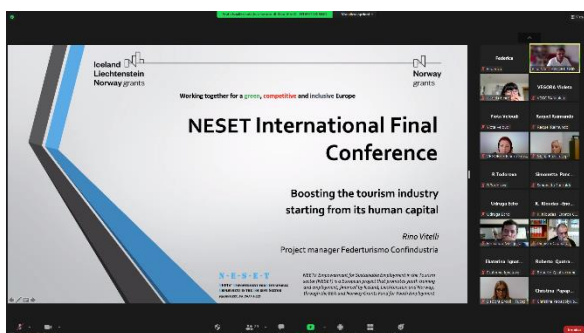


NESET

"NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism sector"

NEWSLETTER N.5

The NESET project has arrived at its end achieving significant results. In this newsletter, we would like to share the main results of the activities carried out by the partners in the final period of the project.



NESET FINAL CONFERENCE

The NESET International Closing Conference took place online on 24th of September 2021 aimed at presenting the results achieved by the partners over the two-years project's period. The conference was organized by TUCEP in cooperation with the Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and was attended by representatives of companies working in the tourism industry, Universities, VET providers, trainers, young people interested to work in the tourism sector and many other stakeholders from the beneficiary countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Portugal and Romania) and the expertise country – Iceland.

The conference started with the speech of Dr. Vitelli, as representative of the Italian Travel and Tourism Federation, who talked about the new skills required by the tourism businesses with regard to the social, digital and green skills.

Then the project goals and key-outcomes were presented by Prof. Todorov, as the project coordinator, who left the floor to Prof. Hassid who talked about the NESET Training resources developed by the partnership and the related workshops experience delivered in Greece in order to upgrade the young

people's skills.

Finally, the NESET e-support platform was presented by Mrs. Ekaterina Ignatova showing the opportunities the platform offers for international job placement mobilities and support for youth business start-ups in the tourism sector. Although the project has arrived at its end, the NESET e-support platform is still available to young people and job-seekers as well as businesses in the tourism sector interested to benefit from the platform services (<http://neset-platform.eu/>).

MAJOR PUBLICITY EVENT 2021 (Bulgaria)

Regardless of the fact that we had already good experience in organization of big events in the framework of the NESET Project, because of the limitations of COVID-19, the Major Publicity Event for 2021 was held in 3 separate rooms of the Park Hotel "PERSEY" in Varna on 20th of September 2021.

Participants in the event were 116 representatives of NEETs target group, students from professional schools, Colleges, Universities, Tourist Companies, NGOs, Media, local authorities and representatives of government agencies.

There were three speakers who subsequently presenting the respective results of the NESET project to the audience in the different rooms.

Eng. Ivan Tabakov – President of VCCI – Lead Partner of the Project NESET presented results of implementation of customized validation standards for supporting recognition of tourism-related learning outcomes for former NEETs.



Prof. D-r. Todor Todorov – Project manager informed the audience about Goals, Partners and Reached results. Then he made overview of the participation of the young people in the youth support activities in the tourism sector in Bulgaria.



Ekaterina Ignatova and Tihomir Videv from the Cluster for Information Support of the Black Sea Tourism Business presented the progress of elaboration and implementation of “Job placement and employment mobility

portal for active job-search and mobility”.

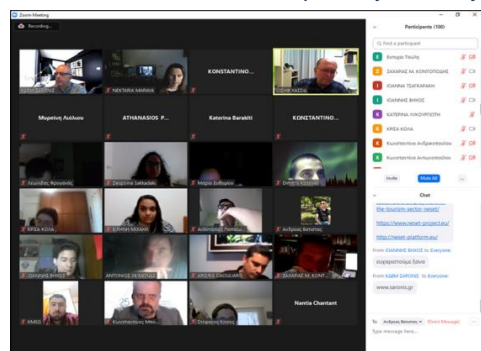
The audience accepted the presented information and studies with a big interest. There were many questions and comments. Our conclusion is that at this stage of the implementation the Project the reached results are very satisfactory as reflected by Media publications in Varna, Bourgas and other parts of Bulgaria.

STAKEHOLDERS EVENT IN GREECE

On 09/06/2021, SARONIS S.A. organized an online - due to COVID-19 restrictions - stakeholders’ conference via ZOOM. The subject of the conference was “The role of Tourism in viable youth Employment and Entrepreneurship”. A total of 100 people attended the event – among them representatives of Greek Public Employment Services, training organizations, academic institutions, research organizations, companies active in Tourism and Social Partners.

During the event, besides the presentation of the project’s outcomes until then, the presentation of innovative applications towards the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship in the Tourism sector also took place, as well as the presentation of training programs in tourism professions of high demand in the market. The outcomes of a research project that related to the resilience of the Tourism sector in the COVID-19 era were also presented.

The presentations made initiated a discussion among the participants that demonstrated a genuine interest and concern about the opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship that Tourism can create especially for the young people and the



means that the sector can use for overcoming the difficulties of the Pandemic.

One major conclusion emerging from the event was that projects such as NESET that combine research, ICT,

upskilling, consulting and job placements can create significant opportunities for the inclusion of the Youth in the labour market of Tourism.

NESET Job placement in Greece

SARONIS’ experts provided counselling support to Greek NESET beneficiaries in order to initiate and conclude job placements in tourism companies in Greece. As a result, eight such job placements of a four months duration were successfully supported and finalized. Those job placements took place from April 2021 until August 2021, right after the Greek Tourism industry’s re-opening after the Winter’s lockdown due to the Pandemic.

The partner’s experts encouraged and supported the beneficiaries in applying for job placements through the NESET e-Support platform and in parallel motivated tourism companies from Greece to register in the platform and to offer job placement positions.



The feedback received from both the employers and the NESET beneficiaries who participated in the job placements were very positive and they stressed that the experience was very useful for the two parties.

INFODAY IN CYPRUS

On 9th of September 2021 Enoros Consulting organised the final info day of NESET project in Cyprus. The info day lasted two hours presenting the main aims and objectives of the NESET project. The facilitator presented the results which were achieved during the 3 years of the project implementation.

Generally, among the info day participants, were representatives from Tourism and Educational Sector, NGOs, Industry, Local Authorities and young people who are interested in this specific sector.



National Publicity Event in ITALY

TUCEP organized the NESET National Infoday on 28th of September 2021 via Zoom aimed at promoting the project activities and outcomes among young people interested to be engaged in the tourism industry. The participants were mainly job seekers and students attending the last year of high school in the tourism field. 28 people joined the event via Zoom and 2 classes (30 students) attended the online meeting from their classrooms.

The event focused on the skills and competences young people are asked to have in order to boost the tourism industry from the

human capital it needs. The keynote speaker from the Tourism National Federation pointed out that the tourism is one of the main entry points to the labour market providing a concrete answer to youth unemployment as well as the largest employer of migrant, part-time and female workers which can provide large job opportunities to NEETs and workers re-entering job market.

The competitiveness of the tourism industry relies on the competences and skills of its workforce. Since the human capital working in the tourism sector is generally less skilled than others, and the sector does not appear high on the list of the most popular graduate jobs, the tourism industry needs to invest significantly in the upskilling and reskilling of its professional workforce, particularly in digital, green and social skills. At the end of the event, the NESET e-learning platform was shown focusing on the job and training opportunities it represents for the job seekers and young people interested to acquire the skills and competences demanded by the tourism sector.



Training events in CROATIA

In the last period of the project, VE-GO-RA organized a series of events, as follows:

Entrepreneurship workshop – 13.4.2021 and 11.5.2021

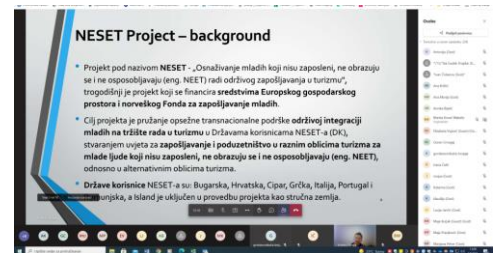
Besides all the COVID-19 troubles regarding training organization, VE-GO-RA has managed to organize face to face gathering for a bigger part of the participants in “Tourism Entrepreneurship Skills” workshop on April 13th 2021. Once more it showed the value of live meeting as the networking is always stronger face to face than online, as we can see from our experience. Module was repeated online through MS Teams platform on May 11th 2021 with a total of 30 participants for the Module. Workshops were focused on the development of skills such as initiative, creativity, resourcefulness, adaptability and resilience, and leadership and persuasiveness - essential skills for every entrepreneur in tourism.



Validation of skills workshop 07.09.2021

Workshop „Validation of skills“ was organized as webinar through MS Teams on September 7th 2021 and it gathered 22

participants. The workshop was organized so that participants could understand and define the importance of skills evaluation for tourism, understand the related benefits, the economy and society and apply the steps of the evaluation process for the chosen occupation and apply tools and methods.



PORTUGAL

Dialogue Diversity Lda organized its Info Day on 30th June 2021, in Águeda, at ESTGA auditorium (a branch of Aveiro University). In this conference the objectives, target groups, the results achieved throughout the project were explained and shown. There was also time to discuss on the youth situation in Portugal, with special focus on the youth at risk of social exclusion.

The participants included not only entrepreneurs, but also educators from University, Adult education centres, Vocational schools, representatives of NGOs, Technological centres, Association of enterprises, Social Centres, Innovation Centres, and even a young participant from an Italian NGO encompassing 15 different organizations.



COVID-19 has hurt internship prospects in NESET project, unfortunately, both at national and international levels. This was troubling because internships are an important experience for validating a student's chosen field, developing professional skills, and in NESET case, developing communication skills in foreign languages and adaptation skills to new cultural and social contexts. These Internships should have used the knowledge and skills that students have accumulated during the trainings and give them experience that appeals to future employers and offer more employability opportunities, such as teamwork, problem solving, leaderships and career management skills. Additionally, mentors are often found during internships and these mentors can provide job-search advice and connections inside and outside of their company.

On the other hand, in spite of the vaccination anti-Covid process proved to be effective and bending the curve in many geographies, it was only possible to organize online workshops on the use of NESET platform, for the selected project participants, including counseling services in July and August 2021.

Furthermore, Dialogue Diversity has carried on disseminating the project objectives, activities and results in social media and in the local press and has produced a dissemination video on NESET project.

APSU organised the NESET's Final Info Day for Portugal on the 30th of September 2021, in the Espinho VET School facilities. The session was attended by more than 60 participants. Among them were young people with prospects of starting a career in the tourism sector, who are not currently working, as well as teachers in technical areas related to the area. All of them learned about the NESET project tools, the challenges of the tourism industry in a pandemic scenario, and the future of the sector. The general opinion about the organisation of the event and the contents taught was great.



From 14th to 16th
September 2021, APSU

has delivered the new start-up counselling service for youth unemployed to more than 20 youngsters willing to start a career in the Tourism sector soon. During these days, we have covered the various phases of creating a start-up, we have learned how to write a business plan, and how to make a good presentation pitch. In addition, we looked at the Portuguese reality and what possible opportunities can arise from a sector affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, 7 groups presented their business ideas for the Tourism sector by filling out a business plan, and 3 groups were awarded prizes. In the end, to decompress from several hours of hard work, we held a small contest in Kahoot format.

The participants liked the initiative and will keep an eye on the project's developments, as they also got to know and use the innovative platform created by the NESET consortium.



Implemented by



Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry
www.vcci.bg



Cluster For Information Support Of The Black Sea Tourism Business
www.clusteritt.com



Association For Promoting Active Citizenship - ECHO
www.echo-udruga.hr



Tiber Umbria Cometti Education Programme - TUCEP
www.tucep.org



Portuguese Association Of Start-Ups - APSU
www.apsu.pt



Geo Club Association
www.dgtassociation.ro



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The NESET project benefits from a € 1 124 551 grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment. The aim of the project is to support on a large-scale transnational basis the sustainability of youth integration in the tourism industry, by creating conditions for NEETs' employment and entrepreneurship in various forms of tourism.