



VET4EU2: Key Priorities And VET Solutions To Current Economic And Social Challenges.

In recent times our society has faced many challenges from climate and natural disasters faced by many countries to dealing with the effects of an ongoing war in Ukraine and other economic and forced migration. The recent pandemic has also highlighted our human vulnerability and how crisis affects the systems and structures requiring an immediate response. At the same time, innovation and developments in the sectors of education, technology, science and IT are advancing at an unprecedented speed. It means that the necessary transition that is required for our social, economic and educational systems, has also to be adopted in a more rapid way and within the relevant settings to respond to the demands of society.

VET4EU2 as a European Platform of Education providers is determined to be part of the solution which supports skills and training development across Europe, ensuring that education becomes more inclusive and that VET providers are considered to be key players to address the skills shortages through flexible and agile provision of quality education and training to learners across various provision in adult and vocational education.

Significant progress has been made in the past four years in including VET as an active player in the implementation of plans and initiatives of the European Commission.

VET4EU2 has identified a number of **key priorities** which can further amplify the impact which VET can bring in finding the solutions to the challenges presented.

1. Identifying ‘Vocational Education and Training’ as a key working stream in the European Commission implementation plan and consolidating the areas of policy to support lifelong learning, adult education, skills training, and personal development.

Enablers:

- VET is an enabling mechanism for addressing workforce issues of skills shortages.
- Through CoVES the VET sector provides a medium for innovation from grassroot levels up.
- VET providers have existing effective regional collaboration with SMEs, businesses, industry and national employment support agencies to effectively address skills shortages.



2. Positioning VET as a viable education pathway and an equal partner to sectors in the Tertiary Education Area including the Higher Education sector as part of the united eco-system with parity of esteem supported through vision and resourcing of the sector.

Enablers:

- VET is a key enabler on increasing participation of learners and workers in tertiary education and as part of that in higher education.
 - Ensuring support and development for VET professionals in all areas of innovation including AI through promotion of future skills development. This will not only contribute to overall innovation within the sector but will also have a significant impact on individual development of the VET providers.
3. Allowing VET to become a key deliverer in enhancing community cohesion, and being part of a social structure which leads to more inclusive, collaborative and prosperous lives which support economic and conflict driven migration.

Enablers:

- VET has a unique position in close regional and community engagement and in lifelong learning.
 - VET plays a key role in sustainable education.
 - VET has existing mechanisms for inclusion of marginalised communities, VET embraces diversity and aims to ensure access to education for all.
4. Within Europe, the VET sector has fostered strong relationships with associations at local, regional, national and international level. These relationships underpin the ability of the VET sector to develop dynamic and informed strategies which are responsive to long and short term needs and demands of the sector.

Enablers:

- VET plays an important role in identifying shortages in all parts of the labor market, at all levels, from local to international, and in determining the training needs of the sector while at the same time developing policy improvements at European level to ensure long-term success of VET delivery.
- VET providers are members of associations who meet periodically with the purpose of sharing expertise and knowledge with peers and relevant stakeholder groups with the aim of informing future European policy.
- Relationships with sectoral associations internationally enhance the opportunities to further foster links which can inform future European developments.