

Local Actors driving the Greening of VET



SUMMARY REPORT

This is a summary report from our EU Green Week Partner Event: Local Actors driving the greening of VET that took place on the 6th of June 2023, 10:00-11:45 CEST, Brussels, Belgium.

Background

The cities of Gothenburg, Copenhagen and Turku are all part of the [EU Mission 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030](#). Sustainable and circular development, as well as digitalisation of our economies and societies are crucial in achieving the net zero targets.

A big challenge to achieving the low-carbon economy is the lack of green skills in the work force, something that is vital, but often overlooked in the climate debate. Together with representatives from the European Commission and European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET), we discussed the role of local VET initiatives in the green transition.

Key messages

- We cannot fully predict what skills will be needed in the future, and therefore need to foster adaptability so that citizens find it easier to follow the changes in the labour market by re-training or re-educating themselves
- The skills of the future cannot be based on our current high-consumption lifestyles – it is therefore important that VET focus on changing values
- A common language on the green transition across generations is crucial for effective communication and understanding
- A common language also promotes collective action and mobilizes communities towards sustainable practices
- By involving young people in the design of our future (green) cities we can promote lifestyle changes from an early age
- Traditional jobs, such as carpenters, mechanics, electricians, etcetera, will also need to become greener – many schools currently have the curriculum for sustainability but lack the practical examples to showcase the green dimension of traditional jobs
- People that are neither in education, employment, or training (NEETs) are vulnerable – we need to include young people that feel disconnected from the world of work and training

In the following pages you will find a summary of the main points discussed during the seminar.



VET through new green skills – The Green New Deal programme

City of Gothenburg, Project Manager John Harfouche

During his presentation, Project Manager John Harfouche explained how Gothenburg's Green New Deal programme combined labour market interventions targeting young people (18 – 25 years old) that are neither in education, employment, or training (NEETs) with green skills. As part of the programme, the department for sustainable waste and water collaborated with a civil society organisation, *Stadsmissionen*, to teach the participants about resource management and circular economy and they gain the skills needed to operate a second-hand store. Since language is an important factor for feeling included in society, the programme also encompasses language training to ensure that first generation Swedes can participate. The programme also focuses on the individual and their dreams and how they can acquire the skills to reach them.

Further reading

- [About the Green New Deal Programme](#) (SE)

Creating Green Mindsets

Copenhagen skills, Head of Projects and Development Anthony Ansel-Henry

Copenhagen Skills is a collaboration between the 6 vocational schools in the Danish Capital region, representing about 196 different vocational, education and trainings (VETs). The mission of Copenhagen Skills is to ensure that young people have the best basis for making choices about their education and to understand what opportunities are available to them within the green transition. During his presentation, Head of Projects and Development Anthony Ansel-Henry explained how they are aiming to help young people understand the concept of the green transition by breaking it down into more specific and relatable components.

Further reading

- [About Copenhagen Skills](#) (DK)

Professionals for Sustainable Future - KESTU project

City of Turku (KESTU project), Project Manager Sanna Paloposki

During her presentation, Sanna shared the approach used in the “Professionals for a Sustainable future” (KESTU) project. The 2-year development project (2021 – 2023) comprises five Finnish vocational schools located in Turku, Helsinki, Kajaani, Tampere and Vantaa. The KESTU project takes a holistic approach to sustainability by working in five concrete steps: 1) creating and implementing a sustainability plan for Turku Vocational Institute (*fi. Turun ammatti-instituutti (TAI)*); 2) involving students in the planning and implementation; 3) giving teachers sustainability training; 4) including sustainability in all teachings; 5) calculating the carbon footprint of the entire school.

Further reading

- [About Turku Vocational Institute](#) (EN)

Vocational Education and Training and the Green Transition – The EU policy context

European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion), Policy Officer Tim Van Rie

During his presentation, Policy Officer Tim Van Rie explained the EU policy context of VET. He explained how the skills needed for the green transition links two of the key priorities for this Commission (2019 – 2024) – A [European Green Deal](#) and [An Economy that Works for the People](#). He also explained the rationale for the [European Year of Skills](#) and how the European Commission works to support VET policy at EU level. Since there is a large diversity of national VET systems, the European Commission has provided common strategic orientations ([Council Recommendation on VET](#) (2020); [Osnabrück Declaration](#)) where the green transition plays a key role. The European Commission also support exchange of practice through the Working Group VET and the Green Transition, and networking of local VET actors through the Centres of Vocational Excellence. There are many EU funding opportunities for skills for the green transition (including ESF+ and Erasmus+).

Further reading

- [About EU and Vocational Education and Training](#) (EN)

The greening of VET – a training providers perspective

European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) President and Principal of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Joachim James Calleja

Education can drive change, was one of the main points made by President and Principal Joachim James Calleja. During his presentation, he explained how MCAST has worked with integrating the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) at campus – both for the physical infrastructure of the college and for aligning VET curricula. In the Erasmus+ project, [Greening VET](#), MCAST is exploring different tools for greening training modules and the campus handbook. He also explained how the [Erasmus+ FIELDS project](#) help identify skills gaps for a low-carbon economy and showcased how investments in VET can deliver human capital solutions.

Further reading

- [THE MCAST ECO CHARTER](#) (EN)

For further information

Policy Officer, Lina Forsman, Gothenburg European Office

Mobile: +32 (0) 471 82 09 35

lina.forsman@gshab.goteborg.se

european.office@gshab.goteborg.se