

## A2.1.

### **Developing skills and competences of teachers working in the lifelong learning sector: challenges for the new decade.**

Rob Mark<sup>1</sup>, Lenita Hietanen<sup>2</sup>, Helena Tompuri<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom,* <sup>2</sup>*University of Lapland, Lapland, Finland*

The Lisbon European Council (2000) first highlighted the need for the European Union to face up to new challenges in adapting to globalisation and in the shift towards knowledge based economies. It stressed that every citizen must be equipped with the skills needed to live and work in this new information society.

In the past decade, a number of policy frameworks have been put forward to meet these new challenges. In 2000, The Memorandum on Lifelong Learning launched a European-wide debate on a comprehensive strategy for implementing lifelong learning and later the European Commission's policy document Key Competences for Lifelong Learning (2006) outlined eight key competences needed to live and work in the new knowledge-based society.

The EVETE project was just one of a number of projects funded in the first decade of the new millennium to examine new ways of meeting challenges through innovation in teaching and learning. Commencing in 2005, The EVETE project (Empowerment of Vocational Education and Training through e-learning) set out to provide teachers with the skills and knowledge for developing an innovative curriculum for teachers of adults working in the vocational sector using technology-enhanced learning and funded under the Leonardo da Vinci vocational education and training programme.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the project, there was a focus on providing teachers and trainers in vocational education and training (VET) organisations with knowledge, understanding and competencies for diversification in the delivery of training. The project developed a range of online modules on topics in areas such as competence assessment, course design, and evaluating and measuring the quality of distance education. As a consequence of the success of the project, the European Commission extended funding for a further two years to 2009.

In the second phase, the project members examined and researched how teacher programmes were supporting the development of key competences in the countries involved in the project (UK, Finland, Lithuania, Hungary, Greece & Iceland) and then later went on to develop learning units to support teachers in the development of key competences for lifelong learning.

This workshop, will examine and discuss some of the key findings of the EVETE project. The project has highlighted the importance of new skills such as distance learning, social networking, methods and tools for collaborative e-learning and entrepreneurial skills and how these can contribute to learner motivation and success. The workshop will demonstrate the importance of developing skills and competences which can empower teachers and tutors in the lifelong learning sector in the new decade. The workshop will focus on examples which will include the development of entrepreneurial readiness and the value of promoting collaborative and reflective practices in adult teaching and learning.