

FLASH REPORT

Event name

SKILLS FOR SMART SPECIALISATION – FORESIGHT ACTION IN KHARKIV REGION ON “HIGH VALUE ADDED MANUFACTURING”, ZOOM EVENT (ONLINE), 17-18 MARCH 2021

Main objective/s

The meeting is part of the Foresight action implemented in Kharkiv region. The meeting was aimed to present and discuss findings of the ETF analysis on skills implications in “High Value Added Manufacturing”, to share good practices from the EU and other countries on how current and future skills needs in ‘High value added manufacturing’ sector are addressed and to discuss external economic factors and regional drivers for change in Kharkiv region.

Background

As a result of the smart specialisation process, four potential priority domains for smart specialisation were identified in Kharkiv:

- value added manufacturing
- bioeconomy and agrotechnology
- smart IT solutions
- edutech and creative industries

In the Kharkiv Region Development Strategy, 2021 – 2027, adopted in February 27, 2020, the following sub-sectors within the preliminary priority domain of “High-Value added manufacturing” were identified:

- power engineering
- production of armoured vehicles
- aviation industry
- development and creation of new materials

In 2020, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Economy and the Kharkiv authorities, the ETF implemented an analysis, Skills for Smart Specialisation, for the preliminary priority domain for smart specialisation ‘high-value added manufacturing’ in Kharkiv. The baseline for the analysis was the regional smart specialisation process in the Kharkiv region, embedded into the Regional Development Strategy.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The ETF foresight action in Kharkiv has high political attention both at the national and regional level and the kick-off meeting was opened by a panel consisting of:

- Xavier Matheu de Cortada, Head of Knowledge Hub Department, ETF
- Volodymyr Rodchenko, Kharkiv Smart Specialisation Team
- Iryna Shumik, Director of VET Directorate of Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
- Angelica Krutova, Director of Department on Science and Education, Kharkiv Regional State Administration

Pirita Vuorinen provided an overview of the ETF's approach to Skills for Smart Specialisation. Following this presentation, findings of the ETF analysis on skills implications in "High Value Added Manufacturing" were presented by National Experts, Rodion Kolyshko and Mykola Sudakov.

The following session covered the inspiring practices from VET providers in EU countries: Basque VET Applied Research Centre, Spain, Iñigo Araiztegui, Director of Internationalisation; ITS Maker, Academy of Advanced mechanics, Bologna, Italy, Michele Picciarelli presented two very fascinating cases. During Day 2 sharing of good practices has continued with Türk Traktör, Turkey, Gürhan Höke, Lead Specialist, Training and Project Development and Lombardini, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Claudio Galli, Human Resources Manager. Ukrainian experience has been presented as well: Kharkiv Innovation, Automatisatation and Engineering Cluster, Vitaliy Zaitsev.

As part of Step 1 of the ETF foresight action, participants exchanged their viewpoints on external economic factors and regional drivers for change in Kharkiv region.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

Depending on the Kharkiv vision for value added manufacturing, education and training provision will need to adopt corresponding measures to support the prioritisation:

Trends like technological innovation, digitalisation and automatization in manufacturing processes have become more and more important in recent years, especially in ensuring competitiveness on global and national markets. To stay up to date with the developments in the industry, VET system has to support Kharkiv enterprises, especially SMEs, by developing high-quality training programs (both short and long term) on modern technologies and processes, while ensuring the development of transversal skills.

Digitalization and 4.0 Industry are drivers that change production processes and transform jobs in the manufacturing sector. There is a great need for new knowledge and skills, especially in technical (vocational) sphere to address these changes.

Better career information and guidance in lifelong learning perspective, adapted to the needs of different age and professional groups, contributes to attracting workforce with high level of theoretical and practical knowledge.

Constant innovation (new products, new production processes, and new opportunities within regional and global value chains) requires a review of VET and pre-tertiary curricula, provision of relevant teachers' training and relevant equipment (IT tools, simulators, VR-reality etc.).

SMEs development and their inclusion in national, regional and global production chains will require establishment and development of innovation support services e.g., innovation hubs, educational consortiums (including VET, at secondary and post-secondary level, and higher education providers).

Cooperation between private sector and educational providers, which is not limited to the provision of workplaces for VET learners, is one of the strategies how to align the education and training offer with labour market needs. The role of regional VET stakeholders' council in identification needs and opportunities for closer cooperation in this sphere is crucial.

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