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Digital supported tracking of employment
and career progression of apprentices for
Quality Assurance in VET

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The FOLLOW APP project will implement a method based on digital tools to track the employment and career progression of trainees in DUAL VET programs. The actions will target VET teachers, advisors, in-company trainers and learners, improving the responsiveness of VET to the changing demands of the labor market and strengthening quality assurance in VET.

Graduate tracking has become a key policy priority. By tracking graduates, VET providers gain relevant information on learners' transitions, either to the labor market or to further training. This provides information on the demand and supply of qualifications, which can help tailor VET provision to the needs of the labor market. This data set represents a good basis for addressing problems arising from skills mismatch and the matching of VET outcomes to the labor market.

All this information is important for both VET providers and companies. However, there is very little involvement of companies in graduate tracking systems.

The involvement of companies is particularly important in Dual VET, as monitoring the progress of apprentices is considerably more complex than in the case of school or university leavers, especially in the academic year following the completion of their apprenticeships. There are also differences between the academic and professional pathways and the work pathways followed by apprentices, whose motivations are diverse, such as having greater job security, earning money while learning, entering and progressing in a professional career, earning a higher income or becoming a key element for the job, aspects that follow-up mechanisms should take into account and adequately address.

In conclusion, graduate tracking in the field of Vocational Education and Training is not just a policy priority; it's a critical necessity. It bridges the gap between education and the labor market, allowing VET providers to align their programs with industry demands and ensuring that learners are well-prepared for their careers. The involvement of companies is pivotal, especially in Dual VET, where apprentices follow unique pathways with diverse motivations. The FOLLOW APP project is committed to addressing these challenges through digital tools, empowering VET stakeholders to adapt to the evolving labor market landscape. **Together, we aim to enhance the quality and relevance of VET, fostering success for both learners and employers.**



Who makes up the project consortium

All seven partners have extensive and recognised expertise in creating new educational methodologies to address the gaps in VET, responding to the needs of the labour market as well as being directly linked to the main actors in education, in-company training, and SMEs.

SPAIN

Instituto para el Fomento del desarrollo y la Formación (INFODEF), is the project's coordinating entity. It is an accredited 'Innovative SME' by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. It is a private and independent center for Research, Development, and Innovation with a mission to design and execute projects that promote sustainable and inclusive development through education, culture, and innovation.

Asociación de la Industria Navarra (AIN), is a private non-profit organization and a renowned technology and innovation center with over five decades of experience. AIN is a key player in enhancing the competitiveness of industrial companies in the region. It also serves as a leading training center, providing education for professionals from various organizations, companies, and vocational education and training (VET) students and educators.

GREECE

DIMITRA Educational Organization is one of the largest and well distinguished Initial and Continuing Vocational Education & Training providers with Training Centres in five cities in Greece, offering its services to thousands of learners on a yearly basis. It is accredited for offering both Initial VET (I-VET) courses by the Greek Ministry of Education and also accredited for offering Continuing VET (C-VET) courses and Consulting Services by the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP).

ITALY

Centro Servizi Formazione is a foundation for Research and Innovation promoted by the University of Florence. It promotes and manages R&D and knowledge-technological transfer projects, involving University of Florence, public institutions, and research bodies and firms, facilitating the exchange of best practices on technology transfer and job placement with industries, SMEs, and public administrations.

ASS.FOR.SEO is a non-profit consortium company that provides services in the field of vocational education and training. It designs and implements projects mainly in the field of vocational training, but also in continuous training, adult education and several others fields (e.g. social inclusion, entrepreneurship, local development, international cooperation, consulting services for private companies and public bodies, etc.).

TÜRKIYE

The Istanbul Valiligi is the Governorship of Istanbul. Their European Union and Foreign Relations Office gives priority to supporting disadvantaged groups such as individuals with disabilities, migrants, NEETs, and adults in risk of exclusion. In this context, they work with many public institutions, universities, youth and adult education centres, vocational training centres and non-governmental organisations.

IRELAND

InnoQuality Systems provides programme and policy services designed to enable positive and progressive student and teacher outcomes in early childhood, primary, post secondary, VET and community education. They are experts in improving quality, drive outcomes, and increase accountability in a collaborative educational context.

On April 26, 2023, an important milestone was achieved as all project partners gathered in Valladolid, Spain, for our official project kickoff meeting. Prior to this, a pre-kickoff meeting had set the stage for our collaborative efforts. The Valladolid meeting was an immensely productive session, where we came together to lay the foundation for the forthcoming project journey. With all partners in attendance, we discussed our shared goals and objectives, forging a strong sense of camaraderie and collaboration. This meeting marked the beginning of what promises to be an exciting and impactful project, one that aims to revolutionize the field of Vocational Education and Training. We look forward to the journey ahead and the positive changes we will bring to VET systems



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