

This publication will keep you up to date with the latest developments at consortium and European Union level, while informing about forthcoming activities and introducing companies who are working closely with the partnership. Enjoy reading!

AGENDA

21 - 21 February 2017

Meeting in Athens, Greece

The partners had the opportunity to visit Athens at EEOs' premises to discuss specific matters towards Woodual implementation:

Project progress

IO 4: Open methodological guide on framework for transnational work-based learning programme

Blended mobility of VET learners organization

Peer learning educational portal: WOODUAL Community

Project Management and Administrative issues

Objectives

The purpose of the Woodual project is to elaborate guidelines and new methodologies so as to open the road for a more extensive use of dual learning system in wood and furniture sector.

The WOODual Project

The project builds up a strong and continuative partnership among different stakeholders active in manufacturing and furniture sector and experts in education and training issues in order to update and improve current professional profiles in wood and furniture sector answering to the skills gap.

- To contribute to adapt curriculum by investigating the technological and soft skills gap in the professional profiles.
- To contribute to overcome youth stereotypes and biased perceptions concerning skilled manual occupations and traditional economic sectors.
- To propose and test a cooperation framework between different stakeholders to define integrated transnational dual learning models.
- To increase organizational, social, emotional, entrepreneurial and technological skills and competences in VET students and workers.

The WOOD industry

- The wood manufacturing sector is characterized by a vast majority of SMEs, which in 2013 were responsible for 85% of the employment and 77% of value added.
- Employment - the sector employs around 1 million workers in 130 thousand companies generating an annual turnover of around EUR 96 billion.
- Trend setting - EU furniture manufacturers set global trends. About 12% of designs registered in the European Union Intellectual Property Office relate to this sector.
- High-end segment - the EU is a world leader in the high-end segment of the furniture market. Nearly two out of every three high-end furniture products sold in the world are produced in the EU.



WOODDUAL PARTNERS



You can visit our website at:
<http://adapt.it/WOODual/index.html>



COMPANIES "Train your future employee through EU dual learning mobility"

Training content designed according to the needs of the company.

Generational exchange and transmission of know-how from the most experienced workers.

A long-term investment for the company's competitiveness.



YOUTH "Create your future job in Europe through EU learning mobility"

Good prospect on labour market (employability).

Practical orientations.

Allowance, salary or financial assistance.



VET INSTITUTION "Enhance your education offer with EU dual learning mobility"

Enhance training and learning activities.

It can make the institution more appealing for students and teachers.

Better integration of foreign languages into the curriculum can be possible.



POLICY MAKERS "Support EU employment through dual learning mobility"

Disruption of the project on a national scale.

Creating conditions for reducing youth unemployment and promoting talent strengthening the competitiveness of companies in countries.



Woodual first Results

Open study and analysis on professional qualifications and learning systems in the wood sector", provide the main conclusions derived from the comparative analysis of the Country Reports delivered by the partners in the frame of the WOODUAL project highlight the point of view of the VET providers and trainers, with three main goals:

1. Description of the job profiles:

Wood Treaters (ESCO 7521)

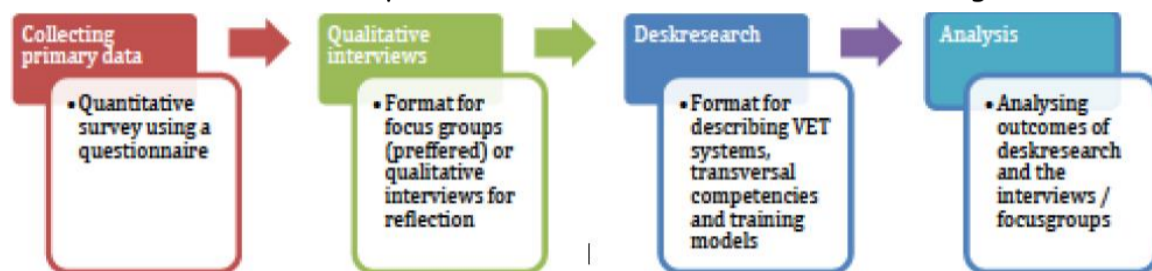
Cabinet Makers (ESCO 7522)

Trade Workers - working Machine Tool Setters and Operators (ESCO 7523)

2. **Identify key elements and patterns of the VET systems in Europe**, including work-based learning and in companies training, to understand whether dual learning may be a tool for the improvement of VET and for a better integration between training and field work - Is training matching market needs? May Dual Learning help to reduce the mismatch between demand and supply in the wood sector?

3. **Identify common skills and qualifications, as well as gaps in the learning system** - Are profiles up-to-date? - In order to draw Recommendations for the VET providers. Validation and certification of skills may be a barrier to transnational mobility.

The rationale which underpins the work in I.O.2 is to collect and organize information concerning the SUPPLY of training in the wood and furniture sector,



with a focus on qualifications of "wood treater", "cabinet maker" and woodworking machine setter and operator. In the project proposal Partners had planned a phase of research in some of the countries involved in the project (Italy, Belgium, Spain, Romania, Austria, Greece), aiming at defining the context in which learning takes place, understanding which qualifications are attributed to each job profile, the extent to which profiles are up-to-date, how these qualifications are

assessed, and finally point out the skill gaps between demand and supply. The works aims ultimately at defining the key common attributes for each job profile across Europe, allowing pointing out quantitative and qualitative gaps in the provision, as well as the potential of dual learning and international mobility to help matching the identified gaps.

Results

Good vocational education and training have a crucial role to play in meeting the many socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing Europe today and in the years ahead. Cooperation between education and the labour market, sufficient work placements and new opportunities for people with a distance to the labour market is of great importance for Europe and will improve the occupational mobility in Europe and helps achieving the EU2020 goals.

1. systems of VET are still widely differing from each other and that it is not an easy to compare them
2. Apprenticeships have an advantage as learning method
3. Apprenticeship-type programs exist in almost all countries
4. In many countries dual learning and work-based learning WBL exist within a well-structured regulatory framework.
5. Several countries closely involve social partners

The cooperation of the education and training bodies and employment sectors, social partners and third sector organisations is a key factor to ensure that vocational education and training (VET) gives people the opportunity to acquire a mix of skills that combines theory and practice, allowing them to perform a specific occupation, but also gives them the opportunity to progress and return to education and training to be able to upgrade and complement their skills. Collaboration and support structures are needed to help small and microenterprises engage in training.

From the focus group conducted in Italy, it emerged that another key factor for quality in the wood sector and furniture is the adoption of "new pedagogical solutions including ICT and developing soft skills".

Dual learning might be the key factor to overcome:

1. the lack of good dialogue between the training and education bodies, and the employers and enterprises;
2. the difficulty in finding companies to hire all the young people potentially interested in apprenticeships;
3. the lack of commitment by the enterprises to support training, mainly in small-sized companies (but the Italian system, as well as the Belgian system, is composed by small-sized companies, >90%);
4. the lack of cooperation between trade unions, industrial associations and public authorities to ensure the feasibility of compliance with the quality standards in training and final assessment;
5. the lack of a more effective recognition of job training as university credits (which emerged as a challenging factor in Austria as well).

Mobility

International mobility brings along several benefits for young students and workers:

- Open-minded attitude
- Employability
- Independency
- Abilities to manage different locations
- Better recruitment in jobs with more responsibility
- Problem-solving skills

WOODual - Wood Sector and Dual Learning for Youth Employment and Skills

But it is also associated with certain difficulties and obstacles:

- Language skills requirement
- Adaptation
- Culture differences
- Bad experiences
- Validation of qualifications and diplomas and levelling with EQF



WOODUAL