

Key Action: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action Type: Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

Project Title

Development of an online resource to train enterprises with the final objective to foster them into Environmental Technology Verification

Project Coordinator

Organisation INVENTYA VENTURES (EU) LIMITED
Address TAYLOR'S LANE , 8 DUBLIN , Dublin , IE
Website www.inventya.com
Contact Leonardo Piccinetti , l.piccinetti@inventya.com

Project Information

Identifier 2017-1-IE01-KA202-025703
Start Date Dec 1, 2017
End Date Mar 31, 2020
EC Contribution 304,845 EUR
Partners PurFil ApS (DK) , CLUSTER ZELENA SINERGIYA (BG) , INSTITUT NATIONAL POLYTECHNIQUE DE TOULOUSE (FR) , INSTYTUT TECHNOLOGICZNO-PRZYRODNICZY (PL) , ASOCIACION EMPRESARIAL DE INVESTIGACION CENTRO TECNOLOGICO DEL MUEBLEY LA MADERA DE LA REGION DE MURCIA (ES)
Topics Research and innovation ; Environment and climate change ; New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses

Project Summary

Europe faces a range of environmental challenges that will impact on its future prosperity. Europe leads in innovative environmental technologies which can provide solutions while also increasing EU competitiveness. Breaking into the market with innovations can be a significant problem, because innovations by definition cannot show a successful track-record. Without credible information about innovative technologies, potential buyers are unsure whether or not to trust the claims made about their performance.

In 2011, European Commission with 7 Member States [1] intends to launch a solution to address that problem: Environmental Technology Verification (ETV). [2] It is an initiative that provides for third-party verification of the performance claims made by technology manufacturers in business-to-business relations. By issuing a Statement of Verification, which is the product of a successful ETV process, ETV provides credible information on the new technology. Market access for innovative environmental technologies is significantly enhanced and the technological risk for technology purchasers (whether private or public) is reduced.

The ETV4INNOVATION project will create an Eco-Innovative partnership in five European countries (Ireland, Spain, France, Bulgaria and Poland) formed by 6 partners: a cluster, with a strong relation with the technological sectors and the administrative bodies; a university specialized in teaching courses; a Verification Body of ETV; a Research Centre specialized in e-learning platform and green R&D project and finally, a SME specialized in green-technologies consulting and SMEs with products verified by ETV.

The partnership will be set up with the goal of designing and developing an e-learning training course for filling gaps in relation with ETV for current and future managers and workers in technological sectors.

For this end, the ETV4INNOVATION partnership has defined the following specific objectives (SO):

- SO1. Identify the lack of knowledge in the organisations to be able to manage and bet on ETV.
- SO2. Design and develop a Joint Curriculum (JCV)
- SO3. Deliver the JCV on e-learning OER Platform and protect it under open licenses.
- SO4. Break borderlines among SMEs and large companies and experts in ETV, creating common procedures and skills.
- SO5. Equip enterprises with the right skills and knowledge for the ETV verification of today and tomorrow and fostering a sustainable technology process.
- SO6. Raise awareness of current environmental problems, the need to carry out a sustainable development, and bring more respectful practices with the environment.

To achieve these objectives the partnership will carry out the following activities:

- Comparative analysis and evidence-gathering, studies of examples of good practices, and real life cases of successful ETV verification already performed, etc. in order to identify skills needs and competences in the technological sectors required to be successfully applied for ETV process.
- Development of a Joint Curriculum with the integration of different learning modes and innovative approaches.
- The creation of learning and training materials together with methods, pedagogical approaches and tools.
- The implementation of a training and collaborative e-learning platform to ensure that all the materials developed is certainly deployed by creating an open online course.

Thus, the partnership will collaborate and work in ETV4INNOVATION with the aim to foster modernization and knowledge expansion aligned to the needs and opportunities offered by the increasing number of new eco-technologies by technology developers in relation with the technological field as water treatment, energy

technologies, materials, wastes, etc. In addition, ETV4INNOVATION expect to extend ETV process to more European Countries, with the involvement of the different stakeholders and target groups identified.

The project will carry out its own assessment, and a wide Dissemination Plan to spread its results among as many interested parties as possible. ETV4INNOVATION will also address transversal skills, such as entrepreneurship, green skills, and digital competences.

In terms of longer term benefits of ETV4INNOVATION:

- ETV4INNOVATION will increase the labor market relevance of VET provision and will reduce skills mismatches and shortages among the identified target groups (proposer or technology manufactures, national accreditation bodies, verification bodies, testing bodies, analytical laboratories, research centers, etc.)
- Results will strengthen the education and training path of workers, equipping them with all necessary competences and skills to develop a high quality job in the target sectors (technological fields).

[1] As of October 2010, participating Member States are: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Poland and the United Kingdom.

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv_en

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