Objectives

The aim of project is to create a transnational network for improving Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the forest-wood sector. The specific objectives will focus on the following:

- to build a learning network dedicated to pooling knowledge and developing a data bank of education and training best practices in the forestry-wood chain,
- to identify skills gaps at different levels in the sector, in each of the partner-countries,
- to develop a strategy for the application of VET programmes where skills gaps have been identified,
- strengthen the VET activities of the InnovaWood network and expand the network to include representative organisations from all EU27 countries. Maximise knowledge sharing activities,
- develop an online information resource to facilitate and encourage exchange of experiences in good practice in VET in the FWC,
- promote innovation and experimental approaches to VET in the sector,
- host a workshop focused on the FWC to highlight best practices and successes in VET in Europe,
- development of an INNOVAWOOD VIRTUAL TRAIN-ING CENTRE (dissemination platform for advanced training courses, e-Learning, training material in different languages and a communication tool among trainers from different European countries,

Project products/results

The project will specifically address the issues of knowledge deficit, developing methods for the analysis of existing skills requirements and forecasting the future need for new skills, in this sense the following project product will be developed:

An information exchange mechanism for educators and students,

Discussion forum related to specific education agendas, Sector-based technical dictionary of terms available in languages of the project partner countries,

InnovaWood Virtual Training Centre,

Report on best practice in Education in the FWC sector in Europe, particularly in relation to gaps between East and West

Target group

- Educational establishment in the FWC sectors in all EU 27 countries (e.g VET Centers)
- Students and trainees in the European FWC sector
- Employers in the European FWC sector

Project Impact

The impact of the project will be in three main areas:

A method for identifying skills needs in the forestry-wood sector: the needs of the knowledge society

A catalogue of the best practices in VET within the forestry-wood sector and,

A system for matching gaps in knowledge/skills with VET provision.

In delivering these three main results this transnational network will contribute to the VET centers in the forestry-wood sector of Europe becoming flexible, personalized and learner-centered systems.

Web platform

The Innovawood VTC (virtual training center) will offer a set of tools that will enhance the opportunities for existing and potential new member organizations of Innovawood, as well as other stakeholders, to exchange information and learn from each other's experiences and expertise.

The platform will include discussion forums, course information and best practice catalogues, an online thematic dictionary and many other features that will be useful for the members of the FWC-VET community

Background

Project co-ordinator

A few key factors have provided the motivation for this project:

Fragmentation of forestry-wood chain (FWC) in Europe and necessity for expertise and innovation sharing particularly with the 12 new members-states,

A considerable deficit in skills , lack of transparency in qualification and competences within the FWC sector across Europe.

Innovawood is representative network within the FWC provider community. It is believed that the expansion of this network (one of the objective of the project) will act as a significant catalyst for improved understanding and breaking down of training barriers especially within the FWC.

Project Partners

University of Forestry – Bulgaria, European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs- Germany, Technical Institute of Furniture, Wood and Packaging- Spain, Teuva Adult Education Centre - Finland, Wood Industry Cluster – Slovenia, Lithuanian Forest Research Institute, Waterford Institute of Technology – Ireland, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering – Switzerland Latvian University of Agriculture, Agronomy Institute of the Technical University of Lisbon - Portugal, Warsaw Agriculture University – Poland, Centre of Professional Forestry Training France National Institute of Wood Romania.

InnovaWoodEDU- Expanding good practices in vocational education and training in the Forestry-Wood Chain sector through the InnovaWood network

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