



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

GT VET – Project Meeting European Workshop “European Training Module”

- Minutes Final Conference - Panel discussion

Date of meeting: 20. February 2013

Meeting location: Brussels, EESC Building, VMA 3, Final Conference

Participants: Cristina Martinez (OECD)
Alison Crabb (DG EAC VET, Leonardo Da Vinci)
Peter Kerckhofs (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions)
Fernando Vasquez (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)
Bart Samyn (European Trade Union - industriAll)
Bertrand de Lamberterie (ESTEP)
Jean Lambert (MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance)

Minute taker: Lena Lohrmann / Antonius Schröder

Panel Discussion: Green Skills Relevance for the Competitiveness of the European Industry

Comments on the main concept of GT VET

Cristina Martinez (OECD)

GT VET shows a new learning and training pathway off the class rooms. The project fosters a different way of learning and a different implementation of learning contents. This leads to the question how the module could be used to improve “green” innovation for the workforce, resource productivity and so on. And, how could greening of existing skills used as a possibility to foster workplace innovation in general?

The project refers to the question how much change is necessary to implement skills across industries/countries? The changing of “greening” is very fast. We need more flexibility and focus on generic, specific and transversal skills. If we capture industry needs into modules of training (these skills are just transversal!), how much of the specific skills must be transferred?

Alison Crabb

The project focuses on work place learning and local and regional development as well. The GT VET approach could support the cooperation of firms, encourage more cooperation between more sectors to find ways in the future to bind all different actors from different fields to build up for example skills alliances projects (sector skills councils, sector alliances). For a future program an orientation on occupations or sectors but also a cross-sector approach might be a good next step to be taken.

Higher education to be integrated as well?

Peter Kerckhofs

The project not only focuses on the outcome of the training but also on the capacity of it. (capacity building in the companies. Moreover it has a very practical and flexible approach.

Fernando Vasquez

The results of the project are very useful for other companies because the focus is on essential skills. identification and skills building.

Bart Samyn

The project focuses not only on the school perspective but also on the company side.

Bertrand de Lamberterie

Moreover it made obvious that as soon as we want to have green skills relevant at shop floor level we need a specific part to be implemented in the company.

policy recommendations

Cristina Martinez

The work of the project could be quite important for the policy development. A lot of industries have problems to catch dynamics and innovation. The importance of GT VET is underlined in the document of the High-level Round Table on the future of the European Steel Industry from the 12th of February. But two recommendations should be emphasized: First, encouraging individuals and industries (companies and especially SME's, looking at the whole value chain) for greening skills in job and secondly to take responsibilities for different groups (including disadvantaged groups, elderly workers), awareness of the companies and an enlarged investment on skills development in general.

Alison Crabb

Concerning the credit system we have already five years of experience to try to standardize the system. Now we need to establish a platform, explore the idea of driving innovation. On the European VET agenda stands the target of getting VET closer to user needs and this may drive innovations processes by this instrument.

Peter Kerckhofs

There are two important aspects which have to be considered. First, by creating new jobs in term of new greening dynamics we also destroy jobs because of greening. So we have to consider this job transformation to ensure a smooth transition in the different industries.

Fernando Vasquez

There has to be a closer link between schools, companies etc. to be more effective. Moreover we should consider that a job transformation is going on. Green skills' training is a benefit for the individual person, job quality and (self-reliant) employability.

Bart Samyn

We need to take into consideration all stakeholders and all the different system perspectives (employment, education and culture, industry) to promote the idea of (green) skills improvement. The recommendation that at a certain point we have to develop these green skills for all industries has to be extended and transferred because it is important for all employers. Green skills are not a separated issue; all have to have knowledge about green developments and technologies.

Bertrand de Lamberterie

One point is also competitiveness. Skills are a key for Europe, results of research have to be implemented to the markets (e.g. for new markets), not only aiming at improving the awareness of the employers.

Jean Lambert

To push the development of the green skills approach we need a stronger involvement of the workforce. Further on we need more proactive sector led proposals. Therefore the local and regional level has to be focused because that is where the drives come from.

Future Perspective of a green skilled industry

Cristina Martinez

We have to establish a pathway for industries to follow and also to critically asking the question: will jobs have more quality when they are greener?

Alison Crabb

The ministries and public authorisations have to be taken into account in order to deliver and anticipate skills.

Peter Kerckhofs

There should be a concept of an idea of a new green deal. Because in the end it is better to cut on resources than to cut on jobs.

Fernando Vasquez

The future perspective of a greener industry depends on three things: recognition, enormous investment of finance and skills (governments, companies, etc.) and visions (e.g. reports from EC).

Bart Samyn

That GT VET is mentioned specifically in the High Level Round Table for the European Steel Industry paper shows the interests of the EC. We need anticipation before we offer training, but because of fast changes most companies provide training without knowing the demands.

Bertrand der Lamberterie

We have to try to cover all levels and all jobs rather on job floor and management as well. All people have to be involved reach some kind of mind set.

Final Statement

Even GT VET was a small project and is covering a small part to green the industry it is a starting point to go on with the greening of technical VET in all professions and industries – implementing the GT VET concept in a broader context of initial and continuous VET, in different manufacturing industries, in different regions and member states, in different VET systems. Because technology, materials are changing rapidly capacities of the workforce have to be adjusted in time and certified and acknowledged (ECVET). This could be a good basis for workplace innovations, process innovation and social innovation processes in VET as well.