



GREENOVET unites European schools in Green Innovation

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The project GREENOVET has now been ongoing for two years. A lot has happened in the Vaasa region, including the following:

SKILLS GAP ANALYSIS

A survey was sent to 105 companies and public employers, both big and small, in the region, asking them what technical and transversal skills are most lacking when moving into the Green Transition era.

The top technical skills/expertise the education in the regions should concentrate upon were found to be

- Smart/advanced digital solutions
- Designing and developing sustainable solutions and products/green innovations
- Cyber security
- Circular economy
- Green management/manufacturing

And the most central improvement in the level of transversal skills of the employees should be

- Collaboration skills/working with others
- Spotting opportunities
- Creativity, vision
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Learning through experience
- Ethical and sustainable mindset.

GREEN INNOVATION CAPACITY MEASUREMENT TOOL FOR EDUCATORS

A simple software tool for assessment of the situation among education organisations was developed in international cooperation. The tool is aimed at self-assessment and for recognition of improvement areas, not for comparison. However, the testing round among 6 educator units gave at hand that emphasis should be put to teacher skill development

especially among the Vocational 2nd level educators, even if there are still also significant structural hindrances in the Universities of Applied Sciences.

FOUNDING OF A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

In the spring of 2023, the 4 Greenovet project partners University of Vaasa, Novia UAS, Vamia Vocational Insitute and Merinova, as well as the other education providers in Vaasa region Åbo akademi, Hanken Swedish School of Business, Vaasa university of applied Sciences and Yrkesakademin i Österbotten, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on working as a *Center of Excellence in Green Innovation*- related education and training. This document sets the direction of cooperation and calls for applying more public funding for more targeted developments and training programs, to the benefit of the future of the region.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER TRAINING MODULES

The change towards a green mindset happens gradually. One possible method to make it cover all areas in a systematic way is to get the teachers in various education orientations think of the requirements of the green transition for their own work. In project Greenovet, we have first tested some "international" modules, in order to later build teacher training activities in the four central "green future mindset" topics:

- Problem-solving mindset: design thinking
- The Green Transition in the Region of Vaasa, and our S3 Strategy
- Circular Economy
- Diversity Management

These modules will be developed to be offered to a first "test" cohort of 10-20 teachers of all three educational levels (university, UAS, and vocational 2nd level) in the fall of 2023.

STUDENT COMMITMENT THROUGH NEW SKILL COMPETITIONS

During the spring 2023, a first "hackathon"-type two day competition for the students teams comprised of all levels (developing understanding of green problems, skills of problem solving, and also cooperation skills and ability to work in teams) will be organised. The aim is to organise these competitions in cooperation with local actors and employees annually. The first competition is arranged in cooperation with the City of Vaasa. The winning team will represent Vaasa in an international competition in North Macedonia in the Fall 2023.



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