

VENHANS – VET European networking Enhancement

Project no. 609023-EPP-1-2019-1-BE-EPPKA3-VET-NETPAR

FOLLOW-UP THEMATIC GROUP ZOOM MEETING: “ENVIRONMENT AND FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE”

Launched in 2018, the VENHANS project was born from the cooperation of 6 networks representing VET providers in Europe. In fact, the main goal of the project is the strengthening of the cooperation in VET at the European level. The establishment of a thematic group including experts on the topic at stake is foreseen by the project’s action plan “networking”. The closing of VENHANS will foresee the development of a set of policy recommendations and, more specifically, also in-depth policy positions. This group is focused on one of the topic related to the four Commission and Erasmus+ programme’s priorities: **environment and the fight against climate change**.

The discussions we will have in Brussels will be triggered by two key questions: *how to contribute to the 4 Commission’s priorities through VET? What can we ask to policy makers in order to transform challenges in opportunities?* The idea is to reflect on the current status of the four Commission’s priorities and their connection to VET. For instance, the various documents issued in the last few years by European Commission, the Council etc., can pave the way for our reflection but also how to improve and enrich them.

Some useful inputs:

- **Green transformation and the social aspect:** we are on the phase of change activation in the culture, education and social sectors. What should be done if we want to activate this change in practical terms?
- **Communication on the European skills agenda for sustainable development**
- **Challenges and opportunities: target-groups** rather than sectors’ focus. What is the main challenge to take into account to activate green skills in young people, adults, people with specific needs or workers or as a whole? **Challenges** to be considered with the related **obstacles**, together with **opportunities**: they are linked to economics, wellbeing, local contexts etc.

The experts

- **Barbara Archesso (ENAIP NET):** she is part of the experts’ groups in DG EAC at the European Commission, supporting education and culture with a focus on sustainable development. She will be the moderator of this thematic group
- **Martin Borg (CBS):** he conducted his studies on sustainability and has been leading for several years one of the main institutions on VET in Malta. At the moment, he is working in the consultancy and education sectors. Among various activities carried out during his career, he followed a project focused on local interventions, linking VET with constructions of the streets. He believes occupational profiles can be a focus on the agenda of the group, also building on successful stories and past European projects (e.g. build-up skills).



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- **Anna Kwasnik (REGIONAL POMERANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IRGP):** she works for the Chamber of Commerce of Poland. Involved in various VET-related projects. The biggest project she is following regards green skills in the hydrogen sectors, including 40 partners throughout Europe. She is also involved in many initiatives in Poland in the education area.
- **Emilio Nieto (CNH2):** he works for CNH2. He is an expert in green technologies and green solutions. He is participating in Erasmus+ project in the dissemination and information about Hydrogen-related issues.
- **Francisco Javier Sanchez (CNH2):** he works for CNH2. His main focus is on spreading people awareness of the above-mentioned technologies.
- **Suzana Kasovska Georgieva (IECE):** she is mainly active in the education, VET and adult education sectors. Focused on industry and the academic sector, research in the environmental and climate change sector. As to the latter, she can bring expertise on green skills, micro credentials in the industry sector. She followed a project on climate resilience with the aim to make regions on the climate change side.
- **Bojan Jovanovski (FH JOANNEUM):** since 2020 he coordinates projects about the establishment on VET excellence in green innovation. Lately focused on green innovation through VET.

Interventions from the experts

Martin Borg:

1. The need for **VET to be transformed by** the definition of **sustainability** in the broad sense. Sustainability as a key value can provide an impetus for VET and its transformation.
2. The **social element** in the sense of considering needs for upskilling, disadvantaged groups etc. It is a matter of policy at national level and country-specific needs must be considered.

Emilio Neto:

1. Importance for **practicality** and **reality**.
2. **Economics:** not only on the technology side but also food and similar sectors. It has to do with the cultural aspect as well.
3. **Public** and **private partnerships:** administration can help in order to move together forward. The industrial sector, for instance, must define its needs and administration should respond to those consequently.

Suzana Kasovska Georgieva:

We should start from challenges and transform them in opportunities. Private sector, academia, business and industries, youth and adults. In practical terms, there is a huge gap in the VET sector, especially when it comes to green skills and sustainability. The economic and social aspect should be also put on the table during the next discussions.