, by strengthening and upgrading even more the Cyprus VET System and by making it more attractive and flexible. To achieve this, the DSTVET needs to increase its "success stories" of VET graduates who have a successful professional career with the help of their VET degree. It is therefore important to make people understand, through real evidence and good results, that the high quality VET programmes that the DSTVET offers are designed to meet the needs of the labour market and the economy and can equip citizens with the necessary skills and knowledge that will help them to progress professionally, enhance their employability and encourage their active citizenship.</p>
Contacts and sources	<p>Ανακοινωθέντα Άρθρο - ΡΙΟ</p> <p>Οικοσελίδα - Α΄Τεχνική και Επαγγελματική Σχολή Εκπαίδευσης και Κατάρτισης Λευκωσίας (schools.ac.cy)</p>
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