



Minutes – Multiplier Event, Spain

P4LLL-tec

Last Monday, 9th October 2017, from 09:00 to 13:00, a Multiplier Event for the Dissemination of the Results of the European Project “**P4LLL-tec: Partnerships for Lifelong Learning in Engineering and Technology**” was held. This project is funded by **ERASMUS+**, the EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. This Multiplier Event was organised by IKEI Research and Consultancy (<http://www.ikei.es/>) and the Machine Tool Institute (IMH) (<http://www.imh.eus/en>), both partners of the project.

The Multiplier Event, held at the Alberto Orueta Conference Centre in Elgoibar, Basque Country (Spain), was aimed at different stakeholders, including businesses and companies involved in apprenticeship schemes, VET and higher education engineering teachers and lecturers, technology VET and university students or, finally, Technology College representatives. All in all, more than 100 participants took part in the event, from which 51 were representatives from companies and the remaining ones were students and teachers.

Three main speakers took part during the Multiplier Event:

- Mrs Edurne Bilbao Maiza, Communication and Marketing Director in IMH, presented the scope and main goals pursued by the “**P4LLL-tec: Partnerships for Lifelong Learning in Engineering and Technology**” project (Erasmus + / KA2)
- Mr Antonio Corral Alza, Director of IKEI Research and Consultancy, presented the main materials produced within the context of the research, as well as the main results of the empirical studies (including the perspective of learners and from companies). These results were combined with the corresponding results for the countries of the other partners of the project consortium (Germany, Greece, Ireland and Latvia). Also, this information was complemented with information from other sources of information in relation to the labour insertion of VET graduates as well as the expected quantitative and qualitative changes expected in manufacturing employment in the coming ten years.
- Mr Iñigo Isusi Bilbao, senior consultant of IKEI Research and Consultancy, presented a draft of the project’s Quality Guide to the audience.

The different results of the P4LLL-tec project, including of course the Quality Guide, were extensively discussed amongst participants. This discussion addressed the following issues:

- The social image of the Spanish VET system has changed dramatically during the last ten-fifteen years, in a very positive way, related to a usually rapid integration of VET students (particularly those related to manufacturing-related specialities) into the labour market.
- There is an increasingly successful integration between in-company training periods with school-based training periods, both for the traditional VET model and the new Dual-based model.

- By way of contrast, Spanish University studies are characterised by an insufficient integration of practical/in-company training activities in the curricula (with the exception of some limited examples). Therefore, the Spanish University should do more efforts to integrate more this dual dimension.
- The availability of relevant/well organised “in-company” training periods within companies brings a number of benefits for participating companies but also for education providers and for students. It is a “win-win” process
- Enterprises will be increasingly challenged by a search for the best “talent” available in the market, particularly in a context of increasing ageing population. Dual models are seen as a very effective way to assure this external talent by companies.
- The existing bridging experiences via the recognition of prior learning acquired by VET graduates who want to pursue University studies is particularly valued by participants. These bridges should be further reinforced in the future, for instance via the provision of more practical/professional-oriented University education.
- Advanced level Dual- VET studies in Spain are affected by a number of problems and barriers/obstacles. The most important one refers to the existence of different legal provisions in the different Spanish regions related to dual VET studies, resulting in important interregional quality imbalances and an obstacle for companies that have to adapt to several regional frameworks.
- More efforts should be done in order to evaluate the different regional frameworks, identify the best performing models and foster knowledge exchange amongst regions. In this sense, there is a strong need to harmonise the concept of “dual” in Spain, particularly in terms of remuneration of students, minimum quality standards for participating companies or certification of company-based tutors.
- There is room in Spain for the co-existence of both VET subsystems (the traditional one plus the new dual-based one). The traditional model should be further adapted to increase practical periods within enterprises.
- Meanwhile, dual University studies are negatively affected by the own internal resistance of universities to move in this direction, their limited contact with the private sector or, again, some difficulties related to existing legislation in relation to the hiring of students by enterprises. More efforts should be done in this direction.