



VETERANS

EDUTRAIN1 in Thessaloniki, Greece

A VET Education Program for Energy and Environment Capacities development in the Western Balkans Entrepreneur Learners

Project Number: 101129468



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1. Introduction

The EDUTRAIN1 training event was implemented within the framework of the project VETERANS – A VET Education Program for Energy and Environment Capacities Development in the Western Balkans Entrepreneur Learners. The VETERANS project aims to support the modernization and strengthening of VET systems by promoting green skills, sustainable entrepreneurship, and environmentally responsible practices, in line with European Union priorities such as the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals.

EDUTRAIN1 represents a key capacity-building activity of the project, designed to support the professional development of VET-related stakeholders and to foster innovation in vocational education and training. The event focused on equipping participants with up-to-date knowledge and practical tools related to green entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, circular economy principles, and sustainable business development. By addressing both theoretical and practical aspects, the training aimed to respond to the growing demand for green skills in the labour market and to support the transition towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient economy.

The training event brought together participants from EU and Western Balkan countries, creating a strong transnational learning environment that encouraged the exchange of experiences, good practices, and perspectives across different educational and socio-economic contexts. Emphasis was placed on interactive learning, collaboration, and peer-to-peer exchange, ensuring that participants were actively involved throughout the training process.

Through EDUTRAIN1, the VETERANS project contributes directly to its overall objectives of enhancing the capacity of VET trainers, educators, and stakeholders to integrate green skills and sustainable entrepreneurship into their educational and professional activities. The event also aimed to raise awareness about the importance of environmentally sustainable business models and to inspire participants to act as multipliers within their organizations and local communities, thereby ensuring a wider and long-lasting impact of the project outcomes.

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2. Description of the Event

The EDUTRAIN1 training event was successfully implemented from 22 to 24 July 2025 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The event was organized as a three-day, face-to-face capacity-building activity and formed an integral part of the VETERANS project's training and knowledge-transfer actions. Thessaloniki was selected as the host city due to its strategic role as a regional hub for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation in Southeast Europe.

The training was designed as an intensive learning experience, combining theoretical sessions, interactive workshops, group-based activities, and peer learning opportunities. This blended approach ensured a balance between knowledge acquisition and practical application, allowing participants to actively engage with the content and apply new concepts in real-world and professional contexts. Each training day followed a structured agenda, while also allowing sufficient space for discussion, reflection, and exchange of experiences among participants.

The thematic focus of EDUTRAIN1 was aligned with the core priorities of the VETERANS project, particularly the green transition in entrepreneurship and vocational education. The training addressed key topics such as the green economy, energy efficiency, circular economy

principles, green technologies, and sustainable business models. Special emphasis was placed on helping participants understand how these concepts can be integrated into entrepreneurial activities and vocational training practices, responding to current labour market needs and sustainability challenges.

A strong participatory and learner-centred methodology was applied throughout the event. Participants were encouraged to actively contribute through discussions, teamwork, case study analysis, and hands-on workshops. This approach fostered collaboration, critical thinking, and mutual learning, enabling participants to benefit from the diverse professional backgrounds and national contexts represented in the group. Peer learning played a central role, supporting the exchange of good practices and the co-creation of knowledge. In addition, the training supported participants in transforming learning outcomes into actionable green business ideas. Through guided workshops and group exercises, participants explored local and regional green opportunities, developed sustainable microbusiness concepts, and presented their ideas during structured pitch sessions. The introduction of the VETERANS e-Learning Platform further enhanced the training by providing participants with a digital tool for continued learning, access to educational materials, and long-term engagement beyond the physical event.

EDUTRAIN1 provided a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that strengthened participants' capacities in green entrepreneurship and sustainable business development, while also reinforcing transnational cooperation and knowledge exchange among VET stakeholders from EU and Western Balkan countries.

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3. Agenda of the Event



VETERANS – A VET Education Program for Energy and Environment Capacities development in the Western Balkans Entrepreneur Learners

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EDUTRAIN1 Agenda

22-24/07/2025

VENUE

Proxenou Koromila str. 51, 1st Floor, GR-546 22, Thessaloniki, Greece

Time Slot DAY1	Session
10:30 – 11:00	Understanding the Green Shift in Entrepreneurship
11:00 – 12:00	Welcome Coffee & Registration
12:00 – 13:30	Introduction to the VETERANS Project and Objectives of EDUTRAIN
13:30 – 14:30	Session 1: Green Economy and the Role of Entrepreneurs
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch Break
15:30 – 16:00	Workshop: Mapping Green Opportunities in the Local Market
	• Reflections & Open Discussion
Time Slot DAY2	Session
10:30 – 11:00	Skills for Sustainable Business
11:00 – 12:30	Morning Brief & Energizer Activity
12:30 – 13:30	Session 2: Energy Efficiency, Circular Economy & Green Technologies
	Group Activity: Case Studies on Sustainable Business Models



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13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	Introduction to the VETERANS e-Learning Platform
15:30 – 16:00	Quiz & Feedback Session
Time Slot DAY3	Session From Learning to Action
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome & Icebreaker
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3: Entrepreneurial Mindset and Green Innovation
12:30 – 13:30	Workshop: Developing Your Own Green Microbusiness Idea
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	Pitch Session: Participants Present Their Green Concepts
15:30 – 16:00	Certification Ceremony & Closing Remarks



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4. Profile of Participants

The EDUTRAIN1 training event was attended by two participants from each partner organization involved in the VETERANS project, ensuring balanced representation and active participation across the consortium. This structure supported effective knowledge exchange, collaboration, and peer learning among organizations from both EU and Western Balkan countries.

Participants represented a diverse range of professional backgrounds and roles, including VET trainers and educators, representatives of vocational education and training institutions, university staff and researchers, as well as professionals active in the fields of entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and innovation. Their expertise and experience contributed significantly to the quality of discussions, group work, and collaborative activities throughout the training.

The selected participants were directly involved in vocational education, training delivery, curriculum development, research, or project implementation within their respective organizations. This ensured that the knowledge and skills acquired during EDUTRAIN1 could

be effectively transferred, applied, and multiplied at institutional and local levels after the completion of the event.

Special emphasis was placed on involving participants who have the capacity to act as multipliers, disseminating the outcomes of the training within their organizations, networks, and communities. The transnational composition of the participant group fostered intercultural dialogue and the exchange of good practices, allowing participants to compare different approaches to green entrepreneurship, sustainable business models, and VET provision across countries.

Overall, the participant profile contributed to a dynamic and collaborative learning environment, reinforcing the objectives of the VETERANS project to strengthen institutional capacities, promote green skills, and support sustainable and inclusive development through vocational education and training.

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5. Outcomes of the Event

The EDUTRAIN1 training event generated substantial and multidimensional outcomes, contributing significantly to the overall objectives of the VETERANS project. The event successfully strengthened the capacities of participants by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to green entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, circular economy principles, and sustainable business development within the context of vocational education and training.

One of the key outcomes of EDUTRAIN1 was the improved understanding of the green transition and its implications for entrepreneurship and VET systems. Participants gained a comprehensive overview of current European and international sustainability challenges, as well as emerging trends in the green economy. This enabled them to better understand the role of VET providers, trainers, and educators in preparing learners for green jobs and environmentally responsible entrepreneurial activities.

The training also led to a significant enhancement of participants' practical skills. Through interactive workshops, case studies, and group activities, participants developed the ability to identify green market opportunities, analyse sustainable business models, and apply energy efficiency and circular economy concepts in entrepreneurial contexts. These hands-on activities supported the translation of theoretical knowledge into practical competencies that can be directly applied in professional and educational settings. Another important outcome was the development of innovative green microbusiness ideas. During the workshops and pitch sessions, participants collaboratively designed and presented sustainable business concepts addressing real environmental and market needs. This process strengthened participants' entrepreneurial mindset, creativity, and problem-solving skills, while also demonstrating the feasibility of integrating green principles into business planning and vocational training curricula.

The event also contributed to the strengthening of pedagogical and training capacities of VET-related stakeholders. Participants enhanced their ability to incorporate green skills, sustainability concepts, and experiential learning methods into their teaching and training practices. As a result, EDUTRAIN1 supported the modernization of VET approaches and reinforced the relevance of vocational education to current and future labour market demands.

A further key outcome was the familiarization with and initial use of the VETERANS e-Learning Platform. Participants were introduced to the platform as a central digital tool for accessing educational materials, continuing professional development, and cross-border collaboration. This outcome ensures sustainability beyond the physical event, enabling participants to remain engaged with project resources and to further develop their competencies over time.

In addition, EDUTRAIN1 significantly strengthened transnational cooperation and networking among partner organizations and participants. The event fostered collaboration, trust, and mutual understanding across different national and institutional contexts. Participants established professional connections that are

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expected to support future cooperation, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives within and beyond the duration of the VETERANS project.

The outcomes of EDUTRAIN1 demonstrate the effectiveness of the training in achieving its capacity-building objectives. The event not only enhanced individual competencies but also contributed to institutional development by equipping participants with the tools and motivation to act as multipliers. These outcomes provide a strong foundation for the continuation and scaling of project activities and reinforce the contribution of the VETERANS project to sustainable, inclusive, and future-oriented vocational education and training systems.

6. Feedback and Evaluation

The feedback and evaluation process for the EDUTRAIN1 training event was an integral part of the activity and aimed to assess the quality, relevance, and effectiveness of the training in relation to its objectives. Evaluation was carried out through a combination of interactive feedback sessions, quizzes, open discussions, and participant reflections conducted throughout the event and especially during the final day. The feedback received from participants was highly positive, indicating a strong level of satisfaction with both the content and the methodology of the training. Participants highlighted the relevance of the topics addressed, particularly those related to green entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, circular economy, and sustainable business models. The training was considered timely and well aligned with current challenges faced by VET systems and labour markets in both EU and Western Balkan countries.

Participants also expressed appreciation for the balanced structure of the training, which successfully combined theoretical input with practical, hands-on activities. The interactive workshops, group work, and case study analyses were especially valued, as they encouraged active participation, critical thinking, and the application of knowledge in real-life contexts. The learner-centred approach contributed to a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

The quality and expertise of the trainers and facilitators were consistently rated as very high. Participants noted the clarity of presentations, the practical relevance of examples provided, and the openness of trainers to discussion and exchange. The supportive and inclusive atmosphere created during the event further enhanced the learning experience and encouraged collaboration among participants.

Feedback on the VETERANS e-Learning Platform was also positive. Participants recognized its potential as a valuable tool for continued learning, access to educational resources, and long-term collaboration within the project framework. The platform was considered an important element for ensuring the sustainability of training outcomes beyond the duration of the physical event.

In conclusion, the evaluation results confirmed that EDUTRAIN1 successfully met its objectives and delivered significant added value to participants. The feedback collected will be used to further refine and improve future

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training activities within the VETERANS project, ensuring continuous quality enhancement and responsiveness to participants' needs.

7. Conclusion

The EDUTRAIN1 training event successfully achieved its objectives and represented an important milestone in the implementation of the VETERANS project. Through a well-structured and participatory learning approach, the event effectively strengthened the capacities of VET-related stakeholders in the areas of green entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, circular economy, and sustainable business development.

The training provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical tools, enabling them to better understand the green transition and its implications for vocational education, entrepreneurship, and labour market needs. By fostering innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial thinking, EDUTRAIN1 contributed to the development of skills and competencies that are essential for supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

In addition to individual learning outcomes, the event reinforced transnational cooperation and knowledge exchange among partner organizations from EU and Western Balkan countries. The diverse profiles and experiences of participants enriched the training process and strengthened the foundation for continued collaboration within the VETERANS consortium.

The outcomes of EDUTRAIN1 will have a lasting impact through the integration of green skills and sustainable entrepreneurship concepts into participants' professional and educational activities. The use of the VETERANS e-Learning Platform further ensures the sustainability and continuity of learning beyond the physical event.

EDUTRAIN1 made a meaningful contribution to the broader objectives of the VETERANS project and the Erasmus+ CB-VET programme, supporting the modernization of VET systems and promoting environmentally responsible and future-oriented vocational education and training practices.

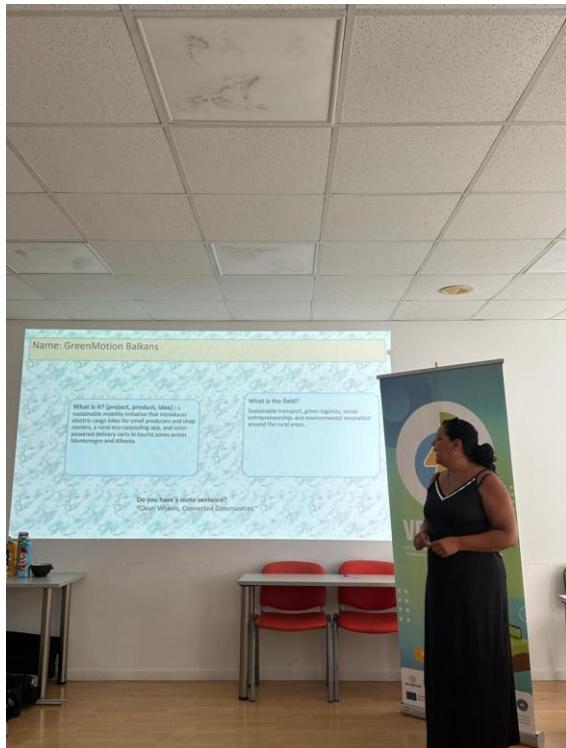
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8. Photos



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