

BLENDED LEARNING BEST PRACTICES

RELIVET – Reducing Early Leaving in VET	
September 2018 - September 2020	Partnership
Element	Guiding questions
Type of document	E-learning course, toolkits available on the project website
Publisher	Partnership organisations: European Centre for Socio professional Integration ACTA- Romania Consorzio Ro.ma - Italy UAB EU Trade – Lithuania European Education and Learning Institute – Greece ETIC – SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION AND CREATION – Portugal Inercia Digital – Spain I.T.I. “AUGUSTO RIGHI- Italy
Target audience	VET staff
Field	- VET
Objective	provide new supportive strategies which prevent ELET and keep students in education. The training seminar will support VET professionals in developing knowledge and competencies on strategies that help distinguish students at risk of ELET, prevent ELET and thus reduce the number of the students that abandon VET.
Location /geographical coverage	The blended training programme was based on the combination of face-to face activities involving Internet-based tools and e-learning. The e-learning part can be accessed on the platform: www.relivet.eu in all partner languages.
Introduction	In order to understand why young people leave education and training early, it is moreover important to see ELET not only as a status or educational outcome but as a process of disengagement that occurs over time (Lyche, 2010). Chronic absenteeism and exclusion from school can be among the symptoms, or may even be the cause of students leaving early (Neild et al., 2007). However, there are more signs indicating that students may be at risk. Warning signs may occur as early as in primary school and may be related to individual factors (e.g. educational performance, behaviour, attitudes) or to factors within individuals’ families, their schools, and communities. Understanding early leaving from education and training as a complex process, detecting early signals and identifying students who are at risk of leaving education and training early is therefore a prerequisite for developing targeted and effective measures to prevent it. Continuing training for VET school staff should be thus enriched with training curriculums tailored to enable trainers to acquire key competencies regarding the early detection of students that are in risk and on strategies to

	prevent dropouts in VET. At present, the training programmes in the field are not adequate to meet current needs of VET trainers working in schools in decentralized regions.
Stakeholders and Partners	Educators, teachers, VET staff, students who are at risk, their families, all the education system in general
Financing Body	The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union (grant agreement n. 2018-1-RO01-KA202-049334)
Context	Early leaving from education and training (ELET) is a serious issue in many EU countries and has attracted the attention of many researchers, policy-makers and educators. Although the situation varies across countries and the underlying reasons for students leaving early are highly individual, the process leading up to it includes a number of common elements: learning difficulties, socioeconomic problems, or a lack of motivation, guidance or support. Early leaving is highly challenging, not only for young people, but also for societies. For many, Early Leaving Education or Training will lead to reduced opportunities in the labour market and an increased likelihood of unemployment, poverty, health problems and reduced participation in political, social and cultural activities. Furthermore, these negative consequences have an impact on the next generation and may perpetuate the occurrence of early leaving. Youth unemployment in the EU is currently running at 20% and ELET contributes directly to it as employability depends strongly on the level of qualification achieved.
The main objectives	To develop a training curriculum for teachers and scientific staff on effective strategies that increase graduation rates will be designed. RELiVET will provide an international and competitive training programme, specially designed for VET teachers, relevant professionals and families, based on international experiences. The training seminar will support VET professionals in developing knowledge and competencies on strategies that help distinguish students at risk of ELET, prevent ELET and thus reduce the number of the students that abandon VET. To develop toolkits for educators and for families which would help identify the students at risk, as well as prevent ELET.
The description of the practice	7 modules have been developed: MODULE 1: STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS' PROACTIVE INVOLVEMENT MODULE 2: COMMUNICATION MODULE 3: CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT MODULE 4: COUNSELLING AND CAREER PATHS MODULE 5: MOTIVATION MODULE 6: GOOD PRACTICE MODULE 7: INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES FOR ONLINE AND BLENDED LEARNING All can be accessed on e-learning platform. Also there is a manual for the teacher on how to work with Moodle platform, so one could adapt the material to the needs of their audience.
Outcomes of the practice	VET staff improved their knowledge and qualification, learned about the new ways to teach the students and get them to listen, also on how to increase their motivation, so as a result the numbers of ELET should

	decrease. So it is a win-win strategy for the educator and the student.
Success Factors	Open-mindedness, eagerness to learn
Constraints	Different students may need different tactics and motivational factors.
Lessons learned	What works with some people, does not with others, so one has to be ready to try out different methods.
Sustainability	The material is ready to use and free of charge. Therefore no costs occur for potential users. The only investment is the time of the educators to deal with the features and the handling before using.
Development of the practice	The material will remain available online and usable free of charge and may serve as a starting base for further projects. Course material can be adapted and used by VET staff who are willing to improve their skills free of charge only by registering on the platform.
Conclusion	RELIVET supports through its activities and outcomes, the successful completion of studies in initial and continuing VET – focusing on areas with high ELET national levels- and it will do so by taking into account the factors that influence VET trainees when deciding to abandon studies. The programme aims to create and promote the appropriate conditions which help students overcome these factors and lead to graduation, certification and better career opportunities.. So it is a win-win strategy both for the educator and the student.
Related resources that have been developed	In addition to the course materials in the structure of the 7 modules, the following have been developed and are accessible to teachers: Curriculum Tools (Toolkits) with useful information, one for teachers and VET specialists and another for the families of students at risk of dropping out of school. Moodle Guide, with useful tips for teachers and students to manage courses on this platform. All available on www.relivet.eu
Language(s)	Romanian, Portuguese, Greek, Lithuanian, English and Spanish
Contact details	
Name	RELIVET project
Company/Institution	Partnership
Website	www.relivet.eu