



Creative Learning for Life

# AN ERASMUS+ PROJECT

for acquiring Life Skills in Vocational  
Education and Training

JUNE. 2023, NEWSLETTER N. 1



## TWO TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS

In Transnational Meetings, experts in the field of Life Skills, experts in the field of Creative Teaching and teachers of 4 VET providers joined forces to work on the aim of the project. All together almost 30 professionals from, The Netherlands, Italy, Slovenia, and Estonia, met in 3 online meetings and 2 onsite meetings.

**December 2022** the Kick Off Meeting was held in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

This meeting was meant to get to know each other and each other's organisations better. Also, a start was made with understanding Life Skills and get a better understanding about creative teaching.

**May 2023** the next Transnational meeting was held in Verona, Italy.

Here, the focus was completely on understanding the topic "Understanding the concept of Life Skills". According to World Health Organisation (WHO): **"Life Skills are positive behavioural skills that enable a person to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life"**. These 'Life Skills' include psychosocial competences and interpersonal skills that help people make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathise with other people and deal with their lives in a healthy and productive way.

For the Transnational Meeting the experts had developed 10 workshops for understanding all 10 Life Skills. A publication about the importance of assessing and acquire Life Skills by students in VET will be available at the end of 2023.

In an on-line Transnational Meeting, the partners started with the development of a Self-assessment instrument for assessing Life Skills of students in VET. After responding to statements with a 7-Point Likert Scale, the instrument provides feedback on performance of the individual student against the 10 Life Skills. The analysis on performance can also be carried out on group level. Teachers can use the outcomes for designing a Tailor-Made Life Skill development program for their students. This instrument will be ready at the end of 2023.

SINCE NOVEMBER 2022,  
EIGHT ORGANIZATIONS  
FROM THE  
NETHERLANDS, ITALY,  
ESTONIA, AND  
SLOVENIA  
WORK TOGETHER IN  
THE PROJECT  
CREATIVE LEARNING  
FOR LIFE  
(CL4L)

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT IS  
**TO DEVELOP MORE CREATIVE  
WAYS OF LEARNING IN**  
SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING (VET) IN **IDENTIFYING  
AND ACQUIRING LIFE SKILLS.**  
NON-TRADITIONAL TEACHING  
METHODS ARE USED. THE  
INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS,  
ACQUIRING THESE CREATIVE  
COMPETENCES, ARE AN  
IMPORTANT PILLAR IN THE  
PROJECT.

THE OTHER PILLAR EMPHASIZES  
UNDERSTANDING THE  
CONCEPT OF LIFE SKILLS AND  
APPLYING THEM THROUGH  
CREATIVE FORMS OF TEACHING  
AND TRAINING.





## CREATIVE TEACHING

### SOME STATEMENTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT:

“For me it was a really great meeting with lots of valuable themes, where I learned a lot about myself and others”

“I recommend using more physical training at the beginning of any session or, at least in every day of working. To use the body, it is also useful to combine mind and action and to relax brain from constantly thinking. Plus, training exercises between a group, it is useful to focus the attention on the human relations”

“I just wish I could go to all of the parallel workshops, because all of them were prepared very well”

“Tomorrow I will apply the first in the classroom, in an experimental way. I am enthusiastic”

In the second phase of the project, project partners will develop a **Compendium of successful Creative Teaching and training methods** in Life-Skills Development for students in VET. This will be tested by teachers & trainers that work in the 4 VET schools. (Estonia, Slovenia, Italy, and the Netherlands)

One of the assumptions within the project is that a teacher/trainer must be able to manage the Life Skills in his/her own daily life when teaching the Life Skills to students. Applying Life Skills in a Creative and alternative way while not be able to manage these Skills yourself in personal life might bring unexpected and additional challenges for the teacher/trainer.

Therefore all teachers & trainers carried out an assessment with the purpose finding out what their individual competences, talents and challenges are in relation to managing Life Skills in their personal life. The assessment, carried out by Tessa Zaeijen ((team)coach) consisted of an on-line interview with each teacher / trainer and a self-assessment to select personal competences. The teachers received individual feedback on the outcomes of this assessment during the Transnational Meeting in Verona.

Based on the acquired insight on personal competences, strengths, talents and challenges, the teachers / trainers will be able to make a well-founded choice which for Life Skills they feel comfortable to deliver and include in their training.

### Life Skills

