

## Cyprus - Online workshop: 'VET goes GREEN'

<b>Title of inspiring practice</b>	Online workshop: 'VET goes GREEN' ("Διαδικτυακό εργαστήριο: 'VET goes GREEN' ")
<b>Geographical area</b>	The initiative was implemented at national level.
<b>Period of implementation</b>	The initiative was implemented from 16 to 20 May 2022.
<b>Rationale</b>	The aim of the workshop is to inform on how Technical and Vocational Education can contribute to the goals of the European Union as they were recorded through the Green Deal and the 17 SDGs.
<b>Scope of the practice</b>	Initial Vocational Education and Training, Continued Vocational Education and Training, Higher Vocational Education and Training, Preparatory Apprenticeship
<b>Educational level</b>	Level 4 and Level 5
<b>Introduction and context</b>	<p>The core aim behind the introduction of the specific action was the empowerment of educators in order to contribute and promote the green transition through the educational process. The objectives of this action were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the participants information regarding the need to incorporate good practices that could play a role in bettering environmental conditions</li> <li>• the emphasis on the importance of the educational system that can establish new environmental awareness</li> <li>• the emphasis on the role of the teachers for a green and an environmentally sustainable economy.</li> </ul> <p>The target group of this action involved teachers and trainers of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (morning classes)</li> <li>• Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education (second chance schools)</li> <li>• Lifelong Learning programmes of VET (Afternoon and Evening Classes)</li> <li>• Apprenticeship System of VET</li> <li>• Public school of Higher VET</li> </ul> <p>The action was organised by the Directorate of VET education and this is the reason that the specific target group was selected.</p> <p>It has been considered appropriate to involve educators in the action since they have a very serious role to play in the green transition and in promoting a green culture in schools.</p> <p>The project was allocated EUR 2 000 from EU funds.</p>

<p><b>Key activities and outcomes</b></p>	<p>The action provided information on how Technical and Vocational Education can contribute to the objectives of the European Union as recorded in the Green Agreement and the 17 SDGs.</p> <p>The action highlighted how the VET teachers and trainers can equip their trainees (students), with skills that will help them contribute to Green Development.</p> <p>These skills were specifically focused on technical professions and teaching methods combining practical with theoretical teaching and learning. The action was established online through Zoom.</p> <p>The outcome of the action was the interest of the participants and the need to organise a workshop with the aim of further empowering them in the subject as well as creating good practices that could be applied in practice in schools.</p> <p>The obstacle to be overcome was how to achieve the maximum possible participation. This obstacle will be overcome by organising further actions that will be obligatory for participation while school hours.</p> <p>The best recognition received was the participants' comments sent during the action as well as their request for the workshops' organisation.</p> <p>The timely and effective dissemination of the call was a key factor behind the success of the initiative.</p>
<p><b>Other information</b></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"> <li>1. Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (morning classes)</li> <li>2. Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education (second chance schools)</li> <li>3. Lifelong Learning programmes of VET (Afternoon and Evening Classes)</li> <li>4. Apprenticeship System of VET</li> <li>5. Public school of Higher VET</li> </ol> <p>The Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (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</p>

	<p>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 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>
<p><b>Contacts and sources</b></p>	<p>Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth</p> <p>Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training</p> <p>Additional source:</p> <p><a href="https://enimerosi.moec.gov.cy/archeia/1/ypp13964a">https://enimerosi.moec.gov.cy/archeia/1/ypp13964a</a></p>
<p><b>Date of update</b></p>	<p>18 May 2022</p>