

FLASH REPORT

Event name

Skills for smart specialisation – Foresight action in Rivne Region on "Woodworking and Furniture manufacturing" - Validation Meeting

Main objective/s

The aim of the meeting was to validate the findings of the ETF Skills for Smart Specialisation foresight component, which concludes the analysis started in mid-2020.

Background

The ETF first tested the Skills for Smart Specialisation methodology in 2019. The first tests were implemented at national level in Montenegro (renewable energy and health tourism) and Moldova (renewable energy and food processing).

In 2020, the Skills for Smart Specialisation methodology was tested at regional level in two pilot regions in Ukraine: Rivne (woodworking and furniture manufacturing) and Kharkiv (high-value added manufacturing).

As a result of the testing, in 2021, the ETF introduced two new elements to the Skills for Smart Specialisation methodology which were applied in Rivne and Kharkiv regions: a foresight action and a peer learning partnership.

The first objective of the foresight action in Rivne region was to sketch out the possible future development paths for education and training, as a result of smart specialisation. The ETF methodological approach used a foresight to complete the analysis of skills supply and demand. This was based on a combination of Delphi surveys and expert panels.

The second objective of the foresight action was to lay the ground for peer learning with EU regions with matching smart specialisation priorities and to use information on future perspectives for peer learning.

In order to reach these objectives, the foresight action sought to bring into the discussion the broader regional development planning, business conditions and the external economic environment.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The half-day meeting focused on the presentation of the results of the foresight, a group work on a roadmap, and a presentation of a Danish VET school supporting regional smart specialisation in Skive, Denmark.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

Discussions with regional authorities, education and training providers and businesses focused on the five key implications on skills, resulting from smart specialisation in woodworking and furniture manufacturing in Rivne:

Digital skills

- 3D drawing
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM)

Design of products, focusing on the interaction between aesthetics, function, wood materials and manufacturing processes

- Aesthetic and ergonomic design
- Creating one-off bespoke designs
- Mix of applied manual, technical and digital design skills together with creativity

Environmental considerations, renewable and sustainable resources, and innovative new materials

- Environmental considerations
- Renewable and sustainable resources
- Innovative new materials

Material properties of wood and how they determine its processing and use; and joining wood with wood and other materials

- Understanding material properties of wood and how they determine its processing and use; and joining wood with wood and other materials (such as glass and plastic) - for product crafting and manufacture is an important part of the furniture design process.

Key policy responses were identified to support the development and integration of the above skills sets into the existing education and training provision at the regional level.

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