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To ensure a better and greener future, it is necessary to take action now. Based on the data from EU Commission, applying circular economy measures in Europe can increase the EU's GDP by an additional 0.5% by 2030 and create around 700,000 new jobs. It is clear that the VET sector will greatly contribute to achieving this number. But also, VET will contribute to reskilling and upskilling, and adapting VET teaching and training content to changing skills needs in existing industries.

The project's aim is to promote VET role and leadership in green transition.

The overall objectives are:

- To develop innovative approaches in VET by introducing new teaching and learning methods for skills development for the need of the economy, society and labour market.
- 2. To address environmental and climate challenges by developing green competencies of VET teachers, trainers and managers and green and transversal skills of VET students.

The specific objectives are:

- 1. To learn about the green transition in the Baltic region;
- 2. To develop and pilot training program for VET teachers, trainers and managers;
- 3. To test the innovative teaching and learning approaches for acquiring green skills at VET schools;
- 4. To promote sustainability of the Green Leadership training program for VET teachers and managers, and innovative teaching and learning approaches.

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FIRST STEPS

The first face-to-face partner meeting took place on the **22nd and 23rd of February 2023**. The meeting was held in Vilnius, Lithuania where all partners met for the first time. On the first day, during the partner meeting, partners discussed upcoming tasks and how they should be carried out.

On the second day, partners had a workshop with experts from different companies and sectors, such as **Hilton Garden Inn Vilnius**, **Paulig PRO**, **Salad Bar "Mano Guru"**, and **UAB "IKI Lietuva"**. The experts presented their experience and knowledge on how they implement sustainable measures in their organisations, why it is important to them, their company, and why it should be important to all companies in their sector how they calculate carbon footprint, how they educate their colleagues on the importance of sustainability, and many more.

After the presentations, partners also had a visit to a **CityLab**, which is a sustainable and environmentally friendly educational community center that houses a community cafe, an eco-innovation space, a hydroponic garden, an educational garden, a gallery and even an outdoor DIY (do it yourself) playground for children. Partners were introduced to a story about how this place was founded, what is their idea and why it is important to them.

NEXT STEPS

Right now, the project partners are actively carrying out desk research and interviews with companies in their relevant countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Finland), in order to identify best practices in the Baltic region. It is planned that a compendium of at least 40 companies (10 per country) will be developed. Additionally, this task will allow to gather the data, which is essential in order to prepare the training programme.

Next time the project partners will meet in August 2023, in Riga, Latvia.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be published in November-December 2023.

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