



# NEW VET

NETWORK FOSTERING THE EUROPEAN WORK-BASED  
LEARNING SYSTEM FOR VET PROVIDERS

## 1<sup>st</sup> EVALUATION REPORT

### WP2 QUALITY MONITORING

DELIVERABLE No: 9



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## Executive Summary

The evaluation of the NEW VET project processes, deliverables and other tangible results is essential for its continuous improvement. The main goal of the evaluation is to systematically gather, analyze, and present data to inform project effectiveness. The evaluation guides the project management and partners on how the implementation of the project could be improved. The evaluation process also creates possibilities for new insights that were not earlier anticipated.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Evaluation Report employs a mixed methodology in order to collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data on the first six months of project delivery (M1-M6). It assesses how the project is executing its coordination, communication and implementation activities and at what extent deadlines and expectations have been met. It identifies possible risks and risk mitigation measures and concludes with specific recommendations for improvements.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Evaluation Report elaborates on the approach adopted to monitor the project's processes and results, described in the NEW VET Quality Plan and Risk Management Toolkit (D8).



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The NEW VET project at a glance

NEW VET is co-funded by the European Union Erasmus+ KA3 Support for Policy Reform programme.

NEW VET “Network fostering the European Work-based learning system for VET providers” general aim is to support the establishment of a European cooperation scheme for a pilot group of vocational education and training (VET) providers coming from five European Union (EU) member states: Italy, France, Germany, Slovenia and Greece. NEW VET is seeking a more efficient development and effective implementation of work-based learning (WBL) systems at countries' consortium national levels. Therefore, project seeks to support the establishment of transnational and national VET providers' networks and partnerships to build cross-border cooperation for VET quality and attractiveness.

The EU member states are characterized by stark variations in their socioeconomic contexts and starting points in the education and training sector, and therefore they are at different levels of development in VET. However, Italy, France, Germany, Slovenia and Greece share the same need to support the empowerment of their VET providers' actors in drawing and implementing high-quality WBL schemes.

NEW VET establishes an EU cooperation scheme for VET providers and a multi-stakeholder partnership, comprising of six partners in five EU Member-States, and develops all its outputs in five EU languages, thus guaranteeing wide impact throughout the EU and beyond.

The NEW VET consortium is committed to working towards three main objectives:

- Systemise national networking opportunities for VET providers to further become effective lever in supporting VET reforms at their national and EU level.
- Increase the quality of national VET systems giving effective implementation to EU recommendations and tools (i.e. ECVET).
- Raise awareness on the Work-Based Learning system to make VET a more popular and attractive system among learners, their parents, teachers and companies.

The NEW VET project is implemented through six work packages which are complementary to each other. The work packages are as follows:

- Work Package 1: Through **Project Management and Coordination** is ensured the smooth project management and implementation throughout the lifespan of the project. This is being implemented through the work of the project Steering Committee (SC), the framework body for the effective management, coordination, decision-making monitoring and evaluation of all the project activities.

WP1 encompasses three interlinked tasks, namely: 1) the setting up and working of project management structure and bodies; 2) the organisation of regular SC-meetings to jointly discuss, plan, follow-up and evaluate common project activities; 3) the implementation of the reporting procedures to EACEA to ensure a sound financial control of project budget.

- Work Package 2 **Quality Monitoring** is deployed from the beginning to the very end of the project to monitor project results and evaluate to what extent these results have met their anticipated achievements. A permanent quality monitoring is put forth in order to track progress of the quality of results that are foreseen by the NEW VET project. Such constant monitoring and evaluation system will contribute to improving the quality of project performance, reducing risks, supporting conflict resolution and proposing mitigation measures (if needed).
- Work Package 3: Through **Transnational Capacity Building for VET Providers** partners are offered three transnational capacity-building hotspots to exchange their best practices and to promote mutual learning among VET organisations. In effect, the capacity building at VET providers level is primarily intended to lay the ground for further cooperation activities supporting partners in working together with both at national and European level.
- Work Package 4 **Empowering the Multilevel Cooperation** concerns piloting the main outcomes achieved through the transnational capacity building into the existing national WBL frameworks of the partners involved in the NEW VET project. Through the pilot activities, VET providers will be further able to exchange knowledge with their network's members, foster their operative ability to work together and their capacity to establish cross-border cooperation relationships for VET quality and attractiveness.
- Work Package 5 **Spreading the Attractiveness of the VET System** and make it more popular among young people is one of the main objectives of the NEW VET project. This work package aims to foster the dissemination and support of the implementation of the VET policy agenda, both at national level as well as at the EU level to widely mainstream knowledge, feedback and experience of VET policy implementation and further strength the sharing of best practices on VET excellence.
- Work package 6 **Project Communication and Dissemination** guarantees sound, effective and audience-oriented communication and dissemination of the project's progress/outcomes and exploitation of the project's results. In effect, project outcomes and results have to be disseminated beyond the partner organisations, above-all to other members of the involved networks of VET providers and to private companies, social parties and public authorities which are directly



engaged or indirectly interested in the implementation of the WBL system.

The table below states all deliverables and activities as foreseen by the NEW VET project proposal for the period under evaluation (M1-M6).

Work Packages	Deliverables	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
<b>WP 1. Management &amp; Coordination</b>	D1. 1st Steering Committee Meeting Dossier						
<b>WP2. Quality Monitoring</b>	D8. Quality plan and risk management toolkit						
<b>WP3. Transnational Capacity Building for VET Providers</b>	D14. 1st Training Hotspot Pack						
<b>WP5. Spreading the Attractiveness of the VET System</b>	D22. "Share your story" digital storytelling platform						
<b>WP6. Project Communication &amp; Dissemination</b>	D27. Dissemination Action Plan and key audience list						
	D28. Brand identity pack for NEW VET						
	D29. NEW VET website and social media profiles						
	D30. 1st NEW(VET)sletters						
	D31. 1st NEWVETworking café		1 <sup>st</sup>				2 <sup>nd</sup>
	D32. NEW VET awareness seminars			1 <sup>st</sup>			

Table 1 NEW VET Gantt for the first six months of the project (M1-M6)

## 1.2. Objectives and methodology

In accordance to the NEW VET project description, this report aims to monitor the quality standards of the project activities implemented from month 1 to month 6, ie. November 2019 to April 2020 and suggest improvements on project management and coordination.

The methods used to conduct the evaluation are in line with the D8 Quality plan and risk management toolkit evaluation criteria and tools and include both qualitative and quantitative instruments. More specifically, the evaluation was conducted through document analysis, observation and online surveys based upon the following D8 tools:

- Risk Management Toolkit
- Internal Project Evaluation Form
- Training Questionnaire Template
- Meetings and Events Questionnaire Template.

The report is structured as follows: first it describes the progress achieved and analyses respective findings per work package, then it discusses potential risks and risk mitigation measures identified by project WP leaders and it concludes with recommendations for the improvement of project management and coordination in the forthcoming project phases.

## 2. WP1 - Project Management & Coordination

### 2.1. Kick-off Meeting

The Kick-off Meeting of the NEW VET project – “Networks and Partnerships of Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers” – was held on 20 January 2020 in Rome and was organized by the project coordinator IAL *Innovazione Apprendimento Lavoro Marche SRL Impresa Sociale*. Partners had been sent the kick-off meeting agenda two weeks in advance prepared by the project coordinator.

#### *Presentation of partner organizations*

The meeting aimed at building a common ground among the project partners about the project's objectives and to further elaborate on the key topics concerning the first phase of its implementation. A 10 minutes' presentation of all the partners' organisations participating in the kick-off meeting was made in order to present main features of the NEW VET partners, their roles in the local VET context, the promotion or delivery of WBL training paths in their countries, their VET or other network(s) and the expected project's impact on their own contexts.



*Image 1 NEW VET Partners at the Kick-off Meeting in Rome, January 2020*

Partner organizations were presented as follows:

- Ms. Norma Edith Castro presented the Coordinating partner “IAL Marche”.
- Mr. Pierre Carrolaggi presented the project partner n° 2, “Lycée C. et A. Dupuy – Greta du Velay”.
- Ms. Valentina Furjan presented the project partner n° 3, “Šolski Center Nova Gorica”.
- Mr. Hartmut Schaefer presented the project partner n° 4, “IHK-Projektgesellschaft mbH”.
- Ms. Kristina Zharkalliu presented the project partner n° 5, “Read Lab”.
- Ms. Martina Paccova presented the project partner n° 6, “WELCOME Aps”.

The session was of particular interest given the fact that all partners provided knowledge and information in regard to their special expertise they bring to the project. The partners agreed on the project activities, the roles and tasks division per work package that needs to be delivered for the next six months of NEW VET project implementation (M1-M6).

### *Presentation of Work Packages*

Besides the presentation of their organizations, each partner had prepared a short presentation of the work package they lead. The partners explained to each other the tasks and the responsibilities derived from each work package explained the timeframes and deadlines as well as the deliverables that are foreseen from each work package. The session was a useful opportunity for all partners to understand not only the tasks from their work package, but get a sound understanding of all project's work packages.

The work packages were presented as follows:

- Ms. Norma Edith Castro, representative of IAL Marche, introduced the project management setup and all the partners presented, discussed and agreed on the main roles of Work Packages.
- Ms. Kristina Zharkalliu, representative of ReadLab, presented WP2 Quality monitoring and explained all related tasks.
- Mr. Hartmut Schaefer, representative of IHK Projektgesellschaft mbH, presented WP3 Transnational capacity building for VET providers.
- Mr. Pierre Carrolaggi, representative of Lycée C. et A. Dupuy – Greta du Velay, presented WP4 Empowering multilevel cooperation.
- Ms. Martina Paccova, representative of WELCOME A.P.S., presented WP5 "Spreading the attractiveness of the VET system".
- Ms. Valentina Furjan, representative of Šolski Center Nova Gorica, presented WP6 "Project Communication and Dissemination".

### *Other issues*

The kick-off meeting in Rome gave also the opportunity for the NEW VET partners to discuss the NEW VET Partnership Agreement (PA), the reporting procedures and the financial provisions. Further to that, all NEW VET partners were informed that the PA had been drafted based on the project Grant Agreement 609049-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-EPPKA3-VET-NETPAR and that in case of inconsistencies and/or conflicts of interpretations the authoritative source of information is always the Grant Agreement. Partners agreed on signing the PA as legal cooperation framework of the NEW VET partnership that defines the rights and obligations and the specific budget allocation to each project partner, terms and conditions for budget pre-financing and balance transfer to partners.

## 2.2. NEW VET Steering Committee

Partners also agreed on establishing the Steering Committee (SC) as the project management structure for decision-making with the principle of one person - one vote and decisions taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes. The NEW VET Steering Committee Members are project managers and financial managers appointed by project partners as follows:

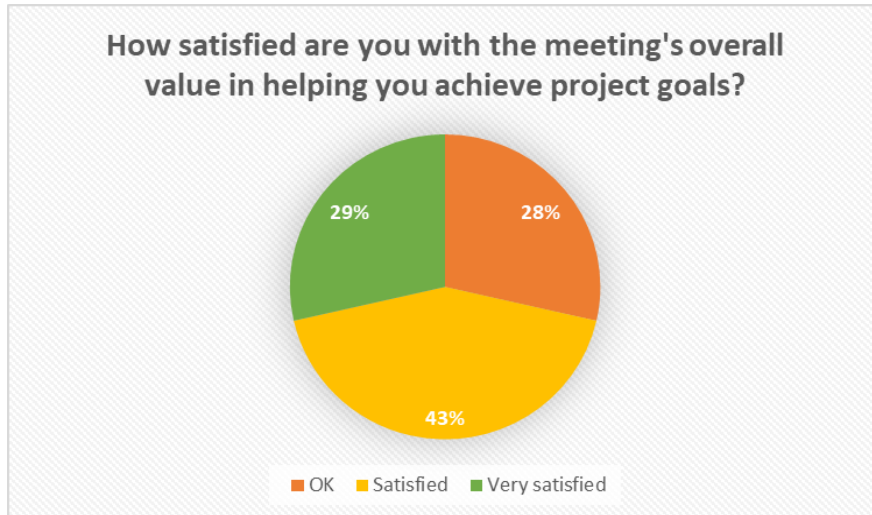
- Ms. Norma Castro is the project manager/project coordinator and Ms. Tiziana Ciranna is the financial manager appointed by CO\_P1: IAL Marche.
- Mr. Pierre Carrolaggi is the project manager and Mr Sébastien Robert is the financial manager appointed by P2: Lycée C. et A. Dupuy – Greta du Velay.
- Ms. Valentina Furjan is the project manager and Ms. Tanja Križan is the financial manager appointed by P3: School center Nova Gorica.
- Mr. Hartmut Schaefer is the project manager and Ms Sindy Wuerffel is the financial manager appointed by P4: IHK Projektgesellschaft;
- Ms. Vassiliki Chatzipetrou is the project manager and Mr. Stefanos Vagenas is the financial manager appointed by P5 Research Innovation and Development Lab – Read Lab P.C
- Ms. Martina Paccova is the project manager and Ms. Laura Bulgari is the financial manager appointed by P6: WELCOME A.P.S.

For each project partner, a Steering Committee deputy representative has been also appointed. According to the project description Steering Committee Meetings are to be convened every five months.

## 2.3. Evaluation of the kick-off meeting

After the end of the kick-off meeting in Rome, the consortium partners who participated were asked to fill in a questionnaire, based upon the *ANNEX VIII of the D8 Quality plan and risk management toolkit*, in order to measure and evaluate the meeting's performance and effectiveness. Survey results are presented in ANNEX I.

In general, the meeting participants seemed to be very positive to the organization of the kick-off meeting, the venue arrangements, the accommodation and the facilities. The majority of participants were very satisfied with the quality of the overall meeting. The participation of project partners in the discussion and decision-making was also seen as positive and very positive by the majority of respondents. The survey results show that the topics covered, and the vocational education and training expertise of the partners were the main strengths of the meeting. Time management was identified as the main meeting weakness. Figure 1 presents NEW VET partner's satisfaction regarding the meeting's overall value in helping to achieve



*Figure 1 Partners' evaluation of the kick-off meeting*

project goals. Responses were based upon a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1=Poor to 5=Excellent, yet no respondents answered 1 (not satisfied at all) or 2 (unsatisfied) (for a more detailed presentation see ANNEX I).

### 3. WP2 - Quality Monitoring

NEW VET project foresees permanent monitoring and evaluation of project activities and outcomes achieved throughout the lifespan of the project. The main purpose of quality monitoring is to track progress on project achievements and to evaluate their quality. Such constant monitoring and evaluation system will help consortium partners to ameliorate the quality of project performance, to reduce risks, to support conflict resolution and to propose mitigation measures, when necessary.

ReadLab, the leader of WP2, prepared guidelines containing specific measures and tools to carry out an effective project quality and risk analysis. Through the quality plan, the project partners were introduced to the criteria of the quality monitoring and through the risk management toolkit, they were asked to identify and assess specific challenges and risks related to specific activities and to propose mitigation measures.

The D8 Quality Plan and Risk Management toolkit includes the following annexes:

- I. Risk Management Toolkit
- II. Reports and Deliverables Template
- III. Presentations Template
- IV. Agenda Template
- V. Minutes Template
- VI. Internal Project Evaluation Form
- VII. Training Questionnaire template
- VIII. Meetings and Events Questionnaire Template

It is a “living” document that will evolve through updates in accordance with project requirements and partners' input.



## 4. WP 3 - Transnational Capacity Building for VET Providers

### 4.1. 1st Training Hotspot

The 1st NEW VET transnational capacity building training was held between 21 and 23 January 2020 in the IAL NAZIONALE Headquarters in Rome. The NEW VET partners had the opportunity to follow the 1st transnational training through which they shared best practices and experiences in the field of vocational and education training and work-based learning in their countries. Further to that, the training was deployed to promote and expand mutual learning among project's VET providers and to learn further how to adopt effective approaches and how to benefit from EU funding tools for VET systems – both at national and European levels.

The first day of the training hosted Ms. Hrelja from T33 and Mr. Chelli from FASI.BIS who opened the discussion on the European Union's Policies for the next programming period 2021-2027. Both presenters elaborated and discussed with NEW VET partners around the most recent development in the EU policies regarding the EU budgetary priorities, especially concerning ESF and Horizon 2020.



*Image 2 1st Training Hotspot, Rome, January 2020*

The second day of the hotspot training brought in the focus of the Italian experience from the Erasmus+ program as well as the outcomes Italy has achieved in the field of vocational education and training over the past five years. To this end, Mr. Arenare presented useful insights regarding strategic partnerships, while Ms. Borlone presented mobility projects in the field of education. The discussion continued with Ms. Fonzo who opened a discussion with the title 'EQAVET: From EU framework to the Italian Implementation'. The second day of the hotspot training concluded with NEW VET partners' presentations on best practices in the field of vocational education and training and work-based learning. All partners brought some of the best



practices from their countries and exchanged among each other ideas on how these practices could also relate to the NEW VET project objectives.

The third and last day of the training was dedicated to the workshop on EU project proposal writing. The interactive workshop was facilitated by Ms. Puel who is an expert facilitator and explained to the NEW VET partners how to approach real needs and achieve tangible results in project proposals. The workshop received positive feedback from all NEW VET partners and it involved teamwork and collaboration.

The second NEW VET training hotspot on the 'Transfer of the ECVET system and tools to the national work-based learning experiences' initially scheduled for April 2020, has been rescheduled due to the covid-19 unprecedented circumstances and thus will be organized at the end of September in France.

#### 4.2. Evaluation of the 1st NEW VET Training Hotspot

In order to get a more thorough insight about the 1st training hotspot organization and the impact it had on the project partners, an online survey based upon the *ANNEX VII of the D8 Quality Plan and risk management toolkit* was prepared and sent out to all partners. The respondents mentioned that the training objectives were met and only two of them said they were partly met.

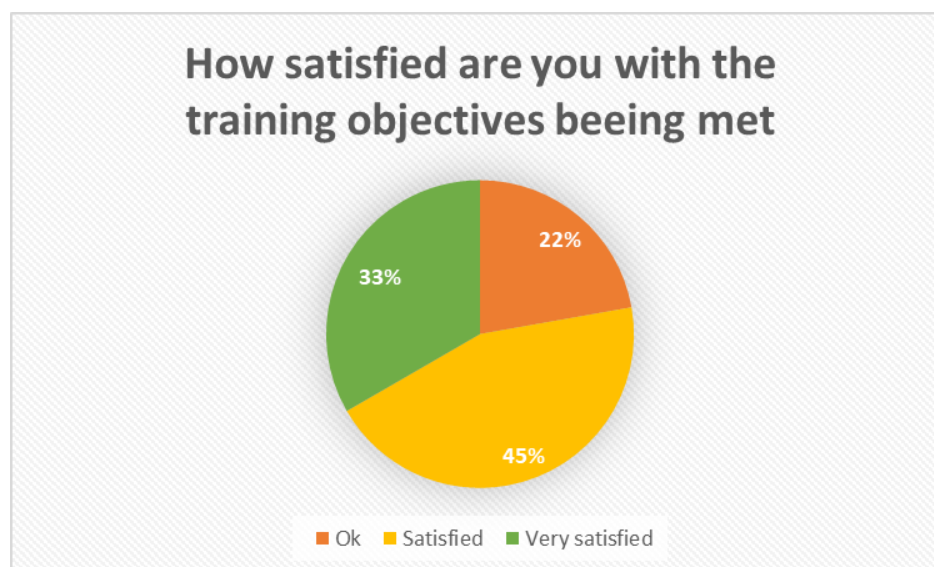


Figure 2 Partners' evaluation of the 1st Training Hotspot

Partners claimed they were very satisfied from the overall training programme and found the pre-event information useful. Almost all respondents agreed that the trainers and vocational education and training experts brought solid expertise on the training topics. The interaction with the trainers and vocational education and training experts, the topics covered and the knowledge they gained from the training hotspots days were among the strengths of the training. Some partners suggested using more session breaks between the guest speakers' presentations. Others also recommended

having fewer guest speakers, allocate more time on specific topics and work through case studies. The survey results are presented in ANNEX II.

The last day of the Training Hotspot, the host of the event distributed a questionnaire to all attendees who were asked to fill in a set of questions regarding the themes of presentations. Questionnaires were prepared on a Liker scale of 1 to 4, which 1 represented “*did not fulfil expectation*”, and 4 represented “*exceeded the expectation*”. All partners marked at least 3= fulfilled level of satisfaction for all themes, with presentations of “workshop day”, “Best practices from NEW VET partners” and “The EU Funding Programmes for the period 2021-2027” to score the highest level of satisfaction. Figure 2. presents analytically the answers provided by the 1st NEW VET Training Hotspot attendees.

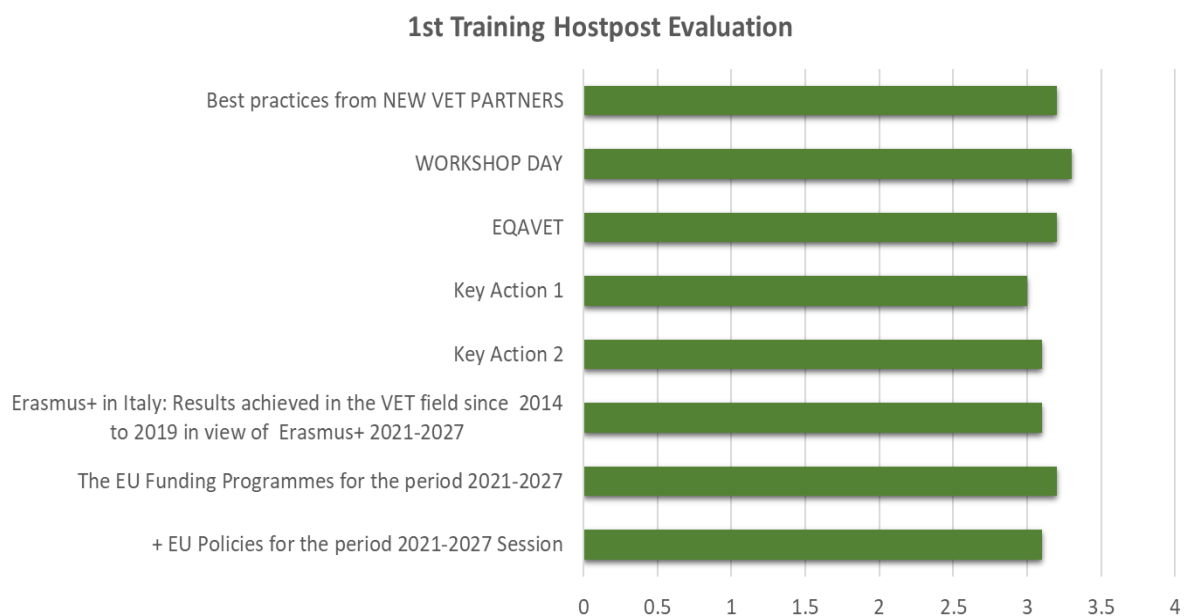


Figure 3 Partners' evaluation for the 1st Training Hotspot presentation topics

## WP 5- Spreading the Attractiveness of the Vet System

### 5.1. "Share your story" digital storytelling platform

NEW VET partners are committed to raise awareness in their respective countries and maximize the project tools and outcomes in order to increase vocational education and training attractiveness among youth. VET remains a second choice for many young people in Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia and Greece, and therefore the NEW VET consortium has joined forces to change this trend. Through the "Share your story" contests, the project partners will aim to raise awareness and increase the attractiveness of VET in the partner countries and beyond. To this end, the project partners will launch the "Share your story" contests (in 2020 and 2021) at their national level by promoting its dissemination among VET learners and teachers/trainers belonging to the partners' networks members and other stakeholders involved into their national WBL framework.

In accordance with the NEW VET project proposal provisions, ReadLab has developed a "Share your Story" digital storytelling platform, integrated on the project website requiring the following information:

- Function (VET learner/teacher/mentor)
- Country
- Your story
- Name
- Surname
- Email address
- Picture (optional)

The digital storytelling platform follows the rules of the privacy policy and EU GDPR regulations while those who will submit their stories are informed in advance about the personal data that we will process. All participants will provide their consent before entering their story on our project website.

## 5. WP 6 - Project Communication & Dissemination

### 6.1. Dissemination Action Plan and key audience list

As good communication activities are crucial to encourage external actors and stakeholders to capitalise part of the findings and outcomes of the project and/or to further use the NEW VET cooperation methodology developed, a Dissemination Action Plan has been shared by WELCOME A.P.S. at the very beginning of the project. Further to that, all consortium partners have prepared a key audience matrix for the effective identification of target groups and stakeholders, consisting of minimum ten (10) stakeholders suggested by each NEW VET partner and associated partner (i.e minimum 150 stakeholders in total) who have given their consent to be informed on the project activities and outcomes. The stakeholders are VET providers (public and private), institutions and agencies focusing on vocational education and training and work-based learning as well as organizations working on the same topics with the NEW VET project.

### 6.2. Brand Identity Pack for NEW VET

Brand identity is an integral part of the NEW VET's communication and dissemination activities. NEW VET logo, project leaflet (in all consortium languages and English), project roll-up as well as program factsheet have been designed by Šolski Center Nova Gorica and decided upon consultations and inputs from all partners. The main purpose of the brand identity is to give a unique visual identity to the NEW VET communication activities. Having in mind that the project aims to raise awareness about VET among young people, the brand identity is of vital importance for our project dissemination strategy.

### 6.3. NEW VET website and social media profiles

NEW VET website <https://newvet-project.eu/> has been set up by ReadLab and translated, with the contribution of all partners, from English to all partner languages (German, French, Italian, Slovenian, Greek ). The project website is fully compliant with GDPR requirements and accessible to persons with disabilities. Project's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube) are also linked to the website. The website provides a brief description of the project and its objectives. Consortium's partners and associated partners are also mentioned on the website and their organization webpage is linked to the project's website. The project website mentions the European Union's financial support with the relevant logo. The project's website as well as the social media channels are regularly updated with project materials, publications and resources related to vocational education and training and work-based learning in the partner countries and the EU. All project results that are foreseen to be public, are uploaded on the website access as soon as they become available.

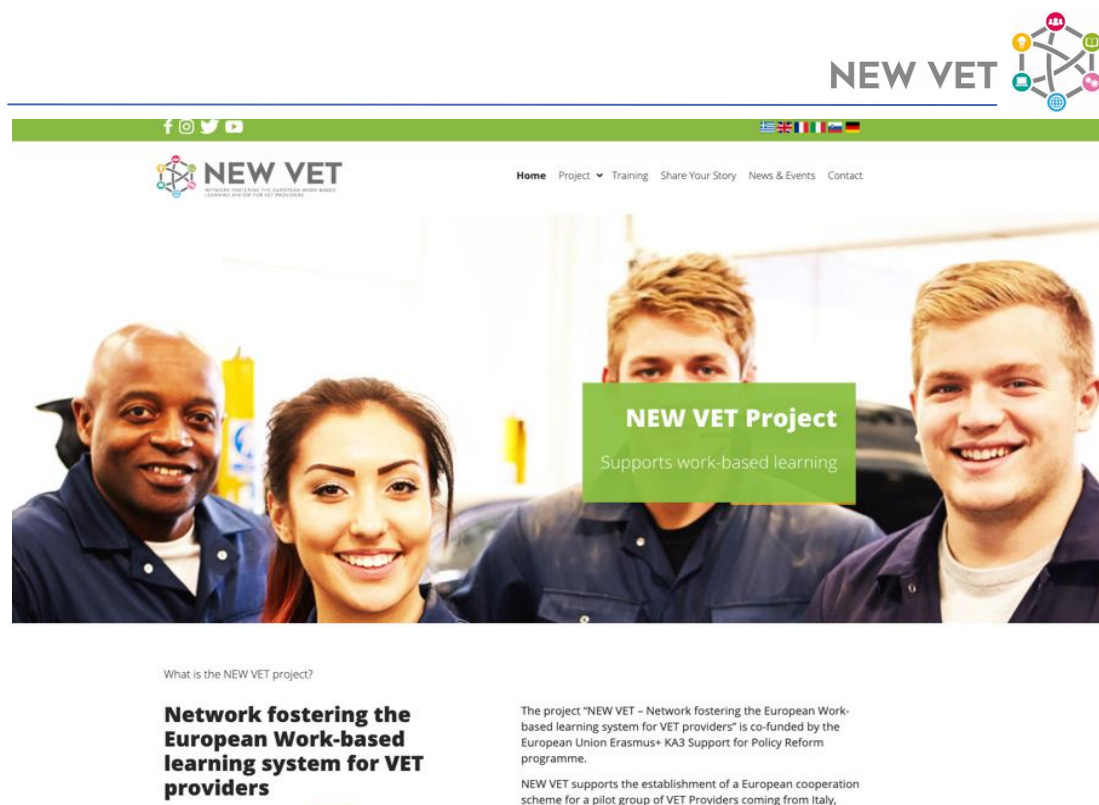


Image 3 NEW VET website(screenshot)

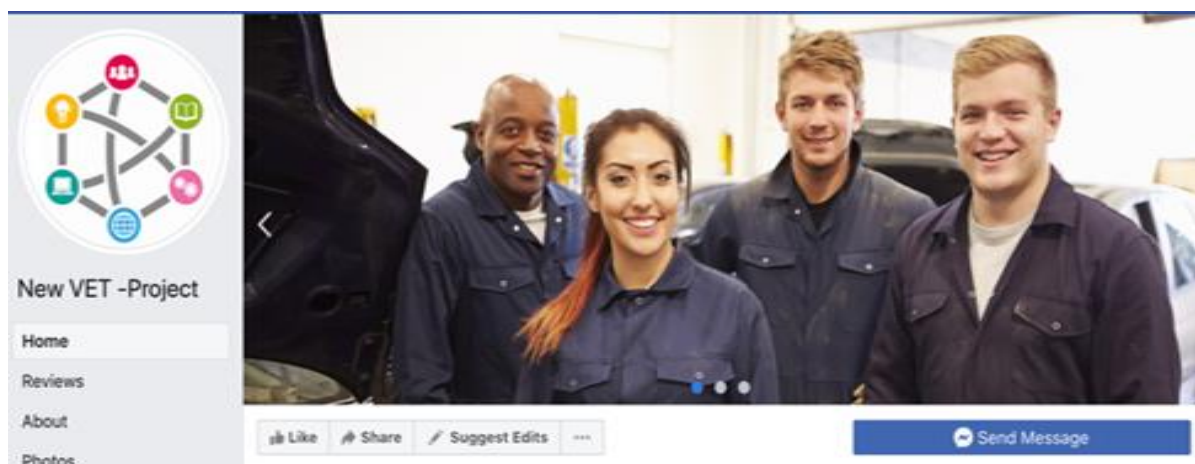


Image 4 NEW VET facebook page (screenshot)



Image 5 NEW VET twitter (screenshot)



The project website already has 90 unique users and 2,544 page views. The NEW VET facebook page is followed by 112 people and liked by 110. In twitter, NEW VET has attracted 9 followers.

### 6.3. 1st NEWVETworking cafe

On 21 January 2020 the first “NEWVETworking cafe” was hosted in the headquarters of the Italian Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions (CISL), one of the NEW VET associate partners. The event was a unique opportunity for NEW VET partners to be introduced to a broad audience and to streamline the NEW VET project with the Italian policy and experience on work-based learning in VET (Istruzione e Formazione Professionale – leFP). The NEWVETworking cafe gathered an important number of participants and a diverse pool of stakeholders varying from industry policy experts and trade unions, to private companies and training bodies representatives.

In particular, the 1st NEWVETworking cafe aimed:

- To describe project objectives and achievements to other stakeholders involved in the WBL system, and potentially interested in starting new cooperation opportunities.
- To foster and strengthen networking activities between the VET providers belonging to PP frameworks and their peers coming from different countries of NEW VET partnership.
- To maximise the participation of VET operators and stakeholders involved in the promotion of the WBL system, and to further sustain the dissemination and transfer of the project results to other interested actors and sectors.



Image 6 1st NEWVETworking cafe, January 2020, Rome

In addition, the NEW VETworking café was deployed in order to raise awareness around the need to deliver to young generations high-quality training and education that facilitates the matching between the knowledge and qualifications acquired and those required by the labour market. This was a unique occasion for the NEW VET partners, particularly for the non-Italian partners, to learn more about the challenges and also the opportunities in VET and WBL in the Italian context. Further to that, the NEW VET partners discussed among each other their VET and WBL systems and compared them to their national systems. The session was finalized with the closing remarks by the Confederal Secretary of the CISL Angelo Colombini.

## 6. Risks and risk mitigation

During the first six months of the project, all partners have been asked to identify and evaluate risks in the implementation of the tasks that are foreseen for each work package. Further to that, consortium partners have suggested risk mitigation measures as a response to the high/medium risk/s. The section below shortly describes the risks and their mitigation as suggested by each work package leader.

### WP 1: Project Management & Coordination

IAL Marche, the project coordinator and leader of the WP1, has identified as a “medium” risk the lack of experience of appointed financial managers from each partner organization and the inconsistent financial reporting as an effect. A mitigation measure for such a case is to raise the issue in the Steering Committee and cooperate with the partner/s who are encountered with this issue. Another medium risk identified by the project coordinator is the difficulty the consortium faces when it comes to arranging the next project meetings and training hotspots at dates that are convenient from everyone. The WP1 leader has offered as a solution the preparation of online surveys with all partners picking up the time slots that best fit them and the meeting' date is arranged after voting with the participation of all partners.

### WP 2. Quality Monitoring

The WP2 leader ReadLab has identified difficulties in partners' understanding of the identification and mitigation of the risks related to the project activities implementation. Further to that, sometimes it has occurred that the partner may have not responded to the first call for submitting an evaluation form. In such cases, the partner is contacted and provided with more information on how to proceed and fill in the risk management registry, while for those who do not respond in the first call of a task, a second kind reminder or even an extension of the initial deadline (if possible) are provided.

### WP3. Transnational Capacity Building for VET providers

For IHK-Projektgesellschaft leader of the WP3, the main challenge that has been identified is the organization of the training hotspot which was initially scheduled to take place in October in Berlin. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, however, the third training hotspot will be rescheduled at a later date after consultation with all project partners. As an alternative, the WP3 leader has proposed the organization of the third training hotspot online in case the pandemic outbreak will deteriorate in the next months.

### WP4. Empowering the Multilevel Cooperation

In regard to the internationalization strategies for VET providers, the leader of WP4 Lycée C. et A. Dupuy – Greta du Velay, has identified as a risk the determination of a vision and the consolidation of strategic goals. The WP leader has suggested that by exchanging ideas and advice among the project partners could help to establish a vision at organisation level. In case



of an unrealistic goal, the WP4 leader has proposed the issue to be discussed directly with the partner/s involved. In order to ensure that all partners have a solid understanding of what consists of a “training module”, it is recommended to further elaborate on the specifications of a training module. Regarding the internationalization strategies and their integration by project partners, the WP4 leader has identified a “medium” risk, and thus advises to plan activities and communication that are able to help all partners understand how they can respond to this challenge. Furthermore, a medium risk regarding the number of attendees in the networking café (50 per each partner country) has been identified. The mitigation of this particular risk is a better communication strategy in relation to the event at national level. Finally, the WP4 leader has identified as potential risks activities (both at national and consortium level) that are not funded. The funding possibilities are suggested to be integrated into the planning of the cooperation activity, and partner/s who are more experienced in EU funding, are suggested to take the lead of this cooperation activity.

#### WP5: Spreading the Attractiveness of the VET System

The WP5 leader WELCOME A.P.S., has raised the matter of the protection of personal data in regard to the “Share your story” online platform. The consortium has developed a thorough privacy policy according to DGPR standards and rules, safeguarding the data protection of those who will submit their stories on the “Share your story” platform. All users are informed about their personal data privacy before submitting their stories. Another risk identified by the WP5 leader concerns the limited number of stories that each partner may receive. WP5 leader has suggested each partner harness their national VET networks in order to spread the word about the competition. One of the major risks for the WP5 leader remains the outbreak of the coronavirus in Europe and its impact on the “Share your story” winners' final EU Vocational Skills Week. In such a scenario, partners have to come up and agree on a different type of awards for contest winners.

#### WP6. Project Communication & Dissemination

Regarding WP6, its leader Šolski Center Nova Gorica has identified risks concerning the postponement of some dissemination activities due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe (i.e. awareness national seminars, collateral events, networking café). In the case of this scenario, the consortium will decide to reschedule the activities to a later date or even organize them virtually if the coronavirus outbreak lasts longer.

## 7. Outputs & results for the reporting period M1 - M6

### 8.1. Overall evaluation

For this report to be informed by the partners' insights in regard to the first six months of the project, all NEW VET partners were asked to fill in an internal evaluation form prepared by ReadLab, the WP2 lead partner, based upon the ANNEX VI of the D8 Quality Plan and risk management toolkit.

According to the survey results, NEW VET partners are "very satisfied" and "satisfied" with the organization of the project activities and the way that the NEW VET project has evolved so as to meet the planned objectives (M1 - M6). Almost all partners were "very satisfied" and "satisfied" with the operational efficiency so far. In particular, the majority of the consortium partners seem to be "satisfied" with the cooperation and the communication established within the consortium.

It is worth mentioning that, in spite of the unprecedented conditions caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus and the strict lockdown in all consortium countries, the communication among the NEW VET partners has been constant and permanent, with all partners contributing equally to all project activities as foreseen by the project proposal.

Furthermore, the activities and tasks distributed among partners as well as the procedures for reaching decisions received very positive feedback. The main weaknesses identified were the number of stakeholders involved and the project results' communication to target groups, which, as partners remarked, were difficult to achieve because of the lockdown and social distancing imposed during the past months due to the covid19 pandemic.

### 8.2. Deliverables' evaluation

Further to the general evaluation of the NEW VET project for the first six months, part of the evaluation focused on the project's deliverables. The question "how satisfied are you with the degree to which the outcomes implement fully the requirements/functions envisaged in the project plan?" has received mixed answers with partners' opinion varying from "very satisfied" to "satisfied" and "OK". All partners remain "very satisfied" and "satisfied" with the results which correspond to the stated objectives of the activity. But partners have expressed their concern in regard to the outcomes which have been/can be successfully disseminated to the target community with the majority of them stating that they are just "OK". Some partners have not been able to organize such activities. The 2nd NEW VET networking café initially scheduled for April 2020 (D31) and the 1st NEW VET awareness seminar in January 2020 (D32) have not been organized yet due to the covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, the first NEW VET newsletter which was planned to be released in February, has been sent out in May 2020. The consortium decided to move the date for the 1st Newsletter as

February was just the very beginning of the project and the project activities had just started to take place.

The table below presents the status of all project deliverables planned to be finalized in the period under evaluation, ie. from November 2019 to April 2020 (M1 – M6).

No.	Deliverable	Deadline	Status
D1	WP1:1st Steering Committee Dossier	January 2020	Completed
D8	WP2: Quality Plan & Risk Management Toolkit	December 2019	Completed
D14	WP3: 1st Training Hotspot Pack	January 2020	Completed
D22	WP5: "Share your story" digital storytelling platform	April 2020	Completed
D27	WP6: Dissemination Action Plan and key audience list	December 2019	Completed
D28	WP6: Brand identity pack for NEW VET	April 2020	Completed
D29	WP6: NEW VET website and social media profiles	December 2019	Completed
D30	WP6: NEW(VET)sletters	February 2020	Postponed to May 2020
D31	WP6: 1st NEW VETworking cafee	December 2019	Completed
D31	WP6: 2nd NEW VETworking café	April 2020	Rescheduled due to covid-19
D32	NEW VET awareness seminar	January 2020	Rescheduled / to take place in parallel with the 2nd NEW VET awareness seminar

Table 2 Project progress (M1-M6)

## 8. Recommendations

The purpose of the present evaluation report for the first six months of the project is not only to offer a thorough description of the project activities and its implementation but also to offer a set of recommendations which will be utilized by project partners in order to improve project implementation and maximise the project outcomes. The analysis of findings during the first period of project implementation (M1-M6) lead to the following recommendations:

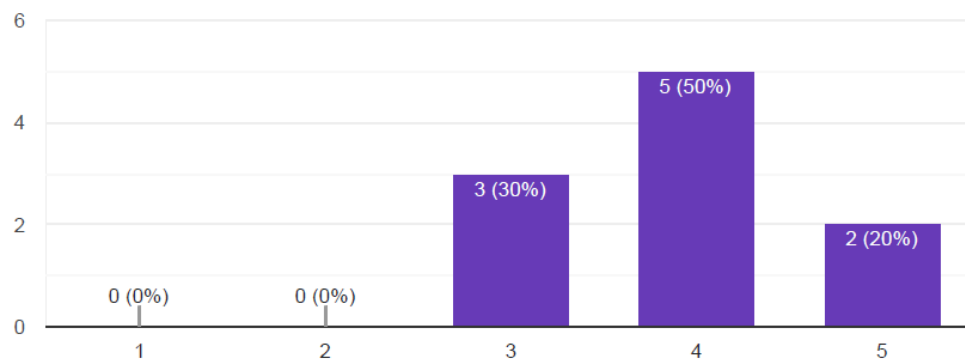
- NEWVET project partners communicate vigorously through the project's internal platform (Basecamp). Partners should continue to share and discuss any challenge they encounter with a particular task/deliverable or if they have any different approach which may have not been mentioned before.
- Delays in project implementation due to the covid-19 pandemic should be dealt with by a) organizing digital meetings for the tasks that are seen fit and b) postponing project activities that demand face-to-face contact while continue to work on project deliverables and their dissemination. A skype meeting was organized in May 2020 by the project coordinator in order to adjust the NEW VET project implementation strategy.
- Organizers of project meetings and events should pay attention to time management. In regard to training hotspots, in particular, they should employ methodologies that are specific and relevant to the target audience.
- In view of the next period dissemination activities, all partners should increase their efforts and contribute to updating the social media accounts and the project website with relevant material. Project partners are invited to share and propose content relevant to NEW VET activities and goals which could contribute to increasing the visibility of the NEW VET project results.
- VET partners with more extensive experience in similar programs as well as in dissemination activities could transfer their expertise and their dissemination strategies in some activities foreseen by NEW VET. For instance, the project coordinator who organized the successful 1st networking café in Rome could provide some ideas on how it achieved mobilizing such a big number and diverse pool of stakeholders to participate in the event.

## ANNEX I Kick-off Meeting Survey Findings

The questionnaire, based on the ANNEX VII of the NEW VET *Quality Plan and risk management toolkit*, was drafted in google forms and sent through e-mail to all kick-off meeting participants. The figures below present the findings to the quantitative survey questions. Responses were based upon a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1=Poor to 5=Excellent.

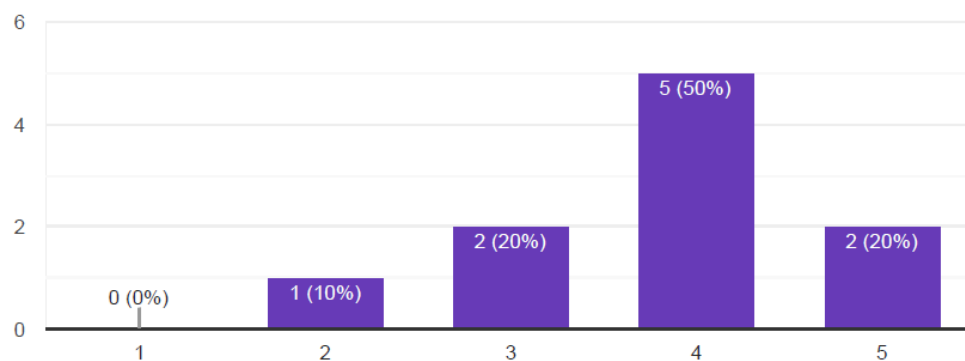
### The objectives of the trainings were clearly defined

10 responses



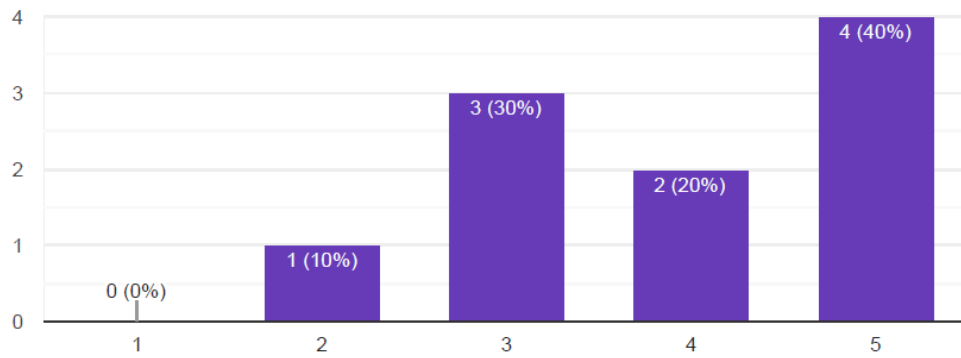
### Participation and interaction were encouraged

10 responses



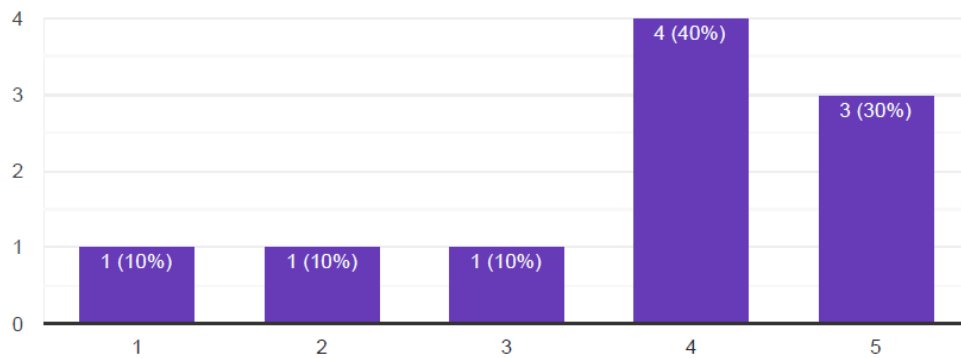
### The content was organised and easy to follow

10 responses



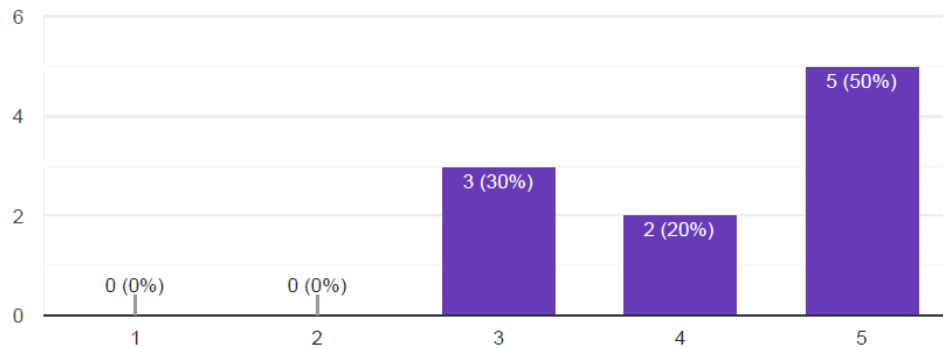
### The materials distributed were helpful

10 responses



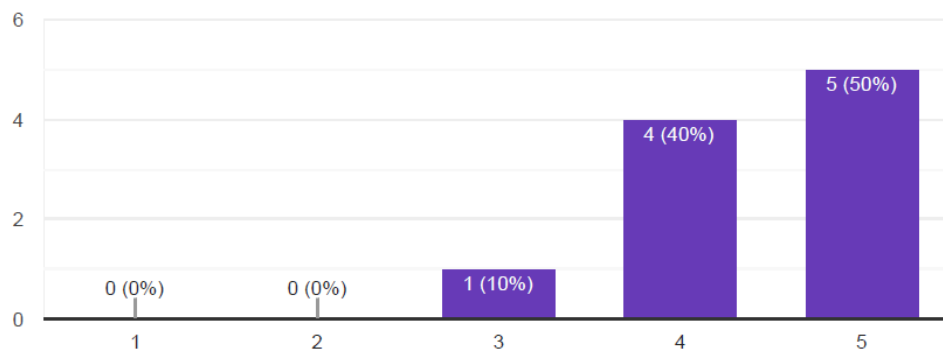
The topics covered were relevant to me

10 responses



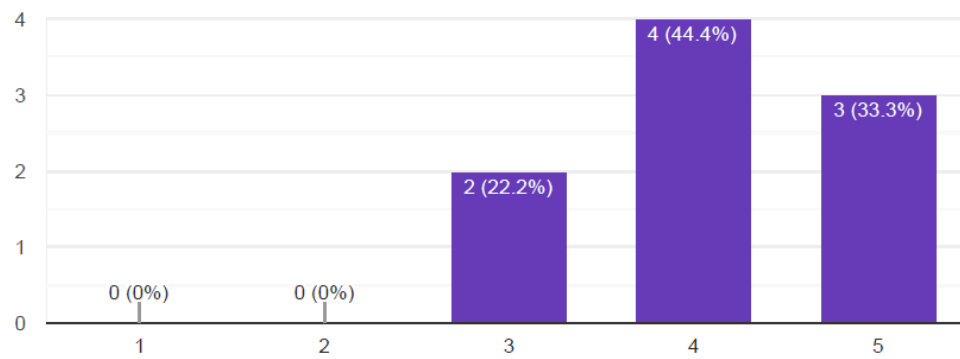
The trainers were knowledgeable about the trainings' topics

10 responses



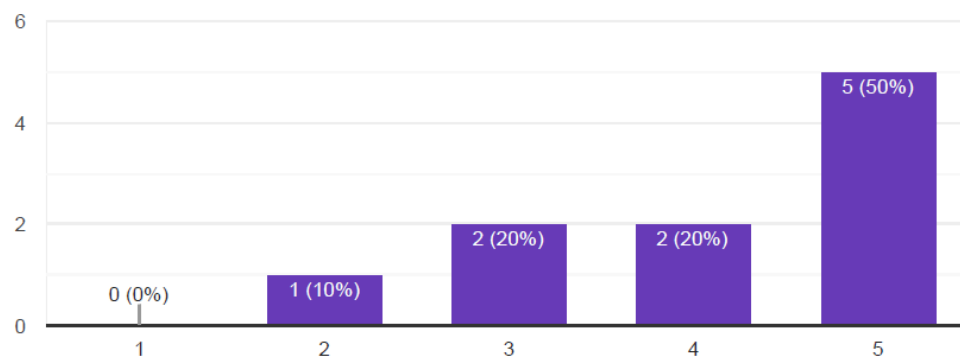
### The trainings objectives were met

9 responses



### The time allocated for trainings was sufficient

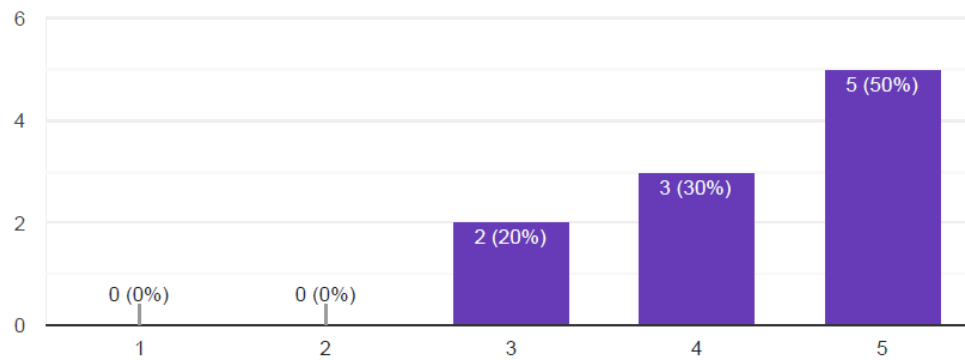
10 responses





### Facilities, meeting room, equipment etc. were adequate and user friendly

10 responses

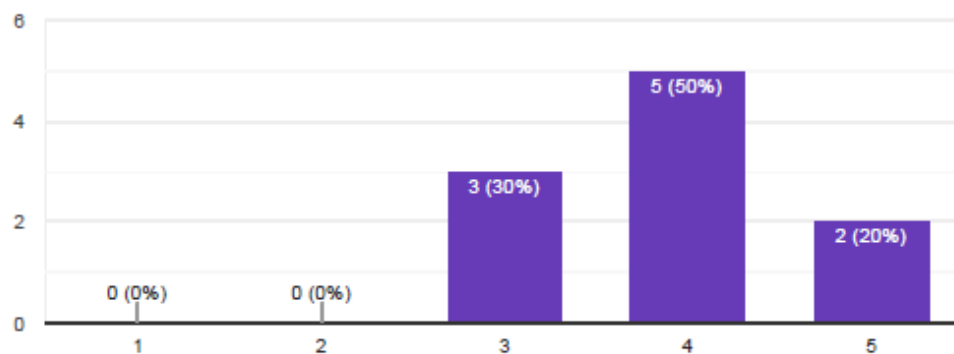


## ANNEX II 1st Training Hotspot Survey Findings

The questionnaire, based on the ANNEX VIII of the NEW VET *Quality Plan and risk management toolkit*, was drafted in google forms and sent through e-mail to all 1<sup>st</sup> Training Hotspot participants. The figures below present the findings to the quantitative survey questions. Responses were based upon a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1=Poor to 5=Excellent.

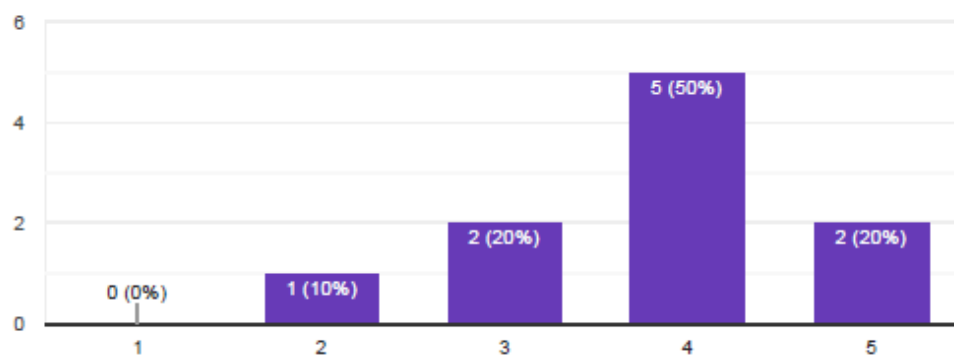
### The objectives of the trainings were clearly defined

10 responses



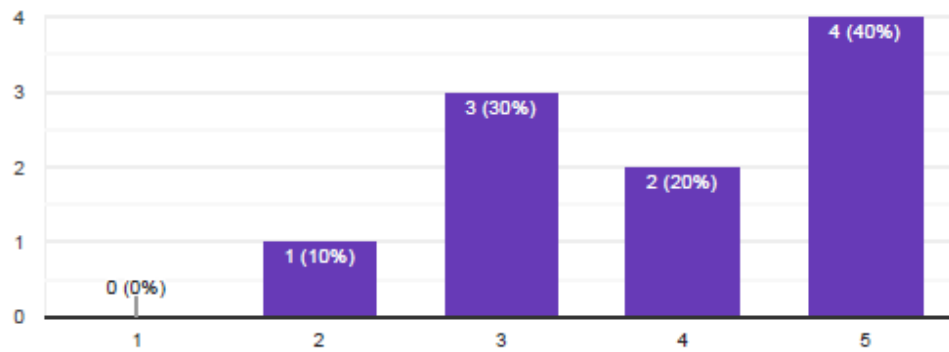
### Participation and interaction were encouraged

10 responses



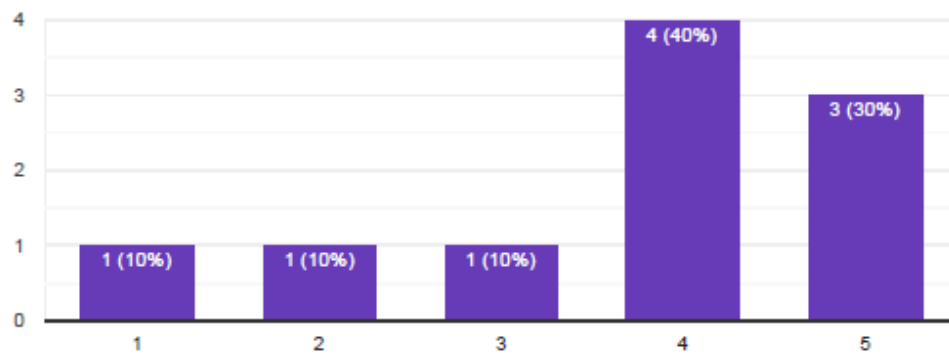
### The content was organised and easy to follow

10 responses



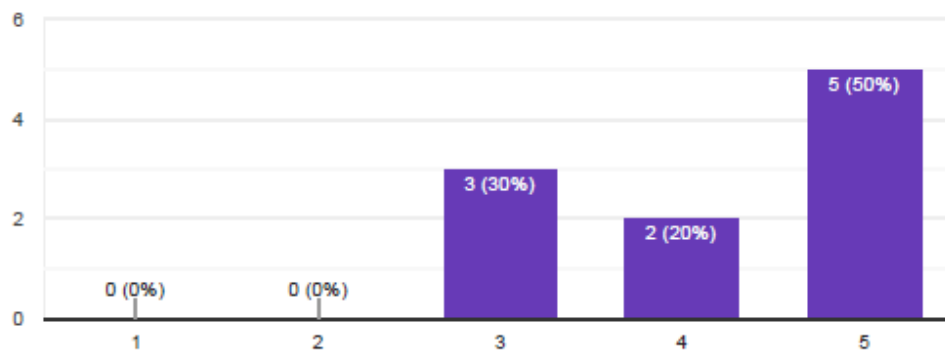
### The materials distributed were helpful

10 responses



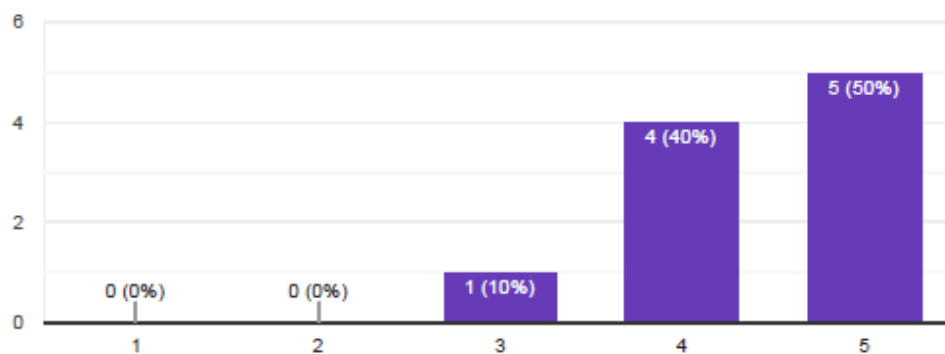
### The topics covered were relevant to me

10 responses



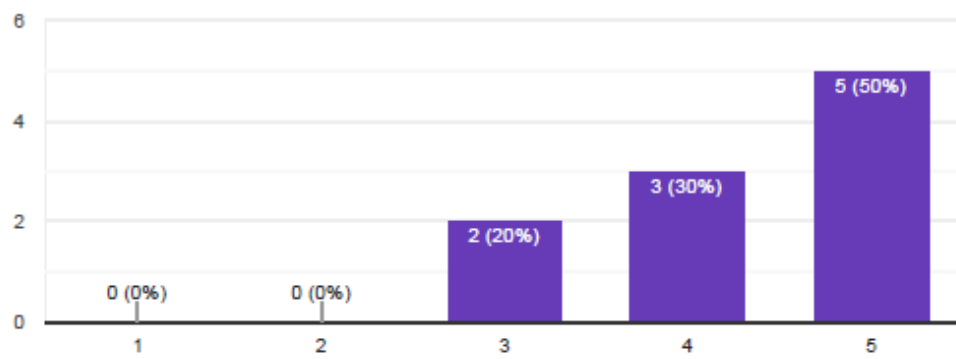
### The trainers were knowledgeable about the trainings' topics

10 responses



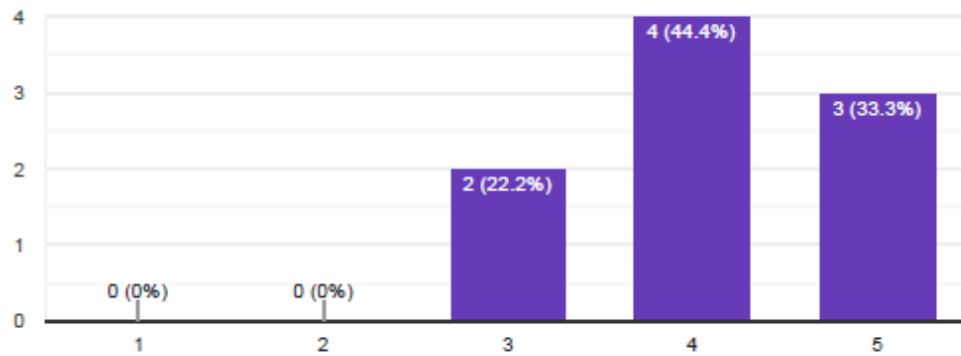
### Facilities, meeting room, equipment etc. were adequate and user friendly

10 responses



### The trainings objectives were met

9 responses



### The time allocated for trainings was sufficient

10 responses

