



EUMOVE is a mobility portal with quality work placements and is built on the “pillars” of quality assurance (“plan, do, check act”). One of the important elements to ensure the quality is the EUMOVE partnership.

We asked some of the EUMOVE project in a face to face interview about topics as mobility, mutual trust and sustainability...



Let’s face the facts: mobility in VET is still not common. Are we working on something which is not really a need? Can you tell us why is mobility important according to you?

Kenwerk (NL): Professions in the service sector are more and more international oriented and we think more in a European perspective. We see that also companies are more and more open to this international approach. VET centres as well, but here we see that the focus is more on outgoing mobility, rather than on incoming mobility. However, receiving trainees and trainers from abroad can be an added value for our training centres and Dutch work placement companies as well!

“Mobility can help companies in their search for good personnel..”

A. Eijsermans, Horeca Vorming Vlaanderen, BE

HVV (BE): We see a similar trend. On the labour market some of the job vacancies are difficult to fill. Especially for small companies this is a threat as they can’t find good personnel anymore for certain jobs. Mobility can be an opportunity to help companies in their search for good personnel !

Zadkine (NL): I am now coordinating in my training centre the department for international activities for various sectors. So In our case, we really have an international policy, with the aim to increase mobility of teachers and students. But it takes time and people have to be aware of the benefits for both students and companies. But I can assure you that when the students return from a work placement abroad, they are changed in a very positive way! This is the best proof that mobility works for the personal and professional developments!

Animafest experience (ES): As an intermediary organization, we are responsible for the placement of students from VET centres all over Europe in our certified hotel and resorts. We see indeed that it is not obvious to attract students to learn abroad. It really depends on the policy and “enthusiasm” on schools and national contexts.

“...we have to learn from good practices and how things can work in practice.”

P. van den Bosch, EVTA,



EVTA: Having listened to our partners I think it is obvious that a lot of good things are going on in Europe, but that still a lot of effort can be made in the field of promotion, involvement of relevant partners and the quality assurance. This will be necessary to come to a real international policy and mutual trust in Europe. Zadkine is very good example, but

unfortunately not very common in Europe. Though, we have to learn from good practices and how things can work in practice. Important is also that we can make clear that mobility of students really can contribute to labour market issues, as HVV said, but also to make VET more attractive and relevant for the labour market.



Looking from your perspective, what would be the main challenge to work on when making mobility a reality, or when improving mobility?

EVTA: Mobility is all about collaborations and mutual trust. This is where we have to work on and why we have set up the EUMOVE system and its partnership. We see also that the best way to convince people is to show that the network and the EUMOVE system really works! This takes time and depends for a large extent on our collaboration and trust in each other and not on the EUMOVE system as such.

Zadkine: Yes, based on my experiences, I see that it is very important to have a network with contacts you can rely on in Europe and moreover, that the network is sustainable and you can count on each other in the near future as well, even without a project.

HVV: I would like to add also the aspect of quality. To monitor and make visible the quality of work placements. If we can do that all together, we are one step further. Indeed, EUMOVE is set up to realize this objective, but we really have to build actively on the relations and trust between each other. Actually, within our EUMOVE network, we should pick up the phone more often to make concrete agreements with each other.

Kenwerk: This quality aspect is indeed very important. We need good quality companies and we have to ensure the quality. This is the biggest challenge for us: how to keep and maintain a stable network of work placement companies, which comply to minimum quality

criteria. This means continuously improving and evaluating ourselves. We have the tools and the platform, but it is even more important that the “quality circle is closed” and that we can really work on continuous improvement.

HVV: This implies also that the EUMOVE partners have to have more responsibilities and are the “backup” for the companies in their country.

We see also that if it comes to real policy and legislation around mobility and work placement learning in particular, it becomes very difficult. There are many differences, everybody is reinventing the wheel, and at the same time we see a lot of areas which are unexplored and where there are no support and guideline.

“The differences in the field of expectations and legislations are enormous all over Europe!...”

A. Bijker, Animafest Experience, ES

Animafest: We have the same experience when we receive trainees all over Europe. The differences in the field of expectations and legislation are enormous and this makes the organization of work placements “a mission impossible” for the companies, who are hosting more trainees from different countries! More agreements or even standards would make it easier to go abroad to learn and to study.

Now the EUMOVE Portal is operational and you have set up a partnership, but how do you see EUMOVE in 5 years?

Kenwerk: I see it as a big achievement that we have set up our EUMOVE partnership the last few years, but I am still looking for the “oil” to keep the engine running. I strongly believe in EUMOVE, but we have to look for a way to ensure continuity.

“Now we have to look for the “oil” to keep the EUMOVE partnership running.”

G. Strikker, Kenwerk, NL

Zadkine: According to me we should not find the solution in the EUMOVE portal as such, this is developed and good! It is in our own hands now! If we say that the EUMOVE portal is not working, we are actually saying that our partnership is not working and that we are not cooperating enough!

“If we say that the EUMOVE portal is not working, we are actually saying that our partnership is not working”,

M. Huizinga, Zadkine College, NL

Animafest: Yes, I am looking forward to a very dynamic system, where the partners help and support each other in making mobility in Europe better and more widespread..

Zadkine: The partners in the country are becoming really “agents and/ or ambassadors” for both the companies as for VET providers in their country to help them with setting up mobility. And to become really successful and dynamic, every EU country should be a member. We still cover only a part of Europe with our network and database.

EVTA: I think that we can learn from experiences the last two years and from the observations of our partners, that collaboration, mutual trust, quality improvement and promotion are key words for the next coming years. We strongly believe in a partnership as EUMOVE, supported by the EUMOVE portal and the “glue” between the elements are indeed the partners themselves! If we can find a common ground and interest (and I am confident that we have!), we can work towards a sustainable system and partnership. And why not, thinking in the near future, expansion to more sectors and target groups, like trainers and workers and individuals which are not enrolled in a training programme.

“Our common interest in mobility and our collaboration should be the “glue” in our partnership”

P. den Bosch, EVTA

www.eumoveabroad.eu

COLLABORATING PARTNERS :



www.evta.eu



www.kenwerk.nl



www.animafestexperience.es



www.next.sm



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www.afpa.fr



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