ECHOES
Extended Classrooms for Higher Opportunities Enhancing Skills

ECHOES – Extended Classroom for Higher Opportunities Enhancing Skills - is a European project funded by the Erasmus+ Program under the Action Type KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in Vocational Tducation and training.

EXPLORE THE PROJECT SITE

The project focus on two of the most significant recent development in VET: distance learning (methodologies, tools, and resources) and online digital learning.

The specific Objectives of the project are:

- to provide a comprehensive understanding on context, technologies, skills gaps, training needs in the field of online teaching, specifically addressing VET trainers, tutors, counsellors, curriculum planners and evaluators
- to improve digital skills and abilities of VET teachers, trainers and mentors engaged in distance learning processes by offering them freely accessible learning pathways to make efficient use of the platforms, tools and educational resources for creation of digital teaching contents or components
- to contribute to creation of learning pathways at local, regional and national levels for VET teachers, trainers and mentors engaged in distance learning processes, inspired to the relevant European Frameworks

These objectives will be achieved through implementation of the following expected project results and related activities:
R1 - Research on the State of Art on distance and virtual learning for VET and WBL projects.
R2 - ECHOES Toolkit, as a comprehensive catalogue of resources and materials tailored for VET projects in the three main fields of: training / training on the job; mentorship and accompaniment to job inclusion; business creation.
R3 - ECHOES Pilot Training Course for the empowerment of digital skills of teachers, trainers and mentors supporting online learning processes in VET and WBL systems
R4 - ECHOES-OER: an Open Educational Resource-OER based on the contents of the Toolkit and the Pilot Training Course.

RESULT 2 - Toolkit

The ECHOES Toolkit is designed to support the implementation of online training interventions within Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems. The Toolkit contains a series of practical tools and methods tailored to the specific needs of trainers, mentors and, in general, VET practitioners.
The Toolkit is structured on the basis of the same thematic areas into which the "European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators" (DigCompEdu) is organized, tailored to better serve the purposes of online training and further customized.
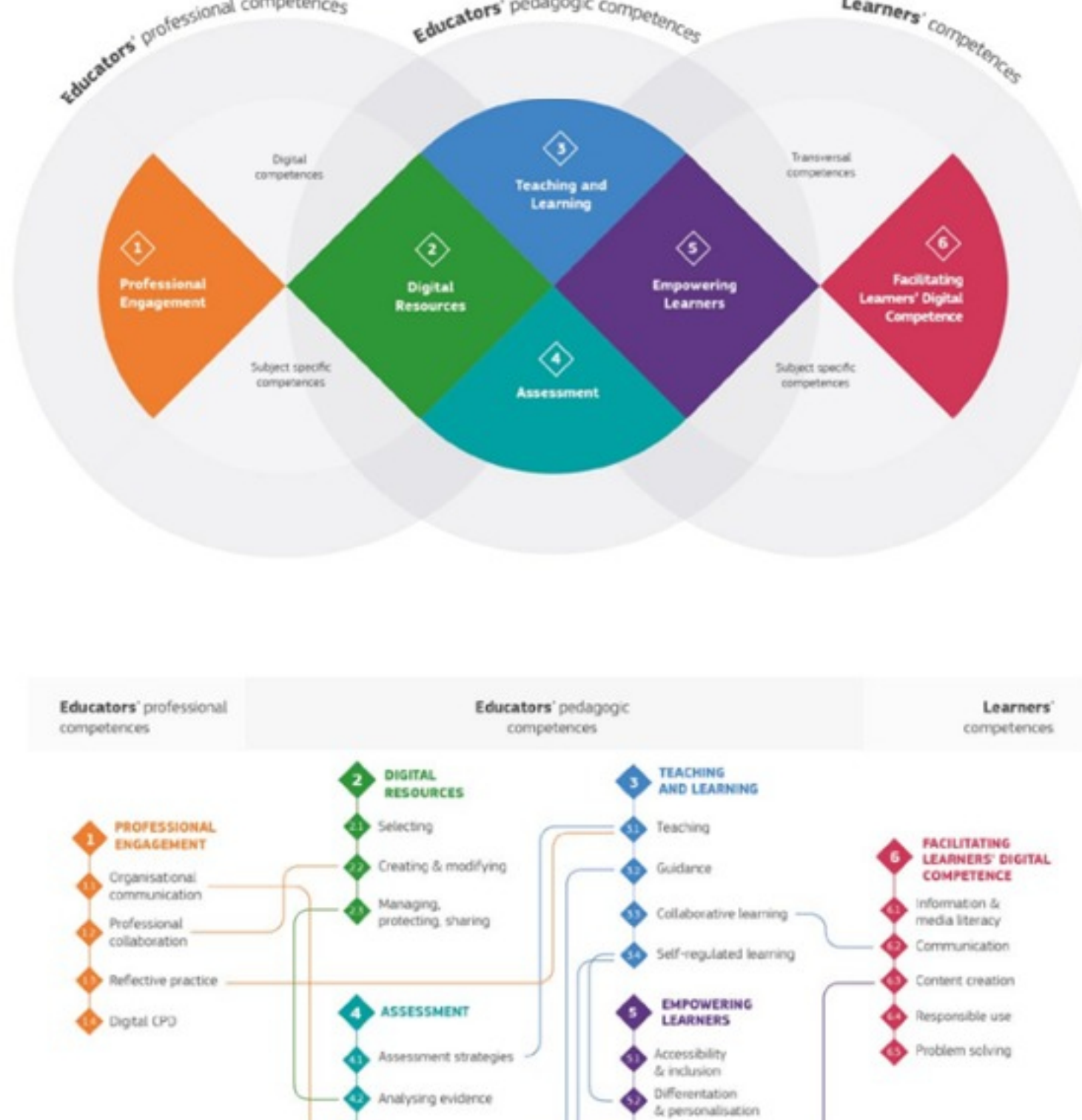The main users of the Toolkit are, therefore, trainers and mentors, but also associations, training centers, communities of trainers and VET practitioners. The resources and materials available in the Toolkit are specific to the following areas:
- **Training**
- **Work-based training**
- **Tutoring and support for job placement**
- **Support for self-entrepreneurship and business creation**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT R2

DigCompEdu and the ECHOES Toolkit
The ECHOES Toolkit is structured on the basis of the Areas of Competence indicated in the European Digital Competence Framework (DigCompEdu).

The DigCompEdu framework is available (in English) by clicking here.
Regarding the identification of skills and their declination in the areas of online learning and teaching, the following scheme describes their structure and location in the different areas of the DigCompEdu reference framework.

AREA 01.
Professional Engagement
Competence / Skill
Organizational communication

AREA 02.
Digital Resources
Competence / Skill
Creating and editing digital content

AREA 03.
Teaching and Learning
Competence / Skill
Guidelines

AREA 04.
Evaluation
Competence / Skill
Analysis of the results; Feedback and planning

AREA 05.
Empowerment of learners
Competence / Skill
Active involvement of students

AREA 06.
Improve learners' digital skills
Competence / Skill
Creation of digital content

Who are the users of the Toolkit?
Trainers, mentors and VET practitioners can have access, through the Toolkit, to methodologies and resources, available on the web and freely accessible (at least in the basic versions), in the following "Areas":
- **Training**
- **Work-based training**
- **Tutoring and support for job placement**
- **Support for self-entrepreneurship and business creation**

How to use the Toolkit
To facilitate its use, the Toolkit is divided according to the following structure:
Areas: correspond to those of the Reference Framework (DigCompEdu), which are associated with the skills and abilities that will be enabled or strengthened through the use of the proposed Tools.
Sub-Areas: indicate, in each Area, the subsets of skills and abilities that will be enabled or strengthened through the use of the proposed Tools. Areas and Sub-Areas are consistent with the Reference Framework (DigCompEdu) and directly connect the skills and abilities involved with the Individual Tools proposed.
Tools: Tools, among the various possible ones, proposed to VET professionals was made on the basis of specific research which brought out the most suitable ones to fill the skill gaps of the target levels (A2 and B1).
For the purposes of its usability, each Tool contains the following elements:
Description of the Tool
Pros and Cons
How to access the Tool
Purpose and degree of adequacy of the Tool with respect to the skills included in each Area and Sub-Area
Degree of adequacy of the Tool with respect to the levels of previous knowledge/skills
Tips and practical resources available for using the Tool
Further information and readings
Appropriateness of the Tool with respect to the implementation of specific tasks.

The Toolkit has been tested by 20 VET professionals/ WBL / Company Trainers / Mentor/ Business Creators from each of the countries represented in the partnership (Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Spain), receiving excellent feedback in terms of RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS, IMPACT, and SUSTAINABILITY.

EXPLORE THE TOOLKIT

The partnership
The project partnership consists of Ass.for.SEO (leader, Italy), T2i - Technology transfer and innovation (Italy), Primorska Technology Park (Slovenia), Infodef - Instituto para el Fomento del Desarrollo y la Formacion (Spain), HTBLA Wolfsberg (Austria), Wematica Srl (Italy).