International Conference

Qualification, entrepreneurship and innovation   
in the Green Economy

Date: 05th September 2024

Time: 09:00 – 15:30

Venue: Riga Stradiņš University, Hippocrates auditorium, Dzirciema iela 16 Riga

Meeting the challenges in the fields of energy, climate and environmental protection requires comprehensive reorientation and forward-looking innovations. These tasks must be mastered by SMEs against the background of the following problems:

* blatant & growing shortage of skilled workers
* large qualification deficits, especially in the Green Economy
* loss of attractiveness & low qualification of school-based VET
* low rates of further training & insufficient orientation of offers to SME needs
* ageing of entrepreneurs & high, growing shortage of young people (demographic change)
* failure of business transfers & low rates of business start-ups
* low innovation rates & insufficient productivity
* not enough cooperation between universities and SMEs & a lack of teaching geared to SME needs
* comparably low internationalization of SMEs & many vocational training providers

To meet these challenges, 22 partners from 7 countries have developed, practically tested and implemented concrete measures for the promotion of SMEs to secure the demand for skilled labor and entrepreneurs, to emphatically improve qualifications and to promote innovation. These particularly successful results, which can be utilized free of charge, will be presented and discussed at the conference.

Program

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Welcome coffee and international exchange of experiences |
| 09:00 – 09:45 | **Greetings** |
| Welcome speech by Dr. Max Hogeforster, Chairman of the Hanse-Parlament | |
| Greeting by Ilze Saleniece, Acting State Secretary, Director of the Department of Policy Initiatives and Development, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia | |
| Welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Dins Šmits, Vice Rector of Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte | |
| Greeting by Associate Prof. Dr. Karina Palkova, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Riga Stradins University | |
| Greeting by Diāna Karasa, President of the Latvijas Amatniecibas kamera | |
| Greeting by Agris Ruperts, Director of Liepājas Valsts tehnikums | |
| 09:45 – 10:30 | **Three-level Centers of Vocational Excellence** |
| Overview eight Centers of Vocational Excellence in the Green Economy, *Anna Maria Czarny, Project Manager at Hanse-Parlament, Germany* | |
| Development, work, and experiences of the Lithuanian Center of Vocational Excellence, *Dr. Saulius Zybartas, Director of Business and Hospitality Training Centre VESK, Lithuania* | |
| Experiences and successes of transnational cooperation, *Maëla Barçon, Project Managerin Hanse-Parlament, Germany* | |
| Discussion | |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Coffee break and international exchange of experiences** |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | **Support and qualification measures for initial vocational training** |
| Overview activities and results, *Maëla Barçon, Project Managerin Hanse-Parlament, Germany* | |
| "Ecologic Solutions in Logistics" technician training, *Barbara Zakrzewska, Director Tadeusz Tanski Mechanical and Logistics School Complex, Poland* | |
| Educational counselling and training for teachers and trainers in SMEs, *Anna Cabedo, Departament d'Educació de la Generalitat de Catalunya & David Millet, Institut Pere Martell, Spain* | |
| Discussion | |
| 12:00 -13:00 | **Business lunch and international exchange of experiences** |
| 13:00 – 13:45 | **Support and qualification measures for further vocational training** |
| Overview activities and results, *Christian Wildt, Project Director Hanse-Parlament, Germany* | |
| Service Technician, *Nikolaus Schrümpf, Project Manager, Wirtschafts-Förderungsinstitut der Wirtschaftskammer Steiermark, Austria* | |
| Easy Energy Practitioner Training – 3LOE synergies and draft training program, *Anna Maria Czarny, Project Manager at Hanse-Parlament, Germany* | |
| Discussion | |
| 13:45 – 14:45 | **Support and qualification measures for higher education and promoting innovation** |
| Panel discussion Dual Bachelor programs  *Dr. Max Hogeforster, Chairman of the Hanse-Parlament, Germany*  *Marek Łukasik, Vice-Rector of the Uniwersytet Pomorski w Słupsku, Poland*  *Dr. Jurgita Lieponienė, Deputy Director, Panevėžio kolegija, Lithuania*  *Prof. Dr. oec. Tatjana Muravska at the Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte, Latvia*  *Prof. Dr. Joachim von Kiedrowski, Vice-Rector Berufliche Hochschule Hamburg, Germany* | |
| “Integrating University-Business in Training for Circular Transition: The Master GECA Model”, *Dr. Filippo Corsini, Researcher Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna* and *Sistemi Formativi Confindustria, Italy* | |
| Discussion | |
| 14:45 – 15:30 | **Political strategies for shaping the future** |
| Panel discussion Political strategies  Dr. Max Hogeforster, Chairman Hanse-Parlament, Germany  DI Heidrun Bichler-Ripfel, Director of the Institut für angewandte Gewerbeforschung der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Austria | |
| Discussion | |
| **15:30 End of the conference** | |