



Hanse-Parlament



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*Management and Technologies of Water, Waste Water, Waste and Circular Economy
WWW&CE*

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Development of information, communication and cooperation instruments and procedures

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1 Summary of the Project

About 99 percent of all EU companies are SME, providing up to 70 percent of all jobs. Even though SME may have stable growth prospects, they are particularly well-



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positioned to solve pending environmental issues, and, thus, ensuring their growth in the sector of Green Economy. Nowadays, main hindrance to growth is a significant skills shortage across most sectors of the economy, while job vacancies in SME and overall unemployment and, in particular, youth unemployment, are steadily on the rise. Thanks to cooperation between educational institutions and industry, work-based learning has become a tool of choice in eliminating bottlenecks and has enabled conditions for further growth in innovative market segments.

In order to lastingly coordinate educational and skills requirements and to address skills shortage, higher education institutions, education and training providers and economic chambers from six countries have endeavoured to form an Alliance in the application areas of water, wastewater, waste treatment and circular economy. The Alliance is about to be extended to 13 countries and to include 68 education and labour market players. In the long term, it will continue assuming the leadership role of a centre of competence on “eco-innovation”.

This partnership shall develop tools, following work-based learning principles that will be implemented and evaluated:

- training program for strong learners in initial vocational training - 6 courses
- program of 6 further vocational training courses
- train-the-trainer program
- integrative program for unemployed clients
- Bachelor's degree program with 4 modules

These programs are about to convey sector-specific skills, in both, environmental technologies and management. Furthermore, three countries with predominantly school-based vocational training, will introduce dual education systems for initial, advanced and higher education.

All qualifications will be transferred to 11 project and 68 associated partners from 13 countries, who receive implementation advice. Extensive dissemination activities are carried out for free use of project outcomes by all interested parties.



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2 Overview: Skills Alliance

Establishment of a Skills Alliance "Management and Technologies of Water, Wastewater, Waste and Circular Economy" (WWW&CE) (further on: Alliance) with project partners from Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway and Poland and with relevant actors, e. g. chambers of commerce, industry and crafts, vocational training institutions, universities, public institutions, etc. The Alliance is founded at the beginning of the project, expanded to include other relevant institutions, systematically built up and further developed.

Partner 1 Hanse Parliament develops and coordinates the Alliance in cooperation with the project partners. In addition, Hanse Parliament develops and implements guidelines and tools for cooperation, and information dissemination, etc. The Alliance meets regularly, accompanies the entire project implementation in an advisory capacity and the individual members take part in project workshops and conferences. Various members of the Alliance are involved in certain project tasks.

The Lead Partner (LP) develops and ensures cross-border exchange of experience and information as well as cooperation. The LP also involves and informs the 68 transfer recipients and implementation partners from 13 countries who participate as associated partners in the implementation of the project.

By the end of the project, a BSR-wide competence centre "Eco Innovation" will be established, which will incorporate and continue the work of the Alliance. The following activities will be carried out in this context:

- Development and coordination of the concept for the Center of Competence (CoC) "Management and Technologies of Water, Wastewater, Waste and Circular Economy" (WWW&CE)
- Acquisition of universities as CoC partners
- Development and coordination of CoC organizational and working methods in cooperation with chambers and vocational training providers
- Development and coordination of management and business Plan of the CoC
- Establishment and start CoC activities



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3 Individual Activities of the Skills Alliance

3.1 Establishment

A Skills Alliance "Management and Technologies of Water, Wastewater, Waste and Circular Economy" (WWW&CE) will be established with various actors, some of whom are already involved in the project as associated partners.

Start: 01.02.2019

3.2 Additions and Expansion

During the project period, the Alliance will be expanded, and further relevant actors will be recruited so that 60 - 70 institutions will participate in the Alliance.

Implementation report: 31.05.2020

3.3 Cooperation and Information

Systematic development of Alliance as well as development and use of information and cooperation tools.

Start: 01.02.2019

Implementation report: 30.09.2019

3.4 Participation in the Project

Accompaniment of project implementation by the Alliance and participation of individual members in work packages 2 – 9.

3.5 International Cooperation

Under the leadership of Partner 1 Hanse Parliament, which ensures the cross-border exchange of information and experience as well as cooperation with 68 associated partners from 13 countries.

Report: 31.05.2020

3.6 Development Center of Competence

Further development of the Alliance into a BSR-wide Center of Competence (CoC) "Eco Innovation", which promotes long-term cooperation between educational and economic players, develops and implements qualifications and works on R&D tasks.

Implementation report: 30.11.2021



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4 Suggestions for Cooperation and Information Dissemination

4.1 Train the Trainer program

Implementation of a Train the Trainer program for the practical cooperation and qualification of Alliance Partners in the implementation of consultations and qualifications for SMEs.

- Development of Train the Trainer program by Partner 3 Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
Concept and Curriculum: 30.04.2020
Test 17. And 18.06.2020 in Vilnius
Implementation Report: 31.08.2020
- Evaluation of Train the Trainer Program by Partner 11 Satakunta University of Applied Sciences
Concept: 30.04.2020
Evaluation report: 31.08.2020

4.2 Evaluation work of the skills Alliance

Evaluation of the work of the Skills Alliance by Partner 11 Satakunta University of Applied Sciences

Concept: 30.11.2019

Evaluation report: 31.08.2021

4.3 Work Meetings

- Holding of an opening event
Opening event with presentation of the project, discussion of the aims and objectives of the Alliance, ensuring participation in individual project activities, agreements on further cooperation, collection of proposals for expansion of the Alliance, aims and objectives of international exchange, etc.
- Regular working meetings
Regular working meetings, during the project period at least every six months (a total of at least 5 - 6 working meetings).
- Bilateral cooperation



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Cooperation with the individual members of the Alliance will vary in intensity. The main purpose of the Alliance's working meetings is to coordinate and exchange information. Individual tasks will be dealt with on the initiative of Partner 1 Hanse Parliament within the framework of bilateral cooperation with individual members of the Alliance.

4.4 Participation in Individual Project Activities

Various members of the Alliance will take an active part in individual project tasks, in particular in the course of the following:

WP2 Analyses of economic development and education and labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region countries

- Evaluation and completion of existing studies on the development of economic, educational and labour markets of the BSR
- Analysis and implementation of surveys on qualification requirements and needs in the environmental sector of the project and identification of shortcomings

The following should be achieved: Creation of a uniform, sound data basis for the work of the Knowledge Alliance and for the activities of the project.

WP3 Implementation and realisation of Skills Alliance and establishment of Center of Competence (Eco Innovation)

In connection with the development of qualification measures (WPs 4 - 6) and activities to disseminate and use the project results (WP 9), ongoing work is being carried out to operate, consolidate and expand the Skills Alliance "Technologies and Management of Water, Waste Water, Waste and Cradle to Cradle". Work package 3 summarises the overarching tasks and in particular the work on the development and operation of the "Eco-Innovation" competence centre.

- Build-up, establishment, and ongoing operation of Alliance, which is formed by vocational training institutions, economic chambers and universities from seven countries and is expanded to include further educational stakeholders
- Development of information, communication and cooperation tools & procedures
- Information and acquisition of further partners
- Expansion of the Alliance to 13 countries by including 50 chambers of commerce, industry and crafts as well as 18 education institutions.



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- Transformation and continuation of the Alliance into a BSR-wide Center of Competence "Eco Innovation", which promotes long-term cooperation between educational and economic actors, develops and implements qualifications and handles R&D tasks.
- The following should be achieved:
 - a) Ongoing coordination between the courses offered by educational institutions and the requirements of the labour market;
 - b) Cooperation at regional and international level as well as constant exchange of experience and best practice transfer;
 - c) Joint realization of R&D tasks;
 - d) Ensuring permanent continuation of the Center of Competence
- Development, testing and evaluation of a Train the Trainer program for instructors of vocational trainings and teachers in higher education. The aim is to constantly provide a sufficient number of qualified teachers who are able to
 - a) conduct dual initial and vocational training as well as higher education in an appropriate manner, and
 - b) apply the pedagogical approach and coaching technique of the KAIN method.

WP4 Implementation and realisation of initial vocational training

Developing an education programme for the provision of sector-specific qualifications already during the initial vocational training for stronger learners (EQF levels 3 and 4). Implementation in the dual system, so that work-based learning is put into practice.

The partnership develops tools according to work-based learning principles that are piloted and evaluated. A training programme for strong learners in the initial vocational training with six courses:

- A Technologies in water supply
- B Technologies in water saving
- C Greywater and rainwater utilisation technologies
- D Decentralised wastewater treatment technologies
- E Fundamentals of the circular economy
- F Systemic solution-oriented consulting



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The following should be achieved:

Tested and evaluated curricula, materials, examination regulations, etc. for the provision of sector-specific additional qualifications already during the vocational training of stronger learners based on the dual training. Implementations are planned for at least two educational institutions from different countries during the project period.

WP5 Implementation and realisation of further vocational training⁴ Trainings

Development and implementation of a training programme (EQF level 4 and 5) for owners, managers and qualified workers of SMEs with six courses on management and technologies in water, waste water and waste management including cradle to cradle. The trainings are specifically tailored to SME needs and different qualification levels and combine the transfer of technical, professional and management know-how.

Development of an integration programme for the unemployed (EQF level 4) in order to be able to place the unemployed in permanent jobs through further training seminars and a further training qualification. Coordination of the programme with training providers, SMEs and employment services.

Development, testing, evaluation and implementation of six further vocational training courses.

- A Preparation and management of SMEs for work in the Green Economy
- B Waste reduction and recycling management
- C Wastewater, treatment and recycling management
- D Water supply and saving
- E Cradle to Cradle in SMEs
- F Energy generation from wastewater and waste

The following should be achieved:

- a) Tested and evaluated curricula and teaching materials for six different further training courses for the target groups "Entrepreneurs, managers and specialists in SMEs" to impart competences and skills on management and technologies in water, wastewater and waste management as well as on Cradle to Cradle. During the project, implementations will be carried out at least in three educational institutions in different countries.
- b) Realization integration programme for the unemployed.



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- c) Qualification of employees of SMEs to increase their capacities for work in the Green Economy.
- d) Development and implementation of Innovation projects in the Green Economy in SMEs.

WP6 Implementation and realisation of higher education

Development of four study modules (EQF level 6) on SME management and technologies in water, wastewater, waste and environmental services, which will be carried out in the dual study system and integrated into existing Bachelor degree programmes.

Development, testing, evaluation and implementation of four modules.

- A Management & Technologies of the Water and Waste water industry
- B Waste Management & Technologies
- C Management & technologies of the circular economy
- D Management of sustainable economic activity

The following should be achieved:

- a) Four tested and evaluated curricula for study modules on SME management and technologies in the water, wastewater, waste and environmental service sector, which are conducted in the dual study system and integrated into existing Bachelor's degree programmes. The project will be implemented at least in one university.
- b) High-quality qualification of young entrepreneurs and managers (EQF Level 6).
- c) Attraction of much needed junior staff for SMEs.
- d) Solutions for manageable R&D tasks of SMEs. Specific R&D tasks are carried out for SMEs participating in the dual Bachelor's degree programmes in connection with the testing of the study modules of students in the SME sector.

WP9 Dissemination and use of the project results

Transfer of all education measure to 68 economic chambers and educational institutions in 13 countries and demand-oriented implementation consultations as well as realization of a bundle of measures for further dissemination.

The following should be achieved:

- a) Transfer of all educational measures to 68 educational institutions in 13 countries and needs-oriented implementation consultations as well as



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realization of a bundle of measures for further dissemination of the project results.

- b) Broad transfer and use of project results in 13 countries.
- c) Comprehensive dissemination of project results at international level.
- d) Ensuring the maintenance and further development of results and the sustainable continuation of work through the secretariat and network of Partner 1 Hanse-Parlament.

4.5 Written Exchange of Information

- Publication of a newsletter or electronic / written information on current project developments, interim results, developments in other project countries etc. at least every three months.
- Sending drafts of outputs (products) with a request for comments.
- Sending of all finished outputs (products).
- Book with all results of the project and distribution via book trade.

4.6 Participation in Workshops, Conferences and Tests

- Invitation and participation in project workshops and conferences that take place in the respective region.
- Participation as speakers at conferences.
- Invitation and participation in Train the Trainer course.
- Invitation as an observer at tests of education measures in the respective region.

4.7 International Exchange

- Invitation of members of the Hanse-Parlament and Baltic Sea Academy from the region to working meetings of the Alliance.
- Exchange of information and experience within the framework of conferences.
- Publication of at least 3 newsletters by Partner 1 Hanse-Parlament.
- Ongoing communication of questions, wishes, needs etc. for international exchange to Partner 1 Hanse-Parlament.