

Key Action: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action Type: Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

Project Title

CFTrain in VET (Carbon Footprint Training in VET schools)

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Partners CENTRO INTEGRADO SUPERIOR DE ENERGIAS RENOVABLES (ES) , STENUM UNTERNEHMENSBERATUNG UND FORSCHUNGSGESELLSCHAFT FUR UMWELTFRAGEN MBH (AT) , Technologische Fachoberschule Bozen (IT) , HTBLA Wolfsberg (AT) , Göranssonska Skolan (SE)
Topics Environment and climate change ; Inclusion - equity ; Social/environmental responsibility of educational institutions

Project Summary

The world today is facing serious environmental problems caused by multiple factors, but with clear and proven components motivated by human-induced activities and consumption patterns. Greenhouse gas emissions are causing and accelerating climate change and its impact around the world. As VET providers we understand our responsibility to train responsible citizens and future professionals committed to the strategy of the EU Environmental Action Programmes, to make the European Union a competitive economy, through inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promoting resource efficiency, encouraging eco-innovation, waste prevention, re-use of products and a strong low-carbon economy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

CFTrain in VET (Carbon Footprint Training in VET schools) aims to raise awareness and prepare our students so that, as future professionals, they can be competent to actively promote sustainability management models in the companies and have more cohesive and more sustainable lifestyles.

Taking this context into account, the main objective of this project is to train future professionals in sustainable skills based on the concept of Carbon Footprint calculation and reduction. This is the starting point to:

- Develop a methodology for calculating and reducing the environmental impact of partner institutions in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and waste management
- Encourage vocational schools to implement or improve their Environmental Policy within their Management Systems and Social Corporate Responsibility, transferable to other organisations.
- Encourage curricula updates regarding low-carbon economic growth.
- Provide companies with well-qualified professionals in the field of sustainable development (including social inclusion awareness) and "green skills"

Students and staff from 5 VET schools providing different studies and an Environmental Consultancy will take part in this project. Other target groups will be other VET providers, partner companies and educational bodies. The participants are future technicians of Transport and Logistics, Commerce and Marketing, Intern. Trade, IT, Administration, Industry, Automation, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and Mechatronics. One of the school partners is a National Reference Centre on Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency that together with the Environmental Consultancy will give us support and guidance to achieve the objectives. We will also promote social inclusion patterns working on Gender Equality and integrating special needs students in the activities. This partnership brings together very diverse VET specialities and promotes cooperation, peer learning and exchange of experiences at a European level.

Main activities:

- CF calculation
- CF reduction proposals
- involving companies
- environmental policy design

About the methodology used, starting from a common challenge consisting of "reducing the schools' environmental impact to mitigate the effects of climate change", we will take the different learning outcomes of the different degrees and will present challenges and suggest activities to research and come out with ideas to reduce the CF at schools. Some participating schools are immersed in the PBCL methodology and this project is perfect to develop it: setting a real problem (Carbon Emissions), working on information gathering and sharing, looking for solutions, presenting a final product and evaluating performance. We will also work on Learning and Service Methodology and will have students from the expert school carrying out an energy efficiency study in the applicant school and supporting the other schools in their analysis. We are promoting the use of free-learning

tools:

Expected results:

- development of a common methodology to calculate and reduce the CF of vocational training centres and their associated companies
- promote integral systems of environmental management in our organizations
- transferability of this project to other schools
- cooperation between VET and enterprises resulting in better training of future employees in terms of sustainable development
- curriculum updates in terms of "green skills": Integration of concepts such as responsible consumption, sustainable development, circular economy, corporate social responsibility, green economy, eco-innovation...,
- the expertise of students and staff in the process of calculating, reducing and offsetting the CF schools and other companies, as a result of this first-hand experience
- improvement of energy efficiency in education and vocational training centres.
- promotion of social entrepreneurship and active citizenship

In the long-term, we aim to achieve:

- Reinforcement of internationalisation strategies of the VET schools which can lead to future projects
- Curricula updates for future VET students (green skills)
- Availability of products: CF calculation methodology, CF calculator, toolkit, Carpool, Environmental Policy model and SCR assessment.

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