



# Peer learning in Pan-European networks – The positive effects of a pandemic

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# About me

- Researcher @ FH JOANNEUM in Graz (Austria)
- Master degree in Economics
- 11 years experience in EU-funded and nationally funded education and research projects
- Expertise
  - Higher Education
  - VET education
  - SME
  - Entrepreneurship



# GREENOVET – European VET Excellence Platform for Green Innovation

Programme: Erasmus+ - KA3 Support for Policy Reform => Centers of Vocational Excellence

Duration: 1.11.2020 – 31.10.2024; Budget: 4.381.993 €; EU grant: € 3.505.595 €;

Partner regions (# of partners): Styria – AT (6), Vaasa – FI (4), Leiria – PT (3), Skopje – MK (5)

## GREENOVET's main expected outcomes

4 regional CoVEs in Green Innovation

International cooperation platform of Vocational Excellence in Green Innovation

White paper on a model of the structure of regional Green Innovation CoVEs

Analysis tool for measuring innovation and education capacities of VET providers

Training programmes for VET teachers, lecturers and trainers

Regional and international pilot projects and competitions in Green Innovation

### Consortium and ecosystem composition:

1. Formal and non-formal VET education institutions and teachers (EQF 4-8)
2. Companies and business / industry representatives
3. Governmental institutions and NGOs

### Consortium size:

Full partners: 18  
Associated partners: 12  
Regional committees: > 40

## Objectives of a CoVE – the Styrian example



The CoVE is intended as a **Network of partners** open to new members



The CoVE is intended to **Build capacities** of the most important regional actors



The CoVE is intended to **Create synergies** between the partners



CoVE should **Strengthen local cooperation** between VET providers, universities, enterprises, public authorities & the public sector.



# Peer learning

## What does it mean?

# Peer Learning

- Definition

- Acquisition of knowledge and skill through active helping and support among peers
- Reciprocal and mutually beneficial
- Occurs among peers from similar social groupings, who are not professional teachers
- Peers are equals in standing or matched companions

- Why?

- Brings the learner into a deeper thinking
- Learner will see various ways to solve a problem
- Feedback from teammates
- Places the learner in a confident state of mind

# Challenges of Peer Learning in Pan-European networks

- Intrapersonal

- Self esteem
- Openess
- Different learning approaches

- Interpersonal

- Trust
- Cross-cultural
- Interdisciplinary

- Structural

- Logistics
- Regulations





# Peer learning is changing

## The pandemic's influence

# Influence of the Pandemic

- Changes

- Much more regular meetings with people from other organizations
  - Meetings need less time
  - No need for extra rooms (other than the virtual one)
  - No extra costs for travels etc.
- Exchange with people from other institutions facilitated

- Main benefits

- Development of technology
  - Customization to the needs of user
  - Increase of usability and accessibility
  - Availability for customers
- Development of mindset to organise peer learning with other organisations, countries etc.



# Our learnings

- **Availability of technology and culture for online communication**
  - Technologies were already there, but they are more visible than before
  - Optimized to the needs of users
  - Mindset shift out of necessity to keep things going
- **Initiatives for networking, mutual learnings and collaborations**
  - New international platforms for exchange emerged
  - Existing international networks became more visible
  - Trend to international collaboration accelerated
- **What stays the same**
  - Joint objectives
  - Open communication
  - Quality time together (socializing works better IRL)

# Skills for a Green Europe

Our slogan, our vision, our challenge



# Please reach out to us!

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