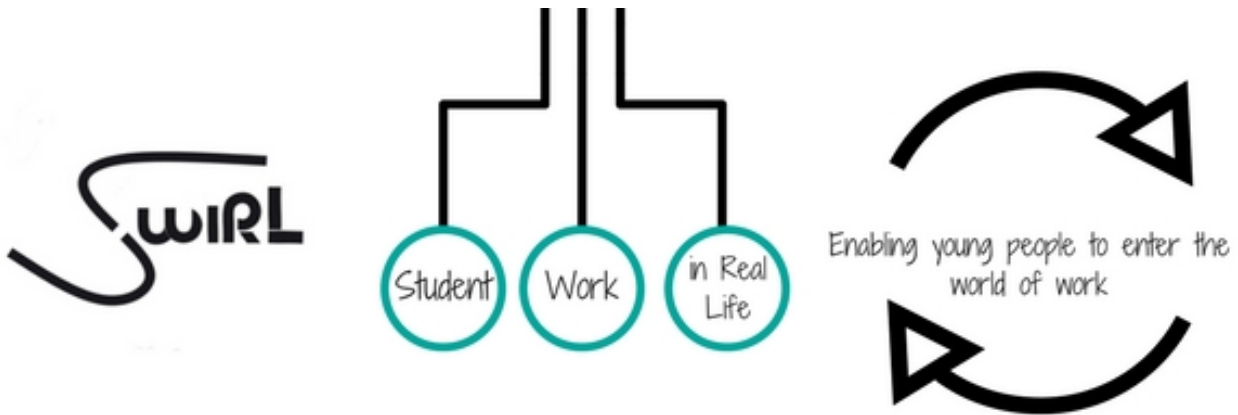


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Issue #6

December 2020

www.studentinitiated.eu

**Dear reader,
Welcome to SWIRL project**



If you have received our previous SWIRL newsletter, then you might know that SWIRL aims to enhance the development of teaching and learning methods and contents, to ensure students gain appropriate competences for future working life and make learning more attractive. SWIRL supports new forms of working through new forms of learning: letting VET students collect, execute and present real-job tasks using the latest pedagogical and digital tools.

SWIRL Online platform & Community

Take the opportunity to increase your VET knowledge and skills through project's platform and training material! The **platform** and the **educational materials** are available [here!](#)

Connect

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a slide titled "Content of the training material" lists six modules in a vertical stack:

- Module 1: Engaging / activating your network
- Module 2: Contacting the employers
- Module 3: Defining the Company Assignment
- Module 4: Executing the company assignment
- Module 5: Presentation of the company assignment
- Module 6: Maintaining the network

On the right side of the screen, there is a grid of video thumbnails for participants. The names of the participants visible are: Udo Lut, Valentina Charina, Maria Dakoura, Tanja Rajala, and Sheila Larrabaster. The thumbnails for Valentina Charina and Maria Dakoura show a presentation slide with the SWIRL logo and the text "Learning methods in VET College business network".

Learning methods in VET College business network: SWIRL final event

EfVET, Belgium

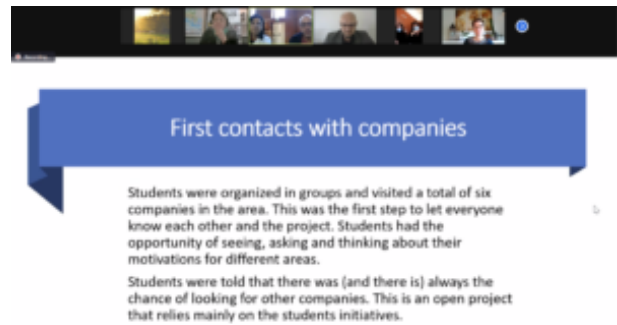
During EfVET Roundtables organised at the margin of the EfVET Conference, the multiplier event of the project SWIRL was held under the title "Learning methods in VET College business network" and organised by EfVET in support of SWIRL partners on Thursday 19 November 2020.

The main goal of this event was to introduce the three main products of SWIRL project and the process of online platform and community, company handbook, student learning materials.

The three years funded project started in September 2017 coordinated by SEDU College (Finland) and counted with partners from Sichting Business Development Friesland (The Netherlands), Agrupamento de Escolas José Estevão (Portugal), Institute of Entrepreneurship Development IED (Greece), C4G Consulting and Training Network (Portugal), Bridging to the Future (UK) and EfVET (Belgium). The partnership focused on the new developments require a good match between the demands of the labour market and the skills and number of employees. Therefore, VET schools are expected to play a vast role in equipping individuals with skills, competences, and knowledge required by today's business.

very necessary to empower students:

- Educate students to take initiative and investigate the opportunities in their own networks
- Enable students develop networking skills and an entrepreneurial mindset



- Boost their self-esteem and professional identity
- Increase employability.

The second presentation made by Maria Dalakoura (IED) was about student learning materials. The aim of the student learning materials was to:

- Collect company assignment with companies
- Carry out an assignment for a company
- Present the assignment to the company

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The SWIRL Multiplier event on the 25th of

Event to present and share the Project IO's and also share the good practices and opportunities the project has for the students, teachers, and employers. So, we invited students and teachers from three different schools of Aveiro District – Agrupamento de Escolas de Eixo; Escola Profissional de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural de Vagos, and Instituto Profissional da Bairrada. We also invited several organisations: The Municipality representative, businessmen and women; also, the responsible for the Aveiro's Industrial Association and the Chamber of Industry of the Region; teachers and students from our Cluster of schools; different partners from other projects; as well as the local and regional newspaper.

The event was organised as a live event (on-site event) which was directly transmitted from our Auditorium respecting all the security rules (online event). All in all, we have more than 120 persons assisting and participating in the live event, under this Program:

14.30 - 14.45: Reception of guests

14.45: Intervention by the Project Coordinator - **Tanja Rayala**

14.50 - 15.05: Intervention by the Aveiro City Council - **Dr. Rogerio Carlos**

15.20: Intervention by Partner **Gonçalo Leandro** - Way of Arts

15:30: Intervention by businessman **Nuno Tróia**

15:45: General presentation of the SWIRL Project methodology - **Glória Leite**

16:00: General presentation of the intellectual outputs generated by the Project - **José Carlos Catarino**

16:10: Give Voice to the students involved:

- **Margarida and Genéve** - 3rd year students of the Professional Furniture Design Course

- **Rui Rocha and Tomás Sacramento** - 3rd year students of the Professional Sports Course

16.40: Time for the intervention of the guests - in person and online:

- Doubts and exchange of experience

- Intervention by the entrepreneur **Vitor Condeço**

- Share of some projects under SWIRL methodology by businessman **Pedro Mortágua**

- Speech by AIDA responsible **Dr. Elisabete Rita**

17:00: Closing - Director of the **Dr. Fernando Delgado** - From ideas to Projects, what makes us dream...

17.15: Aveiro of Honor

The students stayed at their schools assisting the event and then discussed it with the teachers who were with them. They were given the good opportunity to listen from their colleagues how they developed this project in practice, the difficulties, the challenges, and the good experiences they face. The responsible for the Aveiro's Industrial Association and the Chamber of Industry of the Region made a special intervention on the event that

gave special emphasis on this Project, mainly regarding the importance of the links and bridges that students and schools can construct together with the companies and industries. By the time of the Multiplier Event she also invited our Cluster of Schools to join another project and it was a special moment.

The event was recording for future purposes. It was a great afternoon!



SWIRL –hanke: Työelämän TosiDuunit osaksi opintoja

Tanja Rajala
SEDU



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SWIRL project - Real assignments from working life Virtual Multiplier Event, Sedu in collaboration with Opinlakeus

SWIRL project's virtual multiplier event was organised by Sedu in collaboration with Opinlakeus network of educational institutions of South Ostrobothnia on Thursday the 8th of October 2020. The multiplier event was held under the title "SWIRL project - Real assignments from working life to as part of studies". The main goal of this event was to introduce the main products of SWIRL project and give an example about student's assignment supported by the teacher.

In this event project's coordinator Tanja Rajala introduced project results and its background and aims. Tanja mentioned that is very important to involve teachers to support students to achieve needed skills and that it is necessary to empower students. Tanja showed the modules for students and told that all the materials can be found from the project's website, which she also introduced for the participants. She highlighted also that the website is

involved in the project shared her experiences and thoughts about the piloting project's products and told about company assignments done during the project. She found these materials very useful for teachers and especially for students. Teacher interviewed a student, who presented a real case about company assignment. He told that he learned during this process about project management and telecommuting. He thought that it would be very useful to have more different kind of project assignments during students' studies. In addition, teacher told greetings from one of the company representatives. She thought that this kind of cooperation between companies and education providers is very useful for all parties. She thought that inexperienced students have a lot of potential, teachers and company representatives just have to find it!

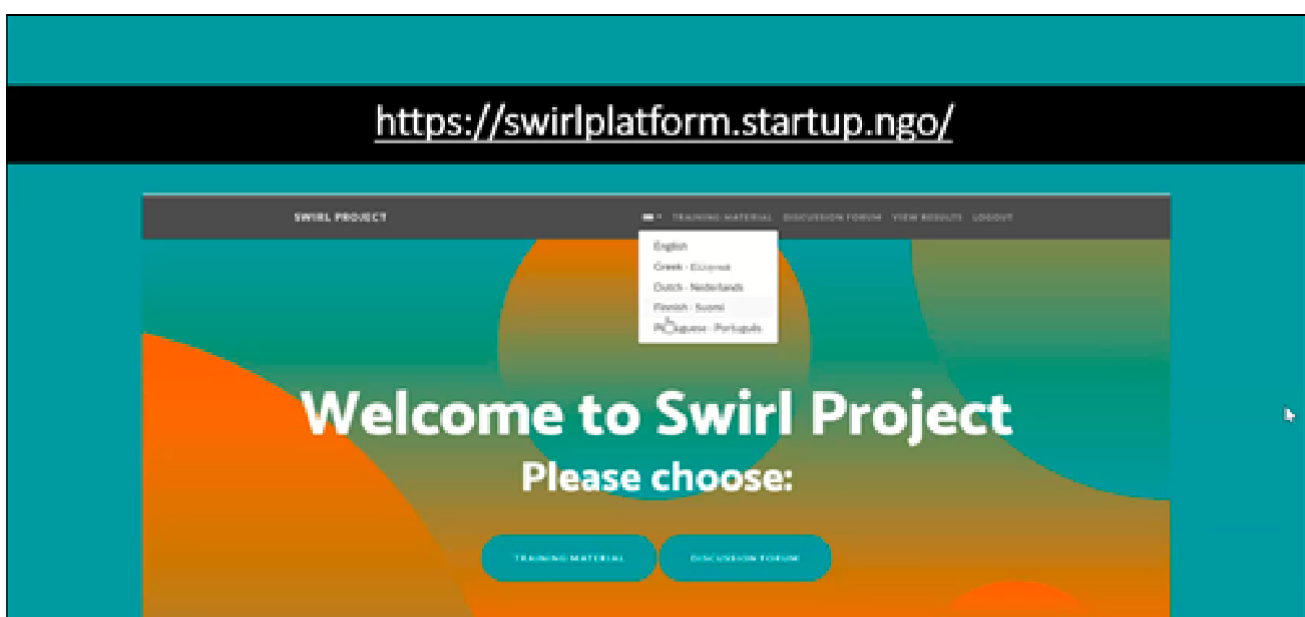
The recording of the event can be found

The UK national multiplier event

Bridging to the Future, UK

On Friday December 4th, Bridging to the Future hosted the UK multiplier event for the SWIRL project. 27 students and teachers gathered virtually on zoom to partake in a two hour event that introduced the projects outputs to the participants, and provided ideas with regards to how the outputs could be implemented in the day to day work of the different target groups. Students from King Edwards VI Five Ways school were invited because of the schools emphasis of the students sourcing their own work experience, and the importance that is placed on the work experience found. It is recognised by King Edwards VI Five Ways that having suitable work experience will help considerably when attempting to apply to university, and transferring to the world of work. The pedagogical teacher guide was shared with the participants and the materials were discussed in depth.

The student learning materials were also shared, with the modules being broken down for the target group, and their relevance to the students being outlined. The students and teachers were both very satisfied with the online event, with the resources being shared of interest to both main target groups, due to the ample content included and discussed to maintain a high level of engagement of all of the target groups present. Particular highlights of the event were the pedagogical guide and the activities shared from it, and the discussion of the student learning materials and the importance of each module. The students were very intrigued and thankful for being included within the multiplier event being as they currently have to source their own work experience, something that can be very difficult. They now hope that the resources provided may make this easier for them, and therefore improve their career outlook for the future.



The Greek national multiplier event took place on Tuesday 8th December 2020. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, it was held online through the MS teams app. The event gathered around 240 attendants, most of them among the ages of 18-22 years old, as well as teachers, educators, professors, and regional organisations attending.

The interest that the participants showed during the launch of the event was very satisfying, as many of them got engaged directly with the [platform](#) of the project, which verifies also the high quality that the event managed to reach.



Greece: responses to the COVID-19 outbreak

Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Greece

Greece has met the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic efficiently. Authorities have not only taken all the necessary measures to contain the spread of the virus, but they have also excelled in superb communication management since day one, building social trust and persuading citizens to embrace the imposed measures.

On 10 March, with 89 confirmed cases and no deaths in the country, the government, in cooperation with the [Greek National Public Health Organisation](#), decided to [suspend the operation of education institutions at all levels nationwide](#). As a response to the challenge imposed by school closures, [the education ministry launched digital tools](#) enabling distance learning and a specific [web portal](#) providing information for education and training programmes at all levels.

Priority was given to the implementation of distance learning in the last year of upper secondary education programmes. However, all learners in primary, secondary (including VET), post-secondary and tertiary education had access to distance learning. Learners at post-secondary vocational training programmes could follow 95% of the courses in this way.

Supporting learners, teachers and trainers

In the two-month period of the lockdown, teachers and trainers were supported both technically by the central technical team based at the education ministry and pedagogically through short-term training sessions in digital skills.

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