

EUKI Academy Web Seminar Report

Challenges and Potentials of an Entrepreneurially Driven Green Transformation

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Green technologies are essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach international climate goals and climate neutrality. However, there is a lack of a skilled labour force in Europe that is needed to bring green technologies (e.g., heat pumps, photovoltaic and wind energy systems) to the market to reduce GHG emissions and contribute to achieving climate goals.

[The EUKI-project GreenTecLab \(GTL\)](#) has highlighted that the lack of professional qualified specialist and the access to green innovation is especially challenging for green start-ups in rural areas. Therefore, this web seminar asked the question of how innovative vocational educational training (VET) can empower local economies to access potential a professional labour force that then in turn accelerates the expansion of green technologies and secure economic growth in rural areas. The [EUKI Academy](#) and GTL invited speakers from Spain, Greece and Slovakia to discuss what roles the economy, politics, and the educational sector play-in forming eco-systems to stipulate the implementation of green innovation.

In summary, the discussion has shown that the lack of a skilled labour force within the market of green technologies should be tackled through cross-sector collaborations and through rethinking the national VET system with innovative approaches to attract a diverse group of potential green technologies professionals. The national VET systems should include modern teaching facilities with state-of-the-art technologies and easily accessible training offers for VET teaching staff to align education with industry standards and enable a smooth transition from VET to the job market for students. To ensure a high standard of innovative VET systems, a collaboration between municipal authorities, local business and universities are needed to provide sufficient knowledge and skill transfer between all actors. On a national level, the modernisation of these systems can also be financed by EU funding schemes, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

National VET systems must be restructured and address a diverse group of potential professionals

- Innovative approaches to VET represent **the basis for successful structural change** within rural areas, but also areas that are traditional depended on the fossil fuel sector as they offer a professional future within the field of green technologies not only to businesses in the region but also to a diverse group of potential employees.
- Since the sector significantly lacks professionally qualified specialists, a **diverse group should be targeted**, such as young people, women, unemployed people, skilled labour in the fossil fuel industry and migrated people to exploit the full potential of the labour market.
- VET centres require **state-of-the-art technologies** to align training programs with the requirements of the industries and enable a smooth transition from VET to the job market for students.
- **Easily accessible training for further educational training** for the VET teaching staff is necessary to provide high-quality VET and up-to-date education to the students. To

enable sufficient knowledge transfer to the students, systems of cooperation between local companies and VET centres should be developed.

- **Examples of applied innovation** within the Greek VET system: high standards for training providers, a paying-by-result system for providers and trainees, and certification processes through certified external providers.

Cross-sector collaboration is key for efficient knowledge and skill transfer

- **To promote the relevance and sustainability of green jobs**, public–private initiatives (e.g., short-term internships for young people) should be established and information on the opportunities and job security should **be distributed amongst the general population**.
- **Collaboration** between VET centres, local companies, and universities e.g., the collaboration on developing training guides provides efficient knowledge and skill transfer to the students and VET teaching staff to ensure up-to-date curriculum and adaptability to the job market.

National strategies and funding set the basis for effective VET systems

- **Gaps and priorities must be identified** within national strategies on green technologies and VET systems to promote a comprehensible national standard.
- National governments must **set milestones** for new innovative VET approaches. The educational and private sectors provide the necessary knowledge and skills for the implementation process.
- **Through national and EU schemes**, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, transformative processes and the development of innovative VET systems can be financed.

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