



Sharing skills for WBL in VET for Europe's hospitality sector.

Skills Swap project is an Erasmus+ Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training (VET) - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.

Welcome to the Erasmus + Skills Swap project

Presentation of the project

The overall aim of Skill Swap is to contribute to upgrading the efficacy, transparency in skills validation and relevance of contemporary VET in the hospitality industry through a novel work-based learning (WBL) Skills Swap approach.

By 'skills swap', we mean structured WBL opportunities where employees and apprentices are released from their roles with one employer for a fixed duration (typically half a day to 2 weeks) to learn skills provided by another employer. At the same time, employers benefit from the skills swap from the new skill(s) and/or fresh perspectives that their employees bring to their business as a result of the 'swap'.

The European hospitality sector is the largest part of Europe's tourism industry. Europe is the number 1 tourist

destination in the world - 713 million international arrivals and tourism is the 3rd largest EU economic activity; it provides 25 million jobs, directly & indirectly & 5 million additional jobs expected in the next decade (Eurostat).

However, it faces many challenges to recruit, train and retain its staff and trainees, for a wide variety of reasons. Moreover, whilst the underlying trends in recent years have seen strong employment and economic growth in the sector, it is one of those that is the worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to funding support from Erasmus+, over three years (up to August 2023) we are working closely with companies and their employees, we are exploring how employers can work together with us to meet their needs as the situation recovers.

Partnership comprises six partners from five countries, providing a wide geographical scope

Rinova (UK): is a training and development organisation that operates across London and internationally. It operates The Hospitality Academy supported by the Mayor of London's Office, the Greater London Authority and the European Social Fund. Through the Academy, Rinova has its own expanding network of stakeholders, SMEs and larger companies in hospitality, with whom it is designing and implementing a range of exciting new programmes, currently prioritising post-Covid recovery as London emerges from lockdowns. **DIMITRA (EL):** is a national VET agency that operates a Tourism Academy providing training to hundreds of trainees across tourism and hospitality, cooperating with big hotel chains and cruise ship management companies in the selection, recruitment and training of their employees. **Cámara de Comercio de Zaragoza (CCIZ, ES):** is a Public Law Corporation promoting public-private dialogue. It has a Commerce and Tourism Service and a Tourism Commission, chaired by one of the main hotel groups in Aragon. **Folkuniversitetet (SE)** is the national open vocational technical college with over

30,000 learners annually. It has a strong focus on the hospitality sector, organising several VET programmes and multiple courses dedicated to Hotels and events management in Södertälje near Stockholm. It works with Scandic hotels, UHR (Hotel and Restaurant Training Council) and the sector Företagsekonomiska institutet and implemented multiple tourism and hospitality VET educations in Russia, funded by SIDA and Russian Ministry of Education, also promoting the Informal Adults' Education for Cultural Tourism. **EditC (CY):** has extensive experience of e-learning. It works in Nicosia operating VET school mentoring and work placements with the biggest hotel chain in Cyprus (Tsokkos Hotels), Cyprus Hotel Managers Association and Association of Cyprus Tourist Enterprises (ACTE) as well as Larnaca Tourism Authority. **Sextaplanta (ES):** is a social enterprise in the legal form of a cooperative that promotes the values of the social economy and those of responsible tourism across Andalusia. It operates digital strategy management services to help tourism companies, hotels or apartments achieve their marketing objectives in digital media.

First meeting

Project's first meeting of the partners took place on the 12th of November of 2020. Due to the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was hold online through Google Meet platform.

After a brief introduction of all the partners, all the team members discussed a summary of the project with milestones, structure and deadlines. The target groups of the project were also confirmed as well as the persons responsible for each IOs. In addition, the project's advisory groups were discussed and it was confirmed that they will consist of about 10 people.

The different action items pertaining to IO1 (methodological framework); contract initiation and project management; project dissemination plan; and project quality assurance and evaluation were then commented.





Partners

www.rinova.co.uk
a.francis@rinova.co.uk



innovate, create & regenerate

www.folkuniversitetet.se
josef.ahman@folkuniversitetet.se



www.dimitra.gr
euprojects@dimitra.gr



educational organization

www.camarazaragoza.com
enasarre@camarazaragoza.com



www.editc.eu
euprojects@editc.com



EDUCATION & INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

www.sextaplanta.com
proyectos@sextaplanta.com



agencia
digital
turismo



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.