



<p>Erasmus+ : KA2 - Sector Skills Alliances</p> <p>BLUEPRINT projects</p> <p>PROGRESS REPORT ASSESSMENT SHEET</p>
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Project number:
612664-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-EPPKA2-SSA-B

Project title:
Addressing the current and Future skills needs for sustainability, digitalization and the bio-Economy in agriculture: European skills agenDa and Strategy

	Score /25
<p>1. Relevance of the project results</p> <p>Are the results achieved so far in accordance with the Work Programme and on time? Have the project’s activities been in accordance with its aims and objectives as declared in the original application or as officially amended? Are next activities still relevant according to the project findings so far? What state-of-art methods and techniques are applied or considered for developing the innovative results? Have any valuable results for the sector concerned been achieved at this stage that could be already disseminated? What is the quality of results?</p>	21

Are the results achieved so far in accordance with the Work Programme and on time?

Overall, the results presented along with the progress report are in line with the initial work plan. The partners show a clear focus on achieving the planned deliverables but, in some cases, the results foreseen for the reporting period need to be reviewed (e.g. D.1.7). Furthermore, D.3.2 – Curricula design is not available, although this document should be delivered by the month 21. In addition, other results planned to be delivered shortly after the deadline of the progress report, such as D.2.4 – Roadmap formulation and D.2.5 – Open transferability framework, are available in a draft version, but a basic format for the moment. Positive is that the public results are available via project web site, that is functional and provides updated information, documents and tools. Moreover, some deliverables, such as the databases developed are functional and provide updated information, being exploited for facilitating the implementation of the project.

Have the project's activities been in accordance with its aims and objectives as declared in the original application or as officially amended?

The activities carried out are in accordance with the objectives stated in the original application and have contributed to the achievement of the results planned. Given the pandemic situation, the focus groups organised during the preparation phase for the identification of skills needs have been carried out online and not as face-to-face activities. The progress report provides sufficient insight into the methodological approach related to the activities carried out during the reporting time period.

WP1 - Skills needs identification

The activities implemented within the framework of the preparatory phase during the reporting time span are focused on the analysis of the data collected through the web-based surveys (T1.4 - Bottom-up surveys) and the identification of specific trends and scenarios in the addressed sectors and areas of interest (T1.5 - Future trends analysis). The implementation of the activities and the achievement of the expected results build on previous achievements, i.e. D1.5 - Focus group analysis and results, D1.6 - Web-based questionnaire. The methodological approach and precise explanations about the way of the capitalisation of the previous results are well pointed out. Thus, all the activities for the organization of the survey, the methodological approach, the way of collecting and analysing the data are well described. Furthermore, the results are clearly presented in the related report (D.1.7).

WP2 - Priorities and strategy design

The main activities implemented during the reporting period refer to T.2.1 - Analysis of skill gaps and new profiles creation, T2.2 - Profiles prioritisation and T.2.3 - European Strategy formulation. The focus groups' activities and the analysis carried out are clearly presented and lead to the achievement of D.2.1 - Detailed baseline of occupational profiles. There are only few changes compared with the initial plan, respectively instead of 3 occupational profiles (OP) foreseen for each sector addressed (Agriculture, Food industry, and Forestry) and 1 OP related to entrepreneurship, the partners have proposed 7OPs EQF level 5 for each sector addressed (Agriculture and Food industry, respectively 1 OP for each area: Bio-economy, Digitalisation, Sustainability and 1 OP for Forestry, including all 3 areas), as well as other 3 OPs referring to EQF level 4, all sectors, respectively 1 OP for each area (Bio-economy, Digitalisation and Sustainability). In addition, the task 2.2 - Profiles prioritisation has been completed according to the initial work programme and lead to the achievement of the D.2.2 - Prioritised profiles. Moreover, the formulation of the skills strategy (task 2.3) is well described, along with details regarding the next implementation steps and the further refinement of the skills strategy.

In this respect, the tasks planned in the WP2 and implemented during the reporting time period are presented in sufficient detail, with a clear description of the methodological approach and the way of achieving the planned deliverables. Nevertheless, there are some delays as regards the activities related to the design of national roadmaps (task 2.4), being mentioned only the invitations sent to the national

working groups, and a draft document, in a basic format for the moment. In addition, a delay is also noticed regarding the transferability framework (task 2.5), task planned to be completed shortly after the reporting date (M27). In this respect, there are references regarding the alignment with ESCO and the development of the Open transferability framework (D2.5), that is presented in a draft format.

WP3 - New tools and training design

Activities planned during 2022 within the framework of the WP3 have been partially finalised. The delay concerning the training methodologies development has been recovered and the related deliverable (D3.1: Training methodologies) has been provided for the reporting time period. The document referring to the training methodologies is well developed, with clear description of the pedagogical approaches, learning objectives, various training methodologies and tools.

However, while discussions and brainstorming sessions were held for designing the curricula (T3.2: Curricula design) and defining an innovative training content for the development of appropriate competences, according to the occupational profiles identified, the related deliverable (D3.2: Curricula) has not been finalised as scheduled. However, positive is that the database with the courses foreseen has been updated and is available via project web site.

WP4 - Implementation

There are no specific deliverables planned during 2021 within the framework of WP4. However, there are also some activities carried out, related especially to updating the web site and the map for illustrating the progress (T.4.3 - Map creation, update and use). In addition, translations of the materials have also been performed (Task 4.4 - Translation).

WP5 - Long term action plan

The tasks planned to be carried out during the reporting time span, respectively Task 5.1 - National and EU regulatory frameworks and Task 5.2 - Funding opportunities have been finalised as initially scheduled. The related deliverables (D5.1 - Regulatory framework list and D5.2 - Funding opportunity) are well developed and presented in sufficient detail. These deliverables are part of the long term exploitation plan.

WP6 - Quality assurance

The tasks regarding quality assessment (Task 6.2 Quality assessment) represent ongoing activities performed for the evaluation of the project outcomes and deliverables. The activities carried out by the involved partners build on the quality plan (D6.1) and the assessment grids (D6.2) developed during the first implementation phase.

WP7 - Dissemination and communication

There are no specific results planned to be delivered during 2021. However, the public documents elaborated during the reporting time span have been uploaded and hosted on the project web site. Moreover, appropriate updates to the database and documents have been also made.

WP8 - Project management

There are no specific deliverables planned to be developed in 2021, but management activities have been carried out according to plan, showing the commitment to maintain the project on its initial track. In this respect, internal communication process (T8.1) took place normally, the process being facilitated by the intranet management portal. Administrative and financial management (T8.2) was focused on solving economic issues and facilitating the financial reporting. In this respect, the intranet management platform hosts a dedicated tool for facilitating the financial management. Decision making process, as well as progress monitoring and risk management activities (T8.3) have been carried out as planned and were based on regular online meetings.

Are next activities still relevant according to the project findings so far?
 There are clear references to the next activities planned and their articulation with the reported achievements. Thus, there is clear evidence of the commitment to refine the European Skills Strategy (D.2.3) and to update it, according to the findings evidenced during the implementation of the project. The successful completion of WP2 should be prioritised, as the implementation of WP3 builds on the results achieved in WP2, respectively D2.4 - national roadmaps and D2.5 - Open transferability framework. Special attention should be paid also to the delays regarding the design of the Curricula (D3.2), as the activities of training content and new tools creation (T3.4), development of materials for training the trainers (T3.5), as well as the setup and running of the train the trainers pilot sessions (T4.1) and training pilots for students (T4.2) are dependent on the completion of T3.2.

What state-of-art methods and techniques are applied or considered for developing the innovative results?
 The methodological approach is clearly described in relation with the tasks carried out and the deliverables obtained in this phase. The design of the skills strategy for the sectors addressed, with specific focus on particular areas representing actual challenges, is clearly an innovative approach. Occupational profiles for the addressed sectors could be considered also innovative results. Moreover, there are clear references to the methodology used for the design of curricula and the capitalisation of the results obtained in the WP1. Nevertheless, the development of the curricula is delayed and, except for the listed courses foreseen, there are insufficient details for demonstrating the innovative approach. The design, development and current use of the various databases represents an innovative approach, as the databases are efficient tools for both internal and external use. Positive is also the fact that these databases are permanently updated, providing access to a wide range of structured information.

Have any valuable results for the sector concerned been achieved at this stage that could be already disseminated? What is the quality of results?
 The results achieved in the reporting time span are significant for the sectors addressed and are already freely available via project web site. Positive results have been noticed as regards the survey analysis and the identification of trends and scenarios developed at EU and national levels (7 participating countries). Valuable results have been provided as regards the occupational profiles. The list of occupational profiles (7 OPs EQF level 5 and 3 OPs EQF level 4) is also a deliverable disseminated online. Various databases with information ranging from good practices identified to proposed courses represent also valuable tools hosted by the project web site. There is also clear evidence of the iterative refinement of the deliverables and the focus on quality assurance.

	Score /30
<p>2. Quality of the project design and implementation Are the activities carried out so far in accordance with the Work Programme? Is the project implementation so far on time? Were the project management measures adequate and efficient? Has the project methodology been adapted according to the findings of the first project period? Have relevant quality control measures already been put in place? Is the risk management adequate? Is quality control of project outputs appropriate? Have arrangements been put in place for the recognition and validation of participants' learning outcomes; are they in line with ECVET? Are EQAVET recommendations applied (if foreseen in the application)?</p>	23
<p>Are the activities carried out so far in accordance with the Work Programme?</p>	

Overall, the planned activities for the reporting period are in line with the initial Work Programme. So far, the main deviation noticed refers to the delay regarding the implementation of the T.3.2 and the delivery of the curricula (D3.2), that have been planned to be provided by month 21 and has not been yet finalised. WP1 – all planned tasks have been implemented and deliverables have been provided (D1.7 and D1.8).

WP2 – all planned tasks have been carried out and related deliverables have been provided at this stage (D2.1, D2.2 and D2.3). There are also clear references to the ongoing tasks T2.4 and T2.5, and the related documents are available in a draft version.

WP3 – not all the planned tasks have been carried out. Thus, the delays regarding the design of the training methodology have been recovered and the related deliverable (D3.1) has been provided. However, the design and delivery of the curricula (D3.2) is delayed.

WP4 – tasks planned have been implemented (T4.3 and T4.4) and appropriate results are clearly achieved.

WP5 – all tasks foreseen for the reporting period have been carried out (T5.1 and T5.2) and the related deliverables have been adequately developed (D5.1 and D5.2).

WP6 – current quality evaluation activities have been performed in relation with the planned deliverables.

WP7 – there are no specific tasks and deliverables planned for the reporting phase, but specific updating activities have been carried out and reported for the 2021 (e.g. uploading of the deliverables on the web site, updating the databases hosted by the project web site).

WP8 – all the administrative, communication and management activities have been implemented according to the initial plan.

Is the project implementation so far on time?

The delays from the previous implementation phase have been recovered and the majority of the tasks have been completed on time and the related deliverables have been achieved. However, a significant delay has been noticed as regards the curricula design (D3.2). Overall, specific objectives are well addressed and the partnership demonstrates the capacity to manage the project according to its work plan.

Were the project management measures adequate and efficient?

There is clear evidence of well implemented management measures, with clear details about the smooth coordination and cooperation actions. Responsibilities regarding the implementation of the tasks are clearly listed and are coherent with the work programme. The management structures, procedures and activities are clearly explained. In addition, the partnership took advantage of the online tools for the efficient communication, as well as sharing information and documents. Except for significant delay as regards the T3.2, the project has been maintained on its initial path. There are only few deviations mentioned, which are explained and remain under control.

Has the project methodology been adapted according to the findings of the first project period?

As mentioned in the progress report, the partners have correlated the methodological approach in the second phase with the findings from the first implementation period, as results of the focus groups and web-based surveys organised in the first implementation year. In this respect, the list of occupational profiles, presented as final deliverable (D2.1), have been defined according to the results of the bottom-up surveys.

Have relevant quality control measures already been put in place?

The quality plan has been defined during the first implementation year, along with the risk management plan and the evaluation grids. In the progress report, the quality control measures and the responsibilities for putting them in place are clearly mentioned, with references to the monitoring and evaluation of the activities and the related deliverables.

Is the risk management adequate?

Risk management responsibilities are assumed by the High Steering Committee. Procedures for evaluating potential risks for current and ongoing activities are appropriate.

Is quality control of project outputs appropriate?

The progress report provides sufficient insight into the quality control procedures. In this respect, the procedures for the quality control of the project deliverables are clarified, along with the responsibilities of the High Steering Committee for the approval of the final versions of the deliverables.

Have arrangements been put in place for the recognition and validation of participants' learning outcomes; are they in line with ECVET? Are EQAVET recommendations applied (if foreseen in the application)?

The recognition and validation of learning outcomes represent a clear focus of the project. Although the curricula have not been developed yet, there are clear estimations as regards ECTS and ECVET, as listed in the database with courses. More details in this respect will be provided within the transferability framework (T2.5). Moreover, there are clear references to the certification and recognition mechanisms that will be developed in the next phase. In addition, the transferability framework will address also the way of feeding into ESCO database. Alignment with EQAVET is clearly taken into consideration, but this activity is still in early stage. According to the information provided in the progress report, EQAVET principles and indicators have been used for the certification of educational courses in the Netherlands and Italy. Further developments are expected in the next phases.

	Score /25
<p>3. Project consortium and cooperation arrangements</p> <p>Is the involvement of partners balanced and in accordance to the planning? Are effective mechanisms for coordination and communication between partners in place? Any partnership problems/issues reported and solutions described?</p>	22
<p><i>Is the involvement of partners balanced and in accordance to the planning?</i></p> <p>The partners' active involvement in the activities carried out during the reporting phase is well stressed. There is also clear evidence of the partners' balanced involvement according to the initial plan, and there are no changes regarding the assignment of tasks/ responsibilities during the development of the project. The lead roles and each partner's contribution for the implementation of various work packages and related tasks are clarified and consistent with the work programme. The smooth and efficient cooperation for achieving the stated objectives is well emphasised.</p> <p><i>Are effective mechanisms for coordination and communication between partners in place?</i></p> <p>The mechanisms and procedures for coordination and communication are effective and efficient. The schedule of the meetings and the communication channels and tools are clearly presented. There are also clear justifications for the intensive use of the online tools for the operational communication and information/documents sharing within the partnership. Besides communication and information sharing, the regular and frequent online meetings have been aimed also at addressing quality and risk management issues, as well as evaluating the progress made against the deadlines and planned results. The efficient data</p>	

management facilitates the iterative refinements of the deliverables and the quality assessment of the outputs. Positive is that intranet management platform is functional and intensively exploited during the reporting period, as well as GoogleDrive tool. Allocation of resources is reasonable and in line with the initially estimated budget and with the activities implemented.

Any partnership problems/issues reported and solutions described?

There are no problems reported for the implementation period analysed.

	Score /20
<p>4. Impact and dissemination</p> <p>Are the dissemination activities relevant and sufficient to reach the project target audience? What impact on participating organisations and target groups is already achieved? What measures are taken in order to prepare the basis for reaching and measuring the expected impact after the end of the project? Are the delivered project results likely to have an impact after the end of the project?</p> <p>How does the project include active involvement of relevant stakeholders from the sector? What measures have been taken so far for ensuring the sustainability of the project? Are the results accessible to the public?</p> <p>Are the relevant activities for ensuring national/regional roll out of results by national/regional authorities implemented? Are there any concrete results in this respect?</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>Are the dissemination activities relevant and sufficient to reach the project target audience?</p> <p>Overall, there are no specific dissemination deliverables planned to be developed during the reporting period. However, there is clear evidence of the continuity of the dissemination activities, with details about updating the web site and the databases, as well as uploading the deliverables elaborated during 2021. The public web site is functional, well structured and updated. The social media channels (Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube) are also intensively exploited for disseminating the project results. There is clear progress in this respect, but the number of followers and accesses is limited, compared with the wide partnership and partners’ networks. In this respect, more efforts should be made for reaching a wider audience, especially taking into consideration the novelty of the results and their usability. Participation in 2021 in various international scientific events (conferences, fairs, webinars) is also positive and has a clear contribution to promote the project achievements and reach a wide audience.</p> <p>What impact on participating organisations and target groups is already achieved? What measures are taken in order to prepare the basis for reaching and measuring the expected impact after the end of the project? Are the delivered project results likely to have an impact after the end of the project?</p> <p>The impact on partners, target groups and stakeholders is clearly presented, with explanations and specific indicators. The impact is presented in a structured manner, with the presentation of the benefits of each deliverable. Moreover, the partners record the effects produced by the implementation of the project, with specific details for each result. Recorded effects are in line with the expected impact, as it was estimated in the application. At this stage, the main achievements with potential long term impact are represented by trends and scenarios analysis for the sectors addressed, along with the skills strategy at EU and national levels. These deliverables have also a significant strategic impact. Furthermore, the regulatory framework and the list of funding opportunities support the long term exploitation of the project results. Other</p>	

deliverables, such as occupational profiles and training methodology, have also significant impact on the VET providers, higher education institutions, students and other stakeholders. Open and free online availability of the main deliverables increases the accessibility to the project results and, consequently, enlarges the impact of the project.

How does the project include active involvement of relevant stakeholders from the sector?

Stakeholders’ active involvement is well described in relation with the project core activities and dissemination actions. The development of the main deliverables builds on a multi-actor approach, with the contribution of various stakeholders involved in the debates, focus groups, surveys etc. In this respect, relevant stakeholders have been involved in the focus groups (farmers, farm industries representatives, food industries, policy makers, educational providers, umbrella organizations at EU level) for the design and development of the EU skills strategy for the 3 sectors addressed, as well as the identification of the occupational profiles adapted to the actual challenges of the green transition and digitalisation.

What measures have been taken so far for ensuring the sustainability of the project?

During the reporting period, two components of the exploitation plan have been developed, i.e. Regulatory framework (D5.1) and Funding opportunities (D5.2). Thus, the partners have prepared an analysis of the legislative framework of various countries for facilitating the design of national roadmaps and the transferability of the results, ranging from occupational profiles to curricula and training materials. Furthermore, the project Fields was from the beginning engaged in the launch of the Pact for Skills in the agri-food sector with a long-term impact.

Are the results accessible to the public?

The main deliverables are freely available for the public via project website, along with a specific online repository hosting the main project achievements in a structured manner. Moreover, the various online databases are also available via the project web site. These databases provide valuable information regarding existing findings and best practices, funding opportunities, proposed courses etc. The translation of the results in the participating countries native languages creates the premises of reaching a wider audience. Thus, the dissemination materials are translated in 12 languages, while the training materials piloted in 7 countries (IT, ES, FR, AT, IE, FI, NL) will be translated in these languages.

Are the relevant activities for ensuring national/regional roll out of results by national/regional authorities implemented? Are there any concrete results in this respect?

There are concrete actions for the roll out at national level, with concrete results during the reporting period. Thus, the skills strategy has been presented also at the national level (D2.3) for the 7 countries involved in the pilot sessions. Furthermore, there are ongoing activities aiming at developing national roadmaps (D2.4), that will be the basis for the pilot sessions organised in the 7 countries. Further steps regarding the national roll out are represented by the pilot training sessions, i.e. Task 4.1 - Setup and running of Train-the-trainer pilot and Task 4.2 - Setup and running of Training pilot.

Global score

83

Annex : Evaluation Comments and Recommendations

Maximum number of points for a criterion	Range of scores			
	Very good	Good	Fair	Weak
30	26-30	21-25	15-20	0-14
25	22-25	18-21	13-17	0-12
20	17-20	14-16	10-13	0-9

Please provide a short analysis of each deliverable that was due for the reporting period and its readiness for publication

Ref no (table 1.5.2)	Title of the result/product	Comments on the quality and relevance of the deliverables and what should be revised in case the quality is not satisfactory	Ready to be published/ Have to be revised
D.1.7	Survey Results Report	<p>The Report illustrates the results of the web-based bottom-up survey and their analysis for a clear identification of skills and training needs for the sectors addressed within the project framework i.e., agriculture, food industry and forestry. The results show a comprehensive analysis of the skills needs regarding: sustainability skills, digitalisation skills, bio-economy skills (agriculture, forestry, food industry), soft skills, business and entrepreneurship skills. Moreover, the report clearly highlights the correlation between skills needs and existing training gaps. The analysis extends positively at country level, respectively 7 countries out of all 12 countries involved in the project have been considered in the analysis (Austria, France, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain). Nevertheless, despite the lack of explanations regarding the selection of the 7 countries, this is in line with the original application. The report presents also trends as regards training needs and suitable training delivery and related methods for the recognition of the competences acquired.</p> <p>In the section 3.6.1 - European Level, the text should be included, as it is only mentioned "Text here".</p>	Need to be revised
D.1.8	Trend and scenario analysis	<p>The document regarding the trend and scenario analysis is well designed and developed. Furthermore, the deliverable is clearly presented and structured, with a comprehensive and relevant content. The document provides also clear insight into the methodological approach, as well as existing information and findings capitalised for the identification of major trends and scenarios at EU and national levels. The 3 EU scenarios developed cover the sectors addressed and clear focus on specific aspects regarding sustainability, digitalisation, bio-economy and business models. In addition, there are also 7 scenarios identified at the national level.</p>	Ready to be published
D.2.1	Detailed baseline of occupational profiles	<p>The document presents 10 occupational profiles (OP), as initially foreseen in the original application. Yet, according to the skills and training needs analysis, the occupational profiles designed within the framework of the project are slightly different compared with the initial plan. Thus, while in the original application there were 3 OPs foreseen for each sector addressed (Agriculture, Food industry, and Forestry) and 1 OP related to entrepreneurship. In the document related to baseline OPs, there are 10 OPs listed:</p>	Ready to be published

Annex : Evaluation Comments and Recommendations

Ref no (table 1.5.2)	Title of the result/product	Comments on the quality and relevance of the deliverables and what should be revised in case the quality is not satisfactory	Ready to be published/ Have to be revised
		7OPs refer to EQF level 5 for each sector addressed (Agriculture and Food industry 1 OP for each area: Bio-economy, Digitalisation, Sustainability) and 1 OP for Forestry, including all 3 areas. Other 3 OPs refer to EQF level 4, all sectors, respectively 1 OP for each area (Bio-economy, Digitalisation and Sustainability). Each OP identified is clearly described.	
D.2.2	Prioritised occupational profiles	The document illustrates the prioritisation of the 10 OPs designed. Criteria and methodology are clarified as well. There is also clear evidence of the capitalisation of the results of the focus groups organised and the trends and scenarios developed (D.1.8). However, while results of prioritisation are clearly listed, conclusions and final remarks are insufficiently elaborated.	Ready to be published
D.2.3a	European strategy	The deliverable is focused on the formulation of a European agri-food and forestry skills strategy, according to the challenges of green and digital transition. In this document, the key principles for the EU skills strategy in the addressed sectors are clearly stressed. Moreover, the further steps for the capitalisation of the EU skills strategy are clearly highlighted. As explained in the submitted Progress Report, the deliverable D2.3 is presented as a draft confidential document (D2.3a), that will be further updated, according with the results of the next implementation phases and will be finalised by month 45.	Ready to be published
D.3.1	Training methodologies	The training methodologies are well developed, with clear description of the pedagogical approaches, learning objectives, various training methodologies and tools. The deliverable is well structured and described in sufficient detail.	Ready to be published
D5.1	Regulatory framework list	The document illustrating the national and EU regulatory frameworks contains clear information about the methodological approach and the results related to the data collected. There are clear explanations about the identification of the specific legislation for training and the related areas addressed in the project (sustainability, digitalization and the bio-economy in agriculture). Furthermore, feeding into the database for the Regulatory Frameworks at EU, national and regional levels is also well explained. Positive is also the fact that the database illustrating the regulatory framework is functional and is accessible via project web site.	Ready to be published
D5.2	Funding Opportunities	The deliverable D5.2 is a component of the exploitation plan, as the identification of funding opportunities at EU and national levels is necessary for supporting the sustainability of the project.	Ready to be published

Annex : Evaluation Comments and Recommendations

Ref no (table 1.5.2)	Title of the result/product	Comments on the quality and relevance of the deliverables and what should be revised in case the quality is not satisfactory	Ready to be published/ Have to be revised
		Besides the methodological approach, the documents shows the structure of the related database, that is freely available online, through the project web site.	