

**BLENDED LEARNING BEST PRACTICES**

AFORMAC/Osengo

| Exploring Blended Learning approaches for VET |   |
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| Start: 01-10-2016 - End: 30-09-2018           | BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE [Who wrote the good practice document?]  |
| Element                                       | Guiding questions   |
| Type of document                              | Website<br><a href="http://www.blend4vet.eu">http://www.blend4vet.eu</a><br>Case Studies<br>BLEND4VET Toolkit   |
| Publisher                                     | BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE  |
| Target audience                               | <p>The project consortium is comprised of 6 organisations from 5 European countries bringing a wide range of technological and pedagogical knowledge and experience. The project partners are 5 VET organisations (Belfast Metropolitan College from Northern Ireland, City of Dublin ETB from Ireland, Koning Willem 1 College from the Netherlands, Tartu Vocational Education Centre from Estonia and Usurbil Vocational School from Basque Country in Spain) along with an e-Learning services and consultancy organisation, H2 learning from Ireland. Furthermore, the project is supported by two Associate Partners - BBC Northern Ireland and SOLAS Further Education and Training Authority in Ireland.</p> <p>The Target group of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VET Senior management (internal and external stakeholders)</li> <li>• VET Principals</li> <li>• VET Teachers</li> <li>• VET Students</li> <li>• Employers</li> <li>• Private training providers</li> <li>• Awarding Bodies (state and private)</li> </ul> |
| Field   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VET provider</li> <li>- VET institutions</li> <li>- VET tutor</li> </ul> <p>Including the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language learning for migrants</li> <li>- Unemployment (outside Labour market)</li> <li>- Vocational training (inside Labour market)</li> <li>- Entrepreneurship</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective                       | <p>Project objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore and document a process the VET provider should follow when moving an existing accredited programme to a blended model and develop a Toolkit to guide other VET providers in designing and implementing blended-learning approaches.</li> <li>2. Design and implement five blended learning units for different VET content areas as part of existing accredited course for VET learners.</li> <li>3. Explore what implications blended-learning will have the VET institutions, the role of the VET tutor and learners.</li> <li>4. Enhance the professional practice knowledge of VET management, principals and teachers in relation to implementing blended-learning through engaging them in a dialogue and professional development activities.</li> <li>5. Explore how VET providers can work together to develop quality learning resources that can be used across VET programmes.</li> <li>6. Disseminate project outcomes across EU Member States.</li> </ol> |
| Location /geographical coverage | The geographical range is Europe as it's a european project.   |
| Introduction                    | <p>There is a growing realisation that digital technology has a role to play within VET programmes and services. Many see such technologies as having the potential to enhance existing learning provision and in enabling new forms of learning, which are captured under the term Technology-enhanced Learning (TEL). However, the use of TEL across European VET providers is patchy and there is a lack of professional practice knowledge in relation to implementing fundamental change in the sector using approaches such as blended-learning.</p> <p>Blend4VET is a TEL project proposal focusing specifically on how blended-learning approaches can expand learning opportunities while also enhancing existing quality of learning programmes. By implementing and trying out different blended learning approaches project partners will learn from this experiment and take on board the key lessons for their organisations.</p>  |
| Stakeholders and Partners       | <p>Partners:</p> <p>CIFP USURBIL LHII<br/>         CDETB<br/>         H2 LEARNING LTD<br/>         STICHTING REGIONAAL ONDERWIJS CENTRUM 'S HERTOGENBOSCH<br/>         TARTU LINN</p>  |
| Financing Body                  | <p>Financing body: Erasmus+</p> <p>Action Type: Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training</p>   |

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| Context                         | The VET (Vocational Education and Training) mission is to support learners in acquiring knowledge, skills and competences to successfully enter the world of work and the Blend4VET project will explore how a blended learning approach can assist.   |
| The main objectives             | The key aims and objectives of this project are to work together to explore how VET providers can develop quality learning results using blended learning and document a process which the VET provider should follow when moving an existing accredited programme to a blended model.   |
| The description of the practice | The Toolkit will capture the process a VET provider should follow when moving an existing accredited programme to a blended model, where some elements are offered in a face-to-face setting and others are offered online. The experience from the project will inform the review and/or development of strategic of the VET organisations and will provide valuable knowledge on how to design and implement blended learning programmes within VET organisations. It will inform how VET providers should go about identifying programmes that lend themselves to a blended learning approach and how they can go about designing and implementing such programmes.   |
| Outcomes of the practice        | <p>The project develop a number of outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "What constitutes good Blended Learning in VET?" Module which will aim to prepare VET teachers from partner organisations to develop and design quality learning content that will be delivered in a blended way.</li> <li>2. Five VET blended learning units – elements of accredited VET programmes which have been redesigned for blended learning and piloted in partner countries</li> <li>3. "Building Capacity for Blended Learning - Leading Innovation and Change" Module</li> <li>4. Case studies of blended learning in VET which will capture the process and the implications and the impact this new approach had on partner organisations, teachers, learners and employers.</li> <li>5. Toolkit for Blended Learning in VET which will guide other VET providers in designing and implementing blended-learning approaches</li> </ol> |

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| Conclusion                                 | The Toolkit will capture the process a VET provider should follow when moving an existing accredited programme to a blended model, where some elements are offered in a face-to-face setting and others are offered online. The experience from the project will inform the review and/or development of strategic of the VET organisations and will provide valuable knowledge on how to design and implement blended learning programmes within VET organisations. It will inform how VET providers should go about identifying programmes that lend themselves to a blended learning approach and how they can go about designing and implementing such programmes. |                   |                |
| Related resources that have been developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.blend4vet.eu">http://www.blend4vet.eu</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#product1">https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#product1</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#product0">https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#product0</a></li> </ul>  |                   |                |
| Language(s)                                | The toolkit is available in English, Estonian and Spanish  |                   |                |
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