

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

of Vocational Educational  
Training and Innovation in  
Cyprus, Ireland, Portugal,  
and Romania

## Summary Report

Prepared by EUC

Project Number:  
562126-EPP-1-2015-1-IE-EPPKA3-P1-Forward

# Aims of this report

The main aim of this short summary report aims to provide the key outcomes per stage in relation to the project outcome and scope. The European University Cyprus was in charge of creating a comparative analysis throughout the creation and implementation of the innovation ecosystems created in all pilot states. A series of four comparative analysis were created and are available in the project website (<https://www.innovationecosystems.eu/>).

## Overview

The role of the European University Cyprus under the intellectual output 1 and the intellectual output 8 is to draft comparative analysis reports in regular intervals addressing similarities and differences within the partner countries assessing the local circumstances and the impact, both positive and negative, on the project development process. These brief comparative analyses will be available online and compiled into a coherent document at the end of the project lifecycle. The findings of the comparative analyses will be useful tools in supporting the policy development of VET in the European sphere.

## Comparative Analysis 1 – VET Systems & Structures

The first report sought to establish the benchmark of each partner country in order to ensure that the specific and local contexts are understood and that innovation actions are coherent with local and regional economic development strategies. In order to construct this report, a mixed method questionnaire was completed for each nation participating in the project with the results collected and analysed.

We find great differences in VET systems and structures but similar concerns especially in terms of negative perceptions of VET in society and skills mismatch, as well as concerns over the quality of further education of VET staff. This analysis is corroborated by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP). The report also indicates best practices in terms of systems at both the EU and national level.

## Comparative Analysis 2 – Multi-stakeholder Knowledge Partnerships

The second comparative analysis report is a comparative analysis of the proposed Multi-Stakeholder Knowledge Partnerships (MSKP) in each partner country addressing issues such as who the participants are, what sectors they represent, how the partnership functions, etc. This report contextualised the development of the proposed partnerships, to support both, innovation within VET in partner countries as well as the attempts made to bring the worlds of business and education closer together. The report placed an important role in the policy-learning process and the eventual framework for the creation of the skunk works, especially considering that the MSKPs have outgrown their original purpose and have been transformed to also serve as local advisory boards, adding value to their role and to the overall project.

The MSKPs have evolved through the process of the innovation ecosystems into an integral part of the efforts to combat key issues in VET through the evolution of members of the MSKP into the pilot skunkworks projects.

## Comparative Analysis 3 – Skunk Works Frameworks

The aim of the third comparative report was to provide a comparative analysis of the proposed skunk works frameworks in each partner country, comparing and contrasting attitudes to the innovation process and to how the frameworks function in each partner country. The report also contextualized the development of skunk works frameworks to support innovation within VET in partner countries playing also an important role in the policy-learning process.

It is noteworthy that all pilot skunkworks tried to tackle issues that were similar and evolved to knowledge transfer skunkworks. Through the comparisons of the skunkworks projects with each other, the local skunkworks deliverables followed local frameworks but tackled similar issues.

## Comparative Analysis 4- Evaluation and Cost Benefit Analysis

The fourth comparative analysis report entitled “Evaluation and Cost Analysis” refers to a blueprint of the development, implementation, evaluation and cost benefit analysis framework for the innovation as has been developed within the project. It is a natural continuation from the previous (first, second and third) comparative analysis reports, which are both available at the website of the project, and aims to contribute an important role in the policy-learning process. In Addition, the fourth comparative report enhance the best practices at local ecosystems in VET system and contributing towards an pan European methodology, that base on train the trainer, improving the local MSKP and provide solutions on real problems through skunkworks.

We find the innovation ecosystems are cost efficient and accrue subnational benefit over time. The three axis of additional training for VET trainers in intrapreneurship, the Multi-Stakeholders Knowledge Partnerships and the Skunkworks pilot teams and skunkworks projects allow European issues to be resolved in local concepts.

## Concluding Remarks

The overall concern of the project in to create innovation ecosystems in VET in four chosen nation states. The comparative analysis indicates that best practice can be transferred across different localized ecosystems. The involved of different partners from different levels, approaches, and ways of operation with cultural and environmental parameters have achieved the general aims of the project through constant comparison, communication and peer review. A key lesson learn from such a project, is that when real problems need solutions, dedication is vital and innovation is necessity.



innoventum



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

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication and all its contents reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein