



HINTS

High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations

FIRST INTERIM REPORT

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High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations

Version History

Revision	Date	Author/Organization	Description
1 st	19.07.2024	ISIM Timisoara	First interim project report
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Table of Contents

1. Project Summary	3
2. Deliverables	4
D1.1: First Interim project Report (current document)	4
D1.3: Quality Management Plan	4
D2.1 Curriculum and guidelines on digital training and green technologies.....	6
D5.1 Project website	7
3. Implementation status of ongoing activities.....	8
D2.2 Educational material on digital training and green technologies.....	8
D3.1 Collaborative IT platform.....	8
D4.1 Quality assurance procedure for trainings	10
D4.2 Report on new infrastructure of VET provider from Western Balkans and Southern Mediterranean countries.....	11
4. Critical Risks	11
5. Dissemination activities.....	13
6. Communication Activities	15
7. Events and Trainings	17
8. Financial support to 3rd parties	17



1. Project Summary

The HINTS project (High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations) is dedicated to improving the quality and responsiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the Western Balkans and the South Mediterranean countries. Its aim is to align with current social development strategies for the transition to a green and digital economy.

The main activities and results of the project include:

- Providing policy materials and innovative educational materials;
- Developing a transnational IT platform for the exchange of best practices;
- Organizing training programs and dissemination events;
- Supporting the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms and e-learning systems in participating VET institutions.

The estimated impact of the HINTS project is manifested on several levels, including:

- **Scientific impact:** Improving the exchange of skills and knowledge between VET teachers and trainers, with European partners acting as innovation providers;
- **Economic impact:** Developing cost-effective solutions for the VET provider-industry ecosystem, allowing companies and SMEs to access qualified specialists and innovative training through a transnational IT platform;
- **Societal impact:** Advancing efforts towards a digital and green industry, contributing to a cleaner environment and promoting social and intercultural skills in VET.

In this context, the HINTS project creates skills ecosystems and fosters local innovation in VET to support the transition to a green economy, facilitating international collaboration to address societal challenges.



2. Deliverables

In the first 6 months of project implementation the following deliverables were achieved, described below:

D1.1: First Interim project Report (current document)

The report includes the results achieved so far, as well as the implementation status of the activities, actions and events organised within the project.

D1.3: Quality Management Plan

The Quality Management Plan (QMP) for the HINTS project is a comprehensive document that outlines the strategies, processes, and procedures to be implemented for ensuring the consistent delivery of high-quality project outputs and outcomes. The key aspects included in the QMP are as follows:

1. **Quality Management Structure:** The QMP establishes a clear quality management framework, including the roles and responsibilities of the Quality Manager, Quality Assurance Team, and Quality Review Board. This structure ensures the integration of quality throughout the project implementation.
2. **Applicable Quality Standards:** The project will adhere to the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard for quality management systems. Compliance with this standard will be monitored through internal and external quality audits.
3. **Quality Planning:** The QMP details the processes for defining quality requirements, setting quality objectives, and planning quality assurance and control activities. This includes identifying stakeholder quality expectations and translating them into measurable project requirements.
4. **Quality Assurance:** The project will implement quality assurance processes, such as a documented Quality Management System, internal quality audits, and continuous improvement initiatives, to provide confidence that the quality requirements will be met.
5. **Quality Control:** The QMP establishes key performance indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and measure the project's quality performance. It also outlines the use of statistical quality control



- techniques and tools, such as feedback systems and risk management, to prevent and address quality issues.
6. **Quality Improvement:** The plan describes the strategies for identifying opportunities for quality enhancement, such as process and results analysis, stakeholder feedback, and brainstorming. It also details the development of quality improvement action plans to drive continuous improvements.
 7. **Communication and Documentation:** The QMP defines the procedures for managing quality-related documentation, as well as the internal and external communication plan to ensure effective information sharing regarding quality-related matters.
 8. **Quality Auditing:** The plan outlines the scheduling and execution of internal and external quality audits, as well as the procedures for reporting and addressing the audit findings.
 9. **Management Review:** The QMP establishes a formal management review process to periodically assess the effectiveness of the quality management system and identify areas for improvement.

By implementing the processes and procedures detailed in the Quality Management Plan, the HINTS project aims to consistently deliver high-quality outputs and outcomes that meet or exceed the expectations of stakeholders.

The Quality Management Plan (QMP) was meticulously reviewed by the project partners to ensure it meets the highest standards of quality assurance.

Activities involved:

- **Document analysis:** examining the QMP document for completeness and accuracy;
- **Process evaluation:** assessing the quality assurance processes and methodologies outlined in the plan;
- **Compliance check:** ensuring that the plan complies with relevant standards and regulations.

After successive revisions the QMP was presented, discussed and endorsed at the working meeting in Madrid.



D2.1 Curriculum and guidelines on digital training and green technologies

The guidelines and curriculum are regulatory documents that record the essential data on the educational processes and learning experiences that the trainer provides to the learner. The organisation of the educational process is also presented, covering all the educational processes, learning experiences and pathways that learners go through to obtain a specific qualification. The documents were prepared in English in pdf format.

A survey was developed to collect data on VET partners' specific needs, preferences and expectations for digital and green technologies training courses and comparative analysis of the results was carried out.

The next steps were the definition of clear and measurable learning objectives and outcomes based on the needs assessment, the elaboration of the course structure and content designs, including modules, topics and sequencing, as well as the definition of the teaching design plan and the teaching materials to be developed.

The courses are designed for teachers, VET trainers and specialists with EQF level 5 technical qualifications.

The guidelines include the general access requirements, the target professional profile of the learners, and a description of the e-learning tools that will be used to enhance the accessibility and interactivity of the course. According to the guidelines prepared, the courses adopt a modular, competency-based learning approach, emphasizing learner autonomy and responsibility in the learning process. Learners' assessment will be carried out through written and practical examinations, upon completion of each Competence Unit (CU), using appropriate digital assessment formats, such as multiple-choice questions.

To be eligible for the examination, learners must demonstrate at least 80% attendance. Passing the examination requires obtaining at least 60% of the maximum possible score. Learners who fail to pass a Competence Unit on the first attempt will be allowed to take re-examinations, but if they fail three times, they will have to retake the entire unit, including the corresponding course.



The guideline for the Green Industries Course, is designed to provide learners with the knowledge and skills to understand and apply the principles and practices of green education for industries, such as sustainable manufacturing, sustainable construction, and innovative technologies for supporting the transition to a green economy.

The guideline on Digital training aims to provide learners with the knowledge and skills to effectively use and implement digital tools in their teaching contexts. It covers topics such as digital competence, gamification, educational innovation, and digital learning spaces/systems/AI.

Also, the guidelines present the details of the examination and qualification planning, scheduling, administration, execution, processes, and evaluation. Trainees who successfully pass the examinations are expected to be able to apply the achieved learning outcomes at a level in line with the EQF level 5 qualification.

After the preparation of the draft documents by CESOL and Helixconnect Europe, feedback was collected from the partners to identify strengths and areas for improvement of the curricula. The review of the guidelines and curricula was a very important task aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of our training programs. The process involved:

- Content evaluation: assessing the relevance and accuracy of the training materials to ensure they meet current industry standards;
- Pedagogical analysis: reviewing the instructional design to confirm that it facilitates optimal learning experiences;
- Technology integration: evaluating the use of digital tools and platforms to enhance interactive learning.

Improved versions of these documents were uploaded into project SharePoint, presented, discussed and endorsed at the partners meeting in Madrid.

D5.1 Project website

The Web page (www.hintsproject.eu) is presenting the project and the partners involved in the implementation of activities and actions related to it. It



advertises the events organised and presents the results achieved. Webpage was prepared in English and it contains the following menus:

Home: it provides an overview of the project and its purpose. It has several sub- menus (Research & Discover, Planning, Develop Solutions & Innovate, Approve & Implement);

About: it details the project objectives and the expected impact, work packages and partner involvement in their implementation, as well as the key elements that emphasize the innovative nature of the project;

Newsfeed: includes regular updates and announcements about the project progress and upcoming events;

Results: the public project results are detailed, which include the main deliverables, as well as the materials used to disseminate them, such as: press releases, posters, flyers and other dissemination materials generated;

Consortium: presentation of project partners;

Contact: collection of useful information to get in touch with the project team, including website e-mail addresses, social media (Facebook and LinkedIn project page).

3. Implementation status of ongoing activities

D2.2 Educational material on digital training and green technologies

The partners have shared the tasks between them, i.e. the course chapters within the competence units to be developed. This deliverable is being implemented. The educational materials are being prepared in English (text and ppt format).

D3.1 Collaborative IT platform

For the realization of the platform a specific methodology has been adopted which includes the following steps.



Step 1: Research activities on innovative collaborative IT platforms. During this phase, the partners carried out research activities to identify new trends in the field, best practices, in order to develop specific requirements for the features and functionalities of the platform. The IT platform will be developed in English and should be accessible from PC, tablet or phone. It will serve as a trans-national collaboration between teachers, trainers and industry stakeholders, as well as for the dissemination of new knowledge in the project field.

Step 2: Development of platform requirements and functionality (draft version)

Based on the collected data, a draft document on the requirements and functionalities of the platform has been developed. The document presents details about the specifications and features of the HintsHub.eu platform, which is an innovative digital ecosystem designed to redefine the way individuals and organizations collaborate, share knowledge, and communicate. The key points from this document include:

1. Introduction: HintsHub.eu will be a user-oriented platform that addresses the evolving needs for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and communication, particularly in the context of accelerating technological progress and the increasing demand for remote and flexible work environments;
2. Research on collaboration platforms: The platform will support Mass Collaborative Innovation (MCI) and Collaborative Innovation Capability (CIC), offering adaptable and user-centric approaches to access control and collaboration. Digital platforms can have a significant impact on CIC, being essential for competitive performance in uncertain environments;
3. Division of work: The process of creating the platform is structured into steps, including research activities, development of requirements and functionalities, implementation, testing, and continuous improvement;
4. HintsHub.eu features: The platform will offer features such as document sharing and collaboration, a knowledge base and wikis, communication tools, access controls and permissions, integration with other



educational tools, mobile accessibility, and security and compliance measures;

5. Technical specifications: HintsHub.eu will have a WordPress landing page, a server with allocated storage space and computing resources, and will be accessible from desktop, laptop, smartphone, and tablet devices.

Step 3: Finalize the requirements and functionality of the collaborative IT platform.

The elaborated document was circulated among partners and discussed during the working meeting in Madrid. On the basis of the comments and additional information, Helixconnect Europe will draft the final version of the document, which will describe in more detail all the functionalities of the platform and how to use it. Following consensus, the final document will be endorsed by the partners (step 4).

Based on this document the platform will be implemented, tested and continuously improved based on user feedback.

In this context, the actions performed during the first 6 months of the project implementation included:

- **Platform specification draft document:** Created and circulated within the consortium for feedback, leading to iterative updates.
- **Platform name poll and Domain purchase:** Conducted to select an appropriate name for the platform and secure its online presence.
- **Platform initial version launch:** Successfully launched the landing page of the IT collaborative platform at <https://hintshub.eu/>.

D4.1 Quality assurance procedure for trainings

In order to support education and training providers in the Western Balkan and Southern Mediterranean countries to implement adequate operational procedures for the learning process, to implement an adequate quality assurance mechanism in the Western Balkan and Southern Mediterranean countries and to align them with regional, European or international strategies,



in the first months of project implementation, partners analysed the specific requirements to prepare the content of the quality assurance procedure for training.

This document is under development and includes at least the following: purpose, scope, reference documents, definitions and abbreviations, description of the activity/process, responsibilities, sample forms and other annexes. The document is produced in English in pdf format.

D4.2 Report on new infrastructure of VET provider from Western Balkans and Southern Mediterranean countries

The report contains information on the new infrastructure purchased by the VET provider from Western Balkans and Southern Mediterranean countries. Document done in English, in pdf format.

4. Critical Risks

During the first 6 month of the HINTS project implementation there are no unforeseen critical risks. However, some risks could have had an impact on the evolution of the project if specific mitigation measures had not been taken in time. The following table presents the risks related to the activities implemented in the first 6 months of the project, risks taken into account in the elaboration of the project proposal, as well as the specific measures to mitigate the impact.

Risk No	Description	Work package No	Risk-mitigation measures
1	Partners not providing the data required for interim reporting on time <i>(Likelihood: low Impact: high)</i>	WP1	To prevent this risk, the project coordinator organized online meetings and kept in touch with the partners by e-mail as well as through a virtual space (SharePoint), intended for sharing project working documents. Partners have been informed in advance about the project budget broken down by work packages, the forms for financial reporting and the fact that the budget spent has to be related to the activities implemented. In this sense, each partner made a technical report on the implemented activities. In order to finalize the deliverables and their approval, a face-to-face working meeting was organized with the partners, a few days before the deadline for the submission of the deliverables related to the first 6 months.



2	Some partners cannot attend scheduled meetings (Likelihood: medium Impact: low)	WP1	This risk occurred as some of the partners required travel visas to attend the project meetings organized in Europe. Some of them were refused visas or they could not obtain visa on time, given the legal processing time for documents. In order to minimize the effects of this risk, the meetings were organized in a blended system (face-to-face and online). The documents presented and discussed at the meetings were made available to all partners via SharePoint.
3	Some partners for various reasons cannot meet their agreed indicators (Likelihood: low Impact: high)	WP1	This risk did not manifest itself, but we were prepared for it. As the responsibility for the implementation of the project is seen as a whole, the other partners have to strive to correct this so that the overall result is in line with the project proposal. In this case, means will be sought by which the extra effort and related activities can be rewarded.
4	The difficulty of harmonising priorities to integrate them into a common curriculum and innovative guidelines, due to the diversity of ecosystems (Likelihood: high Impact: high)	WP2	This risk did not occur because specific mitigation measures were taken. Thus, surveys assessing the specific needs in the partner countries were prepared in advance. All results have been evaluated and, on their basis, the common curricula have been developed.
5	Low involvement of some partners in the development of high-quality educational materials (Likelihood: medium Impact: high)	WP2	This risk has not arisen since the development of educational materials is still in its beginning stages. However, the measure to mitigate this risk is increasing the number of online meetings with partners and interim verification of the fulfilment of assigned tasks and the quality of deliverables according to QMP. If major problems arise, transfer tasks to other partners (with appropriate budgetary transfer). The same procedure will be done in case of financial issues or major force, when one of the project partners is impossible to continue activities within the project.
6	There are few teachers / trainers / experts staff willing to attend courses (Likelihood: medium Impact: high)	WP2	This risk has not arisen since this activity not started yet. However, the measure to mitigate this risk is to raise awareness by using channels to promote the courses in virtual media (social media platforms, project website), advertisements, add and within the beneficiaries' own network. Organizing webinars for potential course attendees to help increase their willingness to participate in such courses.
7	Developing overly complex IT tools that hinder user engagement. (Likelihood: medium Impact: high)	WP3	This risk did not arise due to the fact that the partners have produced specific material clearly presenting the requirements and functionality of the platform. On the other hand, to mitigate this risk will be: - create contextual help or help text next to fields where user interaction takes place. - made presentations of the facilities of the tool / platform developed within the project during information sessions (workshops, digital training courses). - organize regular hands-on virtual workshops that people can attend in order to better understand how to use the platform. Create surveys to get feedback from end-users to test the effectiveness, usefulness and usability of IT tools.



8	There are few industrial companies interested in signing partnership agreements with VET providers. <i>(Likelihood: medium Impact: high)</i>	WP3	This risk has not arisen since this specific activity not started yet. However, the awareness of industrial companies will be raised by using channels to promote the advantages of signing partnership agreements with VET providers (using social media platforms, transnational IT platform and project website), advertisements, add and own network.
9	Delay in finalising the procurement procedures for the modernisation of the VET providers' infrastructure. <i>(Likelihood: medium Impact: medium)</i>	WP4	This risk has not arisen since this proper activity not started yet. However, the preparation of specifications for equipment and devices already started in order to ensure the smooth running of procurement procedures.
10	Limited involvement of VET provider staff in implementation of innovative solutions developed within the project <i>(Likelihood: medium Impact: high)</i>	WP4	This risk has not arisen since this activity not started yet. However, to avoid this risk, we plan to step up outreach activities and find other ways to raise awareness and use influencers so that the information has a greater impact on decision-makers.
11	Limited accessibility of disseminated results <i>(Likelihood: low Impact: high)</i>	WP5	In order to avoid this risk, we plan to intensify our outreach and dissemination activities. A dissemination plan has been developed for this purpose. If will be the case, direct identification and communication with international stakeholders will be done.
12	Delays in organising of workshops and/or conferences <i>(Likelihood: low Impact: medium)</i>	WP5	This risk has not arisen since this activity not started yet. However, if there are delays in organising events, certain activities may be rescheduled, specific verification procedures will be put in place during implementation and new deadlines will be set to meet the final deadline. Virtual workshops and/or conferences will be organized instead.

5. Quality and Key Performance Indicators

To ensure the successful implementation of the project, the Quality Management Plan (QPM) was defined, covering the required quality assurance procedures, as well as the key performance indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and measure the project's performance. The progress of the project in terms of KPI evaluation is planned to take place in M12.

6. Dissemination activities

In order to increase the visibility of the project, a series of dissemination materials (flyers, posters and rollups) were produced.



In order to ensure the visual identity of the project, EWF realized the project logo and a set of templates (doc and ppt). EWF also developed the project website and LinkedIn page. From March to July 2024, the webpage had 428 views and a total of 1200 interactions and the LinkedIn account had 30 followers, 137 clicks, 91 reactions and 92 page views.

The project's online presence, including the project website and LinkedIn channel, was reviewed to ensure effective communication and engagement. All the project partners were involved in:

- Content review: ensuring that the information presented is accurate, up-to-date, and aligned with the project's objectives;
- User experience: evaluating the usability and navigational structure of the website to enhance user engagement.

In order to increase the impact of the project, ISIM, EWF, CESOL, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Helixconnect, the University of Montenegro, AMTA academy, Alexandria University, University of Miskolc, and Jordan Engineers Association shared the project on their websites/social media. They also participated in various regional events where they presented general information on the HINTS project. For example, ISIM advertised the HINTS project by writing an article in the journal BID ISIM n°1/2024, university of Montenegro promoted HINTS activities at the European Projects Fair and advertised in on their website:

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/1291/objava/181475-promocija-projektnih-aktivnosti-na-sajmu-evropskih-projekata>

On the other hand, the project launch event was disseminated through various communication channels (Facebook pages of the partners, project website and LinkedIn project channel).

The dissemination report related to the first 6 months of the HINTS project implementation is annexed.



7. Communication Activities

Regular attendance at partners' meetings was essential for effective collaboration and project management. The focus during these meetings included:

- Project updates: receiving updates on the project's progress and milestones;
- Issue resolution: discussing and addressing any challenges or obstacles faced by the partners;
- Networking: building and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders and partners;
- Documentation: taking detailed notes and action items for follow-up.

In the first 6 months of the HINTS project implementation, two blended project partners meetings, face-to-face and online (for partners who could not physically attend the meeting), as well as one online meeting were organized.

The kick-off meeting of the HINTS project was organized at ISIM Timisoara on 6-7 March 2024. The first purpose of the meeting was to make a general presentation of the project. Start date and duration of the project, project partners and budget were mentioned. The priorities of the project, the topics addressed by the project, the specific objectives of the HINTS project and the target groups (specialists, trainers and teachers, students, managers of industrial companies and SMEs) were also reviewed. On the other hand, the activities under all work packages were presented and discussed, focusing on activities subject to first reporting at the end of the first 6 months. Thus, the following topics were covered:

- Guideline and curricula on digital training;
- Guideline and curricula on green industries;
- Project logo and project visual identity, project website and instruments to be used for communications between partners (e.g. project SharePoint);



On the other hand, some aspects of the development of a collaborative IT platform were presented and discussed.

The meeting discussed the main tasks assigned to the partners related to providing support for implementation of appropriate quality assurance mechanism in Western Balkans and South-Mediterranean countries. The envisaged support relates to technical assistance for the development of quality assurance procedures for the VET process, their integration into the quality management system and the innovation of VET services.

Also, the discussion was held on the development of the VET providers infrastructures in Western Balkans and South-Mediterranean (WB&SM) countries. Helixconnect as WP4 responsible, will support partners from WB&SM countries in selection of appropriate IT equipments required for implementation of digital training. Also, the discussion was held on providing support for implementation of innovative e-learning system in Western Balkans and South-Mediterranean countries.

On the other hand, partnership agreements, ongoing management and budget administration, formal and informal reporting (technical and financial), milestones and deliverables to be achieved and their quality according to the quality management plan were discussed, as well as the organisation of project meetings. Thus, the dates for the next meetings were set as follows:

- online project meeting: 22 May 2024 at 10:00 CET;
- face-to-face meeting: 23-24 July 2024, at CESOL headquarters, Madrid, Spain.

During the online meeting all activities of the work packages was reviewed, focusing on the activities that are covered by the first reporting at the end of the first 6 months. Interim deadline was established.

During the second face-to-face meeting of the HINTS project, which took place in Madrid, all deliverables related to the first 6 months of implementation were presented, discussed and endorsed by the project partners. The status of ongoing activities was assessed and intermediate deadlines were set.



8. Events and Trainings

Activities not started yet.

9. Financial support to 3rd parties

Not applicable.



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DISSEMINATION REPORT

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Version History

Revision	Date	Author/Organization	Description
1 st	24.07.2024	Fátima Zorro, EWF	Report related to the first 6 months of the project implementation
2 nd			
3 rd			

Table of Contents

Version History	1
List of Figures	2
List of Tables	3
Abbreviations	3
Introduction	4
About the Project	4
Partner organizations and network	6
Communication and Dissemination Strategy	9
Impact of dissemination activities.....	10
Website	11
Social Media	12
Dissemination & Marketing Portfolio	13

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Map showing the partnership coverage.	6
Figure 2 – Number of website views over time.....	11
Figure 3 – Worldwide location of website viewers.....	11
Figure 4 - Number of LinkedIn clicks over time.....	12
Figure 5 – Worldwide location of LinkedIn viewers.	12
Figure 6 – UoM at the European Projects Fair exhibiting HINTS	16
Figure 7 – HINTS presentation at EWF.....	17

List of Tables

Table 1 - Dissemination & Communication (DC) Tools.	9
Table 2 – Meetings and events planned in the scope of the HINTS project.	0
Table 3 – Yearly Newsletters schedule.....	0
Table 4 – Yearly press release schedule by EWF.....	0

Abbreviations

ANB - Authorized Nominated Body

ATB - Authorised Training Body

VET - Vocational Education and Training

WB&SM - Western Balkans and South-Mediterranean

Introduction

The present document compiles useful information about the dissemination activities performed within the HINTS project, in alignment with the communication plan. The portfolio aims at identifying and recording the evidence of the majority of the results carried out by the consortium during the project implementation. HINTS dissemination report is a “live” document that will be updated during the project lifecycle. All partners are active in ensuring the project's visibility and dissemination. A common plan/table was used (Section 3 Common dissemination reporting table) for reporting, which contains the list of the dissemination activities, their description and their impact, from the 1st February 2024 to the 31st July 2024. A second version of the Portfolio will be developed in M12, addressing the activities developed in the mentioned period.

About the Project

The extensive use of polluting technologies significantly harms the environment, causing air and water pollution and releasing greenhouse gases that drive climate change. This results in far-reaching and long-term impacts on both the environment and human society.

In response, the HINTS project plans to implement a series of training solutions to enhance awareness, knowledge, and skills to reduce pollution and prevent further environmental damage. The project aims to offer training courses for teachers and trainers from Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers in the Western Balkans and South-Mediterranean (WB&SM) regions. These educators, who train workers in pollution-contributing industries, will be equipped to help reduce their environmental impact.

The technical training will cover new and emerging technologies that can help reduce pollution. Additionally, it will include information on energy-efficient practices, recycling, waste management, and other green skills that can assist organizations in minimizing their environmental impact. The project also aims to train sustainable procurement professionals to help them identify and select greener products and technologies, thereby promoting sustainable practices throughout the supply chain.

Among the main ways in which digital methods for VET have evolved in recent years are the following:

- E-learning: the use of online and digital platforms for VET delivery has become increasingly popular in recent years. This includes the use of online course materials, virtual classrooms and interactive simulations.

- Blended learning, which combines online and offline learning methods, has become increasingly popular since it allows for a more flexible and personalised learning experience and can be particularly useful for providing training to workers in remote or rural areas.
- The use of mobile devices to deliver VET has also become increasingly popular in recent years. This includes the use of mobile apps, text messaging and other mobile device-based platforms to deliver training materials and assessments.
- The use of virtual and augmented reality technology for VET has increased in recent years as it enables immersive, interactive and realistic training experiences.
- Gamification: The use of gaming elements in VET has also been increasing in recent years. This approach allows for more engaging and interactive learning experiences, which can be more effective in retaining learners' attention and promoting learning.

The project is scheduled to run for 24 months, starting on the 1st of February 2024, foreseeing the development of the following set of objectives:

- Create a collaborative network between EU institutions & VET providers from WB&SM countries to enhance green and digital skills for the twin transition.
- Reinforcing the capacities of staff and teachers from 5 VET providers from WB&SM countries by exchanges of good practice, communications and providing relevant training programs.
- Improve the quality and responsiveness of 5 VET providers from WB&SM countries, by supporting the implementation of appropriate quality assurance mechanisms.
- Support the implementation of innovative e-learning approaches at 5 VET providers in WB&SM countries to foster innovation in education to address societal challenges.
- Policy materials (2 curricula and guidelines) and 2 innovative educational materials will support the transition toward a green and digital economy.
- 1 transnational IT platform will be developed and used to exchange best practices and dissemination min. 1000 hits.
 - 5 relevant training programs for staff and teachers of VET providers from WB&SM countries: minimum 50 participants.
 - 5 VET providers from WB&SM countries will be supported to implement appropriate quality assurance mechanisms.
 - 5 VET providers from WB&SM countries will be supported to implement an innovative e-learning system.
 - 5 dissemination events on green and digital topics, organised in WB&SM countries: minimum 250 participants.

- 4 events organised in EU countries for dissemination of the project results minimum 200 people.

Partner organizations and network

In setting up the project consortium, it was taken into account that it should include full partners from the three types of entities that make up the knowledge triangle: research, academia and industry/VET providers. HINTS partners are from South-East Europe (Romania and Hungary), Southern Europe (Spain), Western Balkans (Albania and Montenegro), North Africa (Tunisia and Egypt), Middle East (Jordan) as well as Central Europe (Belgium), as can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Map showing the partnership coverage.

The selected regions have specific areas of smart specialization that the project aims to address.

Romania

ISIM Timisoara is one of the Authorised Training Body (ATB) from Romania and its main activities are focused on research, development, management and implementation of the international system of qualification and certification of the personnel in the field of welding and related processes

Helixconnect Europe SRL provides a better hands-on approach to facilitating innovation, helping organisations grow and enabling a proper integration among innovators, industry and government. Their vision is to bridge global innovation systems and enable global knowledge and technology transfer. Furthermore, Helixconnect has an important role as an implementation partner of EIT's Deep Tech Pledge Initiative through which the project aims to support educating stakeholders on deep tech solutions and innovative digital skills. The center for digital transformation will play an important role by providing access to toolkits and expertise.

Spain

Spanish Welding Association (CESOL) has developed a certification program for welding professionals, as well as training programs and courses for welders. CESOL also works with other organizations and government agencies to promote the development of the welding profession in Spain. Besides training, advising and transfer of innovation, the role of CESOL is to use its network, not only to disseminate the project results but also to ensure that the developed results are in line with the national industry requirements and needs.

Montenegro

The **University of Montenegro (UoM)** is the oldest and the only public university in Montenegro. The HINTS project creates the opportunity for UoM to develop its competencies in the green and digital fields. By acquiring innovative digital skills, teachers and trainers from the career development centre of UoM will be able to improve their teaching methods and quality management of the learning process, to improve the digital skills of the students.

Tunisia

AMTA Academy is a private VET provider in the field of automotive mechatronics. AMTA is associated with two car maintenance centres: MYRAGE (Renault - Nissan - Dacia authorized agent) and HYDROBOOST, to form an economic interest group and to provide high-level learning by doing training. The HINTS project is an opportunity for them to exchange best practices in green and digital skills.

Egypt

Alexandria University (AU) is a national, educational, research, and development institution. The University focuses on training people to build modern human profiles for the cultural rehabilitation of society so that they can assume leadership positions in all sectors. In this context, digitization and greening of industrial sectors is a national priority. Within the project, AU has the role of improving its knowledge and know-how in the field of VET, shared by European partners, to strengthen

training capacities in the field of digital and green technologies and to disseminate them in the national network extended within the project.

Albania

Polytechnic University of Tirana (UPT) has as one of the pillars in its strategy to bring current green industrial problems into the teaching and research curriculum. Furthermore, the university is a leading institution in Albania for the use of e-learning technologies. Under the HINTS project, the role of the UPT is to improve the training knowledge and know-how shared by the European partners, to strengthen training capacities in the field of digital and green technologies and to disseminate them using its network extended under the project. UPT will organise a dissemination event in Tirana to bring together its networks of beneficiaries and partners for proper dissemination of HINTS project results in Albania.

Jordan

Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) is an association comprising both engineers' training centre and engineers' academy for training & development, providing VET services in all fields, be it engineering, administrative or technological, reflecting training needs and requirements. The role of the JEA is to improve the training knowledge and know-how shared by the European partners, to strengthen training capacities in the field of digital and green technologies and to disseminate them using their network extended under the project. They will organise a dissemination event in Amman to bring together its networks of beneficiaries and partners for proper dissemination of HINTS project results in Jordan.

European entities

The **European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting (EFW)** is a non-profit organization that represents and promotes the interests of the welding industry in Europe. They facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among members, promote training and certification of welding personnel, and support research and innovation in the industry. EFW plays an important role in ensuring quality and safety in welding and has a harmonized training and qualification system. With a network of 31 member countries, 28 Authorized National Bodies, and more than 640 Approved Training Bodies, EFW has a significant network of large companies comprising over 50,000 members.

Associated partners

The **University of Miskolc (UoMi)** is the leading higher education institution and academic centre in the North Hungarian Region, is an industry-oriented university with long traditions and great development potential. The institute of materials science and technology is one of the largest institutes in the university, dealing with focus areas such as welding, heat and surface treating, metal forming, materials

testing, lifecycle assessment and risk analysis. UoMi's role is to share their experience to strengthen the capacity of VET providers in WB&SM countries, especially in digital training.

Communication and Dissemination Strategy

The main goal of dissemination is to ensure that the project's outcomes are widely spread, used, and valued throughout the project's lifetime. In this scope, the communication tools to be used may be found in Table 1.

Table 1 - Dissemination & Communication (DC) Tools.

DC TOOL	CURRENT ACTIVITY STATUS	FUTURE PLANS	QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS
Project website	https://www.hintsproject.eu/	Quarterly updates	1 website Links to the project Webpages: min. 10 visit on the project website: min. 500
Project IT platform	https://hintshub.eu/	In development	1 platform Links to the IT platform: 10 links Visits on the IT platform: 1000 hits
Logo and project Identity	Developed	Concluded	Project logo: 1
Standard presentation material Project Flyer PPT presentation General poster Promo roll-up poster	Flyer, poster and roll-up are available on the project website. Presentation in development.	Final flyer by the end of the project Presentations are to be modified according to the dissemination events.	Minimum 500 flyers (min. 100 / supported country); Project roll-ups: 10 (1 / country);
Booklets	To be started	To be developed in the last year of the project	Minimum. 250 (min. 50 / supported country)
Press Releases (PR)	Initial PR published The plan for publication can be found in annex.	Press releases on interim results, activities, and events	Yearly
Social media accounts – LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/hints-high-innovative-vet-for-green-and-digital-transformations/about	All partners are to include ref. to HINTS in the corporate accounts. To be updated regularly.	Adds or posts on social media: min. 1 post/event/partner 1 post/month
Newsletters	The plan for publication can be found in the annex	Annually	Yearly

All project partners adhere to the rules related to ensuring that all scientific data and deliverables will be shared/disseminated according to the open science practices of EU and FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). The project aims to provide digital tools for e-learning, teaching, and qualifying across different technological fields, sectors, and geographic areas. The primary deliverables that will be disseminated include e-learning training curricula and related educational materials. Additionally, new training courses will be offered on digital training and transition to a green welding industry. The project will also establish a transnational collaborative IT platform and a network of living labs. All partners will be involved in dissemination activities.

The strategy will be implemented across multiple levels: National, European, and International.

National Level

Partners from Romania, Spain, Hungary, and Belgium, will collaborate with a network of over 640 ATBs and providers of certified personnel, known as Authorized Nominated Bodies (ANBs), at the national level to implement the project results. This collaboration will help partners increase their expertise in the project field, which will provide them with the opportunity to expand their current offer for digital education and innovative technologies. This will eventually lead to the transition to a green welding industry.

European Level

Specific dissemination activities and tools will be planned to engage stakeholders at the European level. EWF, as the umbrella organization, will ensure the dissemination and use of the project deliverables at the international/European level. EWF will use their technological community networks and ATBs from other EU countries to enlarge the adoption of the project deliverables to other EU countries and mainstream project best practices to other international organizations.

International Level

The results obtained from HINTS will be used by other transnational partners and implemented at an international level in the workshops on new trends in digital training and green technologies organized by the VET providers.

Impact of dissemination activities

In the first months of the project a wide range of promotional and marketing tools were developed and can be found in the communication plan.

Website

The website development, hosting, and management are integral parts of the project. The public website, accessible at <https://www.hintsproject.eu/>, is the primary source of information and updates related to the project.

From March to July 2024, the webpage had 428 views and a total of 1200 interactions dispersed according to Figure 2. The average time for a webpage visit is 1 minute and 55 seconds.



Figure 2 – Number of website views over time.

In terms of the country of origin of the website followers, the majority of them are from Portugal (23) and the USA (10). Only a few are from Montenegro, the USA, Romania, Serbia, Albania and Germany as possible to see in Figure 3. This means that more investment should be made in those countries to increase the visibility of the HINTS website, and consequently of the project.



Figure 3 – Worldwide location of website viewers.

Social Media

Social media plays a pivotal role in disseminating project information to a broad and diverse audience. Platforms like LinkedIn enable rapid and wide-reaching communication, making it easier to share project updates, achievements, and insights in real-time. By leveraging social media, projects can engage with stakeholders, foster community interaction, and enhance visibility. For the HINTS project, the LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hints-high-innovative-vet-for-green-and-digital-transformations/about/>) was created.

From March to July 2024, the LinkedIn account had 30 followers, 137 clicks, 91 reactions and 92 page views.

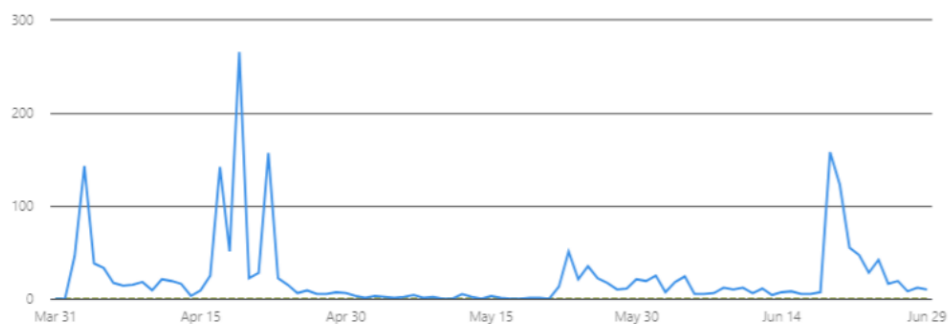


Figure 4 - Number of LinkedIn clicks over time.

In terms of the country of origin of the website followers, the majority of them are from Portugal and Romania, as possible to see in Figure 5.

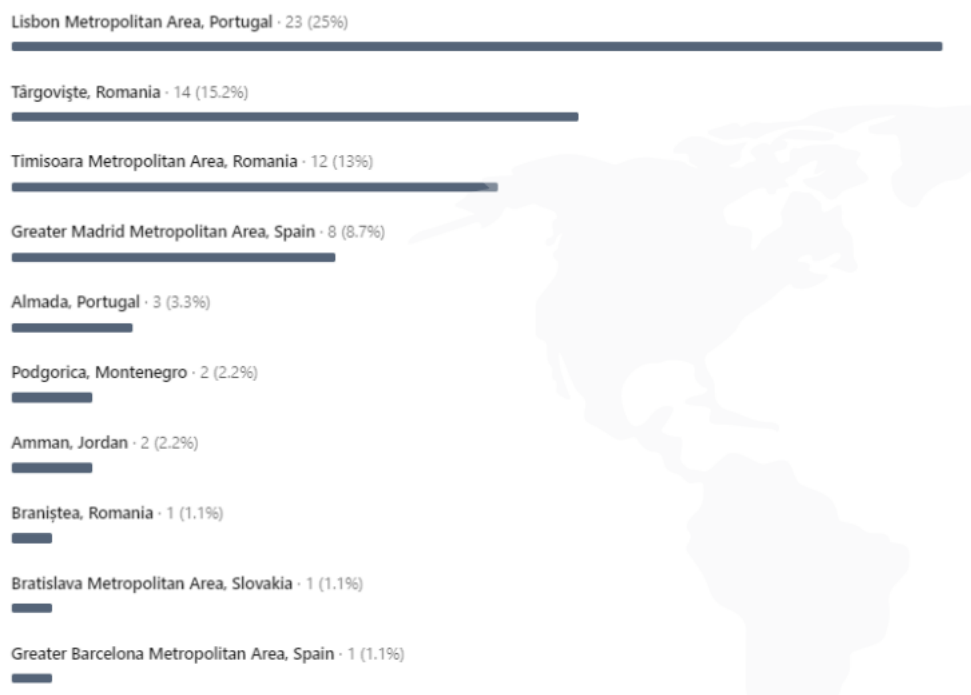


Figure 5 – Worldwide location of LinkedIn viewers.

Dissemination & Marketing Portfolio

Dissemination and communication are continuous activities, to be reported in EU Funding and Tender Portal.

Dissemination aims to guarantee the diffusion, valorisation, and exploitation of the project outcomes through the entire project life cycle. Dissemination includes activities mentioned in the proposal and new ones such as clustering activities; collaboration with EU-funded projects; conferences; education events, meetings; other scientific collaborations, etc.

Communication on projects is a strategically planned process that starts at the outset of the project and continues throughout its entire lifetime, aimed at promoting the action and its results. It requires strategic and targeted measures for communicating (i) the project and (ii) its results to a multitude of audiences, including the media and the public and possibly engaging in a two-way exchange.

To ensure continuous reporting, a dissemination report was developed and is available for partners to fill in on the project SharePoint. Dissemination activities developed in line with the communication strategy must be added to the document with a periodicity of every 6 months. It serves as a repository for all the results achieved by every partner involved in the project, including outcomes from National and Final events. The portfolio is designed to be a "live" document, which means it will be continually updated throughout the project lifecycle and is the responsibility of all partners. This process will help to track progress and ensure that the dissemination activities are aligned with the project objectives.

ISIM, EWF, CESOL, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Helixconnect, the University of Montenegro, AMTA academy, and Jordan Engineers Association shared the project on their websites/social media.

ISIM



ISIM Timisoara
March 12 · 🌐

High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations - HINTS

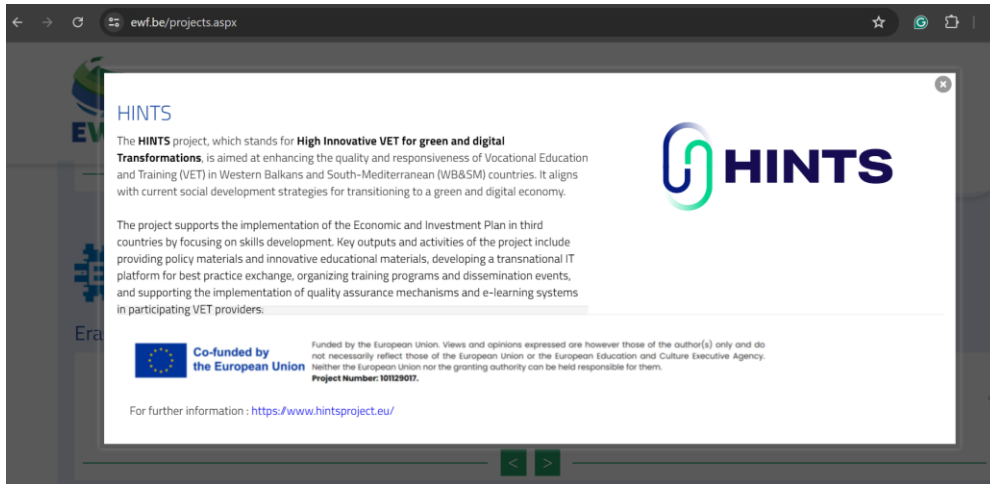
In perioada 6-7 Martie 2024 a avut loc intalnirea de lansare a proiectului ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CB-VET: 101129017: „High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations”, acronim HINTS, proiect coordonat de catre Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare in Sudura si Incercari de Materiale - [ISIM Timisoara](#).

La intalnire, care a avut loc la sediul institutului din Timisoara, au participat reprezentanti ai Federatiei Europene de Sudare, Imbinare si Taiere (EWF), ai Asociației Spaniole de Sudare și tehnologii de Imbinare (CESOL), Universității din Muntenegru, Universității din Tirana (Albania), Helixconnect Europe S.R.L. și Universității din Miskolc (Ungaria).

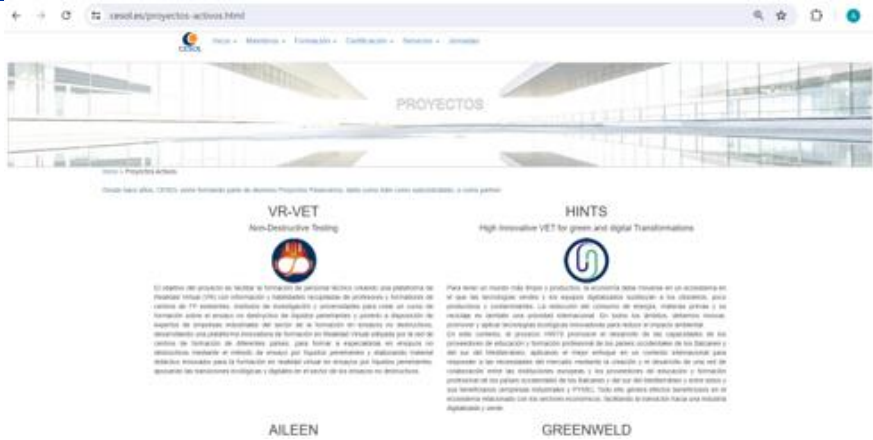
La intalnire s-au alaturat on-line reprezentanti ai Universității din Alexandria (Egipt), ai AMTA Academy (Tunisia) și ai Asociației Inginerilor din Iordania.

Din partea ISIM Timisoara au participat Nicusor-Alin SIRBU - director general al institutului, Alin-Constantin MURARIU - director stiintific si manager de proiect, Alexandra-Codruta CONIA - director economic si

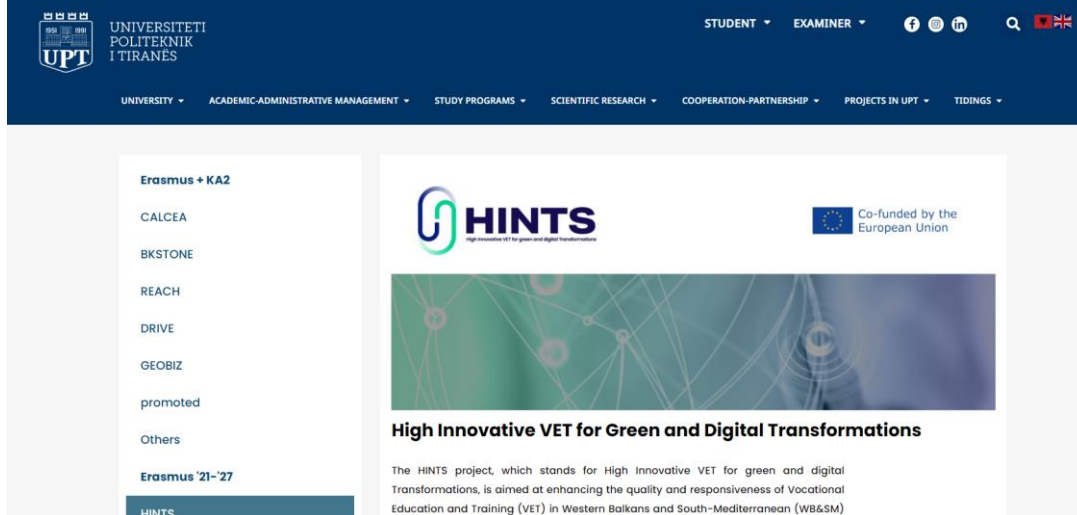
EWF



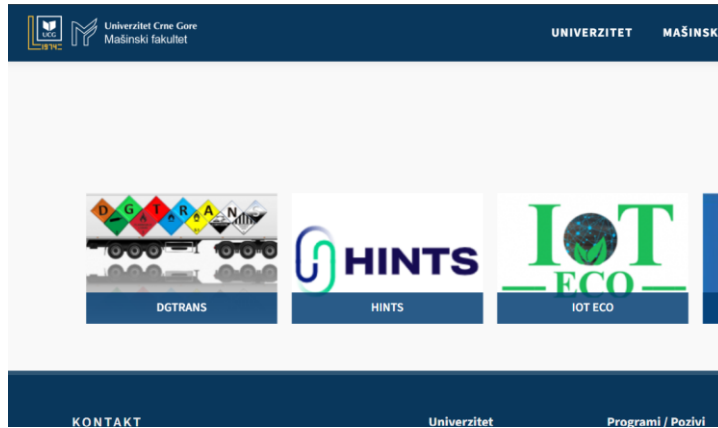
CESOL



UPT



University of Montenegro



AMTA Academy

AMTA Academy
July 11 at 4:19 AM · 🌐

Dans le cadre du renforcement de la capacité en formation professionnelle à distance, AMTA ACADMY participe dans un projet de coopération internationale: ERASMUS+ CBVET: HINTS- High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations.
Web: <https://www.hintsproject.eu/index.html>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/.../hints-high-innovative-vet.../>

AMTA Academy
55 followers
Follow · 🌐

Dans le cadre du renforcement de la capacité en formation professionnelle à distance, AMTA ACADMY participe dans un projet de coopération internationale: ERASMUS+ CBVET: HINTS- High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations.
Web: <https://lnkd.in/d/3aAQzGx>
LinkedIn: <https://lnkd.in/d/CvQQbHQ>

See translation

Helixconnect

helixconnect

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Blog

HINTS: Green and digital transitions for VET institutions in Western Balkans and South Mediterranean

We have just launched another exciting initiative (HINTS) that will transform vocational education and training institutions (#VET) in the #WesternBalkans and #SouthMediterranean regions.

HINTS aims to improve the quality and responsiveness of #VET to align with current #socialdevelopment strategies for the transition to a #green and #digital economy. The technical and administrative developments are led by our strong partners IGM TNGO (National Institute for Welding and Material Testing) and CCM (National Center for Vocational Education Research).

The project contributes to the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan in third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme by fostering #skills development ecosystems.

Helixconnect Europe
1,856 followers
3w · 🌐

We are happy to see our HINTS- High Innovative VET for green and digital Transformations project at the forefront of vocational education transformation !

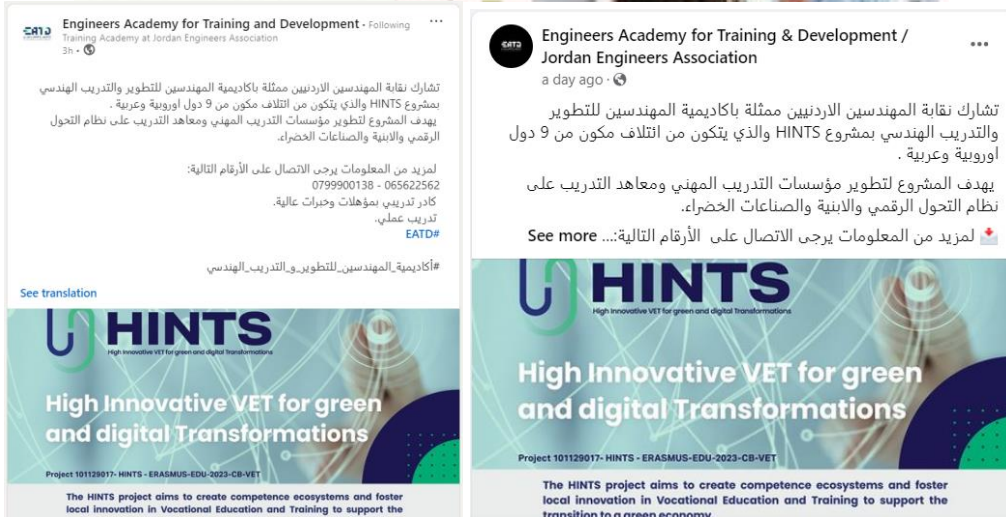
HINTS is aimed at enhancing the quality and responsiveness of #Vocational Education and Training (#VET) in #WesternBalkans and South-Mediterranean (WB&SM) countries. It aligns with current social development strategies for transitioning to a green and digital economy. The project supports the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan in third countries by focusing on skills development.

We will be soon releasing:

Blend of Digital Education and Green Technologies: The project aims to blend digital education techniques, such as drag & drop, gamification, and interactive elements, with training on green technologies.

Innovative Educational Materials: New techniques and technologies used in e-learning, as well as references to the latest EU and international standards.

Jordan Engineers Association



Additionally, ISIM advertised the HINTS project by writing an article in the journal BID ISIM n°1/2024.

University of Montenegro promoted HINTS activities at the European Projects Fair and advertised in on their website:

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/1291/objava/181475-promocija-projektnih-aktivnosti-na-sajmu-evropskih-projekata>



Figure 6 – UoM at the European Projects Fair exhibiting HINTS

EWF presented the HINTS project internally in a hybrid format (online and presential) with the presence of around 20 participants.



Figure 7 – HINTS presentation at EWF

Future Events

To ensure proper coordination of the project dissemination, and increase the HINTS visibility, the communication Plan includes the project events summarized synthetically in the following table:

Table 2 – Meetings and events planned in the scope of the HINTS project.

Event No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Date	Participant	Description					
			Name	Type	Area	Location	Duration (days)	Attendees
E1.1	M1	ISIM and all project partners	Project kick-off meeting (2024)	Partners project meeting	Project management and decision-making	Timisoara, Romania	20	20
E1.2	M6	ISIM and all project partners	Second project meeting (2024)			Madrid, Spain		
E1.3	M12	ISIM and all project partners	Third project meeting (2024)			Miskolc, Hungary		
E1.4	M18	ISIM and all project partners	Forth project meeting (2025)			Porto Salvo Portugal		
E1.5	M24	ISIM and all project partners	Fifth project meeting (2025)			Timisoara, Romania		
E2.1	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect, and UOM	Digital training by e-learning and green technologies for the industry	Training	Knowledge on green technologies for industry and digital skill	Podgorica, Montenegro	5	20
E2.2	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect, and AMTA				Sfax, Tunisia		
E2.3	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect, and AU				Alexandria, Egypt		
E2.4	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect, and UPT				Amman, Jordan		
E2.5	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect, and JEA				Miskolc, Hungary		

E4.1	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect and UOM	Providing support for the implementation of appropriate quality assurance mechanisms and the implementation of innovative e-learning system	Training / practical support	Knowledge on quality assurance mechanisms in the educational process Knowledge on the implementation of e-learning system	Podgorica, Montenegro	5	20
E4.2	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect and AMTA				Sfax, Tunisia		
E4.3	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect and AU				Alexandria, Egypt		
E4.4	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect and UPT				Tirana, Albania		
E4.5	M13-M21	ISIM, CESOL, Helixconnect and JEA				Amman, Jordan		
E5.1	M21-M24	UOM	New trends in digital training and green technologies for industry	Workshop	Green and Digital	Podgorica, Montenegro	1	50
E5.2	M21-M24	AMTA				Sfax, Tunisia		
E5.3	M21-M24	AU				Alexandria, Egypt		
E5.4	M21-M24	UPT				Tirana, Albania		
E5.5	M21-M24	JEA				Amman, Jordan		
E5.6	M21-M24	Helixconnect Europe and ISIM	Dissemination of HINTS project results	Workshop / conference	Best practice in digital training and on green technologies for industry	Timisoara, Romania		
E5.7	M21-M24	CESOL				Madrid, Spain		
E5.8	M21-M24	UoMi				Miskolc, Hungary		
E5.9	M21-M24	EFW				Porto Salvo, Portugal		

Annex

Table 3 – Yearly Newsletters schedule

Year	Newsletter #	Release Date	Articles	Tasks Associated	Contributors	Deadline for Info.
2024	1	28 th October	1	1.1	ISIM	7 th October
			2	2.1	CESOL	
			3	2.2	CESOL	
			4	3.1	Helixconnect	
			5	4.1	UOM	
			6	5.1	EWF	
2025	2	15 th December	1	1.1	ISIM	24 th November
			2	2.3	CESOL	
			3	3.2	Helixconnect	
			4	4.3	UOM	
			2	5.3 & 5.4	EWF	

Table 4 – Yearly press release schedule by EWF

Year	PR #	Release Date	Date to be shared with partners for approval	Deadline for feedback from partners
2024	1	22 th April	8 st April	15 th April
2025	2	17 th March	3 rd March	10 th March