



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ADE PROJECT



*Adjust your school to the challenges of modern digital
vocational education*

March 2022



More about the project

WHAT IS ADE?

ADE is a 24-month project
financed by
ERASMUS+ programme; KA2
Strategic Partnerships for VET

The project duration will be in the
period 1.6.2021-31.5.2023

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The project consortium is made up
of 5 organizations (schools and non-
formal education providers) from 4
European countries: Bulgaria,
Poland, Spain and Türkiye.

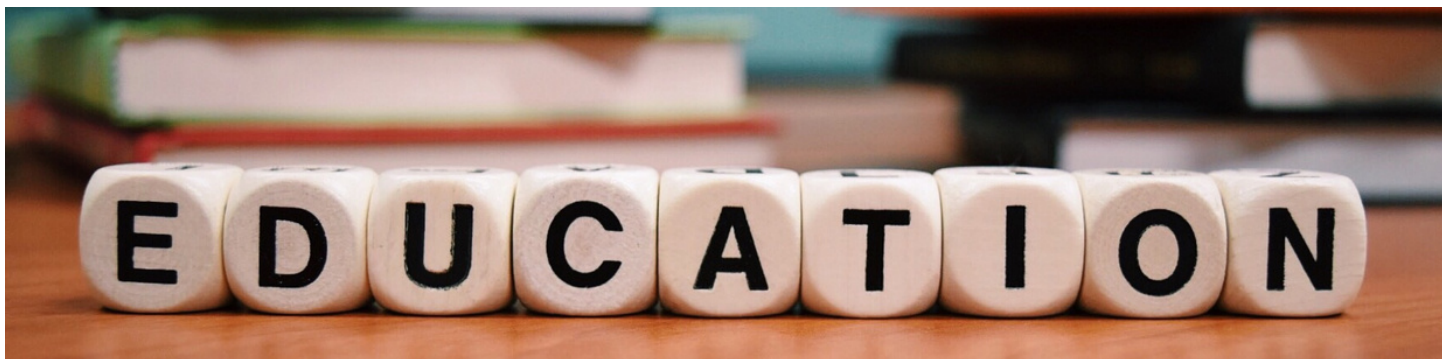
TARGET GROUP AND PARTICIPANTS

- Principals and administrative staff of VET schools and institutions;
- VET teachers and educators;
- VET students and parents;
- Employers and community.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES?

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the educational panorama of the world in a very short time. In the face of global school closures, all educational systems have faced striking challenges in moving from traditional methods of learning to online/distant teaching-learning environments. The pandemic has shown that the world is not ready to address such challenges efficiently and effectively. ADE project aims to contribute to maintaining the continuity of VET in the field of tourism by introducing digital VET opportunities. This will ensure that students get the most of their education and training and they are less affected by the crisis situation.





WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR?

Activities

National focus groups aiming to provide the current status review about the existing situation in partner countries related with the development of digital vocational education competencies

The Bulgarian focus group was organised on 27th January 2022 in Sofia and was attended by 12 people – teachers, trainers, school staff, and pedagogues. The focus group had 3-hours duration and was organised in the form of workshops and group discussions. The atmosphere was welcoming, friendly and positive and all participants were very active. During the event were created many fruitful discussions which led to interesting and concrete conclusions.

The majority of the participants stated that they didn't experience major difficulties adapting to online teaching in terms of technical knowledge and skills. However, many teachers shared that they faced other obstacles, for example lack of academic guidance and detailed action plan for transitioning the learning material from face to face to online environment. In the field of VET, especially when it comes to practical classes, there are very limited technical solutions and online tools to organize and support the learning process from distance. Despite the difficulties and challenges, all participants feel that the distance learning improved their knowledge and capabilities and made them more creative, resilient and flexible. Opinions of the focus group were unanimous in defining the need for specialized trainings for the acquisition and enhancement of specific digital skills focused at the use of educational digital tools. This would lead to more positives for their professional development as well as enriching the distance learning process and students' motivation.

All focus group participants are convinced that even after the end of the pandemic and full restoration of the face to face educational process, the digital transformation of education can no longer be reversed: educational activity will cease to be face-to-face or online and will become a mixture, able to move from one to the other immediately and fluidly, continuously, throughout the learning process. Thus, all participants in the educational process must adapt to this new reality and be able to effectively function in all kinds of environments.

All participants in the focus group confirmed that they will continue to embed digital solutions into the teaching-learning process, taking full advantage of the benefits of both types of education.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Basing on the results from the focus groups implemented in each partner country, the partners will continue their work on the core project products, namely: **Set of guides for digital vocational education in the tourism sector** - specifically tailored to the needs of principals, teachers, students and parents.

and the **Virtual ADE advisor** - an individualized space for improving digital qualifications and skills of the VET teachers.

The first product is aimed to convey all the relevant knowledge available now about digital vocational education as a free resource to the teachers and present it in a way that most of them would find accessible. It will consist of the following items:

1. **Physical and architectural challenges vs digital solutions** - *guide for vocational and technical school principals;*
2. **Breaking down qualification barriers in digital vocational teaching** - *guide for teachers of vocational and technical schools;*
3. **Social and cultural adaptation to into digital learning** - *guide for vocational and technical school students and their parents;*
4. **Bridging the gap-** *guide for stakeholders/labor market in VET in the field of tourism*

