



The Value of Creative Learning Communities and Implementation of Key Competence 7

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The 'Creative Learning Communities' (CLC) is an innovative project designed to explore and create improved teaching and learning pathways, enhancing a sense of initiative and personal entrepreneurship. The concept of CLCs builds on the notion that new teaching and learning tools are best developed through a process of engaged, enlightened and inclusive cooperation. The ideas, voices and experiences of VET trainers and learners, community groups, and representatives from commercial and public sectors can be pooled together to provide a rich resource, underpinning the collective development of tools to support capacity, capability and skills building. In the case of Key Competence 7 (KC7), such capability building is centred *inter alia* around the themes of entrepreneurship, initiative, creativity and innovation. KC7 is an individual's ability to turn ideas into action, including creativity, innovation and risk-taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects. KC7 means the ability to identify opportunities, including 'bigger picture' issues that provide the context in which people live and work, such as economics and the opportunities and challenges facing organisations. KC7 means translating ideas into new products and processes, and taking novelty out into the world in an effort to create value or improve upon existing products, systems or practices. KC7 seeks to identify opportunities, allocate resources, and create value and is frequently connected with organisational acumen, and with personal qualities and skills such as proactivity, determination, leadership, creativity, risk-taking and initiative. KC7 also means to have the ability to produce something new through imaginative skill; whether a new solution to a problem, a new method or device, or a new artistic object or form. CLC seeks to identify the needs of VET trainers and at-risk learners, promoting creativity as part of Key Competence 7, to provide creative teaching tools for VET trainers and to streamline creativity teaching throughout Europe. Additionally the project seeks to innovate VET teaching, integrate individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds into work and education, whilst responding to recent EU policy developments and contributing to the development of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQARF).