

The PADAWAN events 2021...

The PADAWAN Generation project is about to end, but cooperation will remain: Our last Ezine gives impressions of the latest regional PADAWAN events and of how the tools have been received so far in the different hospitality training structures.

Since September 2018 we have been working on the PADAWAN Generation project. In partnership between six training and employer organisations from Berlin, Dobrich, Vicenza and Zaragoza, with the aim to support work-based learning in the hospitality sector, in our regions and beyond.

In this time, we launched the [European Apprenticeship School PADAWAN \(EASP\)](#), a multilingual platform for local cooperation among training providers, hospitality businesses and apprentices, we initiated the [PADAWAN Community](#), a European exchange base for teachers and tutors in hospitality, and we compiled [self-study materials for apprentices and for their tutors in companies](#), that represent the experiences from work-based learning in different European contexts and practices.

We would like to thank you all for your interest and your precious contributions to the project, and for your outstanding commitment to apprenticeship in hospitality! Please stay in touch – with us, with your local partners, with colleagues from all over Europe.

[See you in the PADAWAN Community!](#)

Your PADAWAN team



29 April 2021

Dobrich/Bulgaria



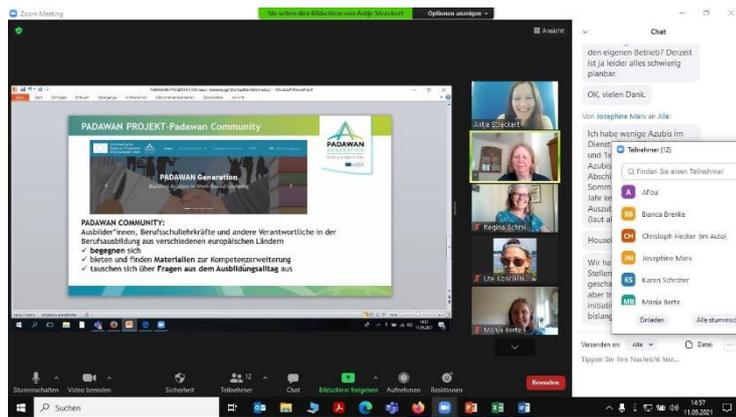
Promoting the system of work-based learning in North East Bulgaria

On 29th of April, the Bulgarian partner *Association Culinary Arts and Hospitality* organized a conference on current developments of the VET work-based learning (WBL) system in Bulgaria and the applicable legislation. At the core of this conference: the PADAWAN Generation tools as opportunities in support of the stakeholders in work based apprenticeship. More than 40 persons, among which VET teachers and representatives of educational institutions, VET trainees and students, company tutors and hospitality business owners and managers, local authorities and other interested parties, were attending the event held in Dobrich and discussing their impressions and experiences with the European Apprenticeship School PADAWAN (EASP), with the transversal training module for soft skills and the handbook for company tutors.

The EASP was welcomed by the participants with a great interest. VET providers' representatives – such as schools and VET centers – are fascinated by the platform as a helpful tool in support of the training process and communication between the teachers and the students. The students attending the event were eager to test the platform and also to examine the learning materials provided by the project as the transversal training module for soft skills in the hospitality industry.

The business representatives, on the other hand, gladly accept to be involved more actively in the process of practical preparation of students and trainees in the hospitality sector. There is not much practice established in Bulgaria regarding the WBL-system or the dual training in VET. Furthermore, legislation foresees only a few hours for employees in tourism establishments to prepare for their role as company tutors in learning processes. Business representatives therefor highly appreciate to have more options to cooperate with the other key actors, to rely on particular protocols for communication, and, with the handbook for company tutors, to benefit immediately from a guide with practical examples and ideas in support of their function and daily work with apprentices.





Strengthening cooperation in dual vocational training in Berlin

Due to Covid-19 and the applying restrictions for educational institutions, the PADAWAN event in Berlin had to take place online. During two separate video sessions on May 11th, and based on the PADAWAN aims and results, altogether 25 professionals in dual vocational training discussed the challenges and chances of cooperation in dual vocational training (apprenticeship). The groups were composed by HR managers and tutors in hospitality industry, project managers in vocational education and teachers in vocational schools.

Various collaborative models were discussed in the view of supporting apprentices' learning processes, as there are

- the regular cooperation between professionals in the role of tutors/trainers in companies and teachers in public vocational school
- the "training hotel", a local structure established under the Covid-19 pandemic to support companies in the hospitality sector to fulfill their duty as partner in apprenticeship.*The training hotel compensates for what apprentices were and are missing in their learning path during lockdowns, taking over apprentices from companies for a certain period and specified learning content.
- joint vocational education, in which companies send their apprentices to other companies in order to accomplish parts of the curriculum that the contracting company cannot deliver
- joint continuing education, by which companies provide their employees with more and better further training opportunities

Facilitated by the kiezküchen team Padawan, the potentials of the Padawan products for the purposes of cooperation were evaluated: The Padawan self-study materials for apprentices and company tutors inspired companies not only to use them but also to share resources for self-study among them. The EASP finds its place also in cooperation between companies, who work with the same apprentice. And the Community raised desires for international exchange from chatting with each other to organizing real trainee exchanges.

The event itself showed once more, that virtual environments may give birth to creative processes over distances and without knowing each other.

18 May 2021

Vicenza, Italy



Strengthening skills for work-based learning in the Veneto Region

On the 18th May 2021, about 80 people attended the conference that Confartigianato Vicenza and PSSG organized in Vicenza on challenges and perspectives in apprenticeship in the hospitality sector. Considering the current Covid-19 regulations in terms of safety, no more than 60 persons could have been present in the conference room. For this reason, some attended the event online. Altogether, there were 44 students, 4 VET teachers, 25 HO.RE.CA professionals and 6 representatives from other Public Institutions.

The event was divided into three main parts:

Following the warm welcome by the Director of PSSG and the greetings by the Director of the Da Schio Institute, the Director of the Regional School Office in Vicenza gave an exhaustive presentation about the dual system in Italy and in the Veneto Region. He pointed out the strengths and opportunities of work based learning systems, also highlighting similarities and differences between the Italian system and other European ones (e.g. the German system).

In the second part, the Padawan Project was presented, explaining all the functions and potentiality of both the platform and the materials for apprentices and company tutors, as well as showing the Padawan Community. There was also room for discussing the new challenges that sector professionals have been facing in the last year and are going to face in the future. Especially during the pandemic, the professionals in the HO.RE.CA. sector understood the pivotal need to re-design their business according to the new customer trends.

The last part of the event was spent to test the EASP: some volunteers among students, VET teachers and company tutors experienced the tools of the platform, in order to better understand how it can be used and what its potentials are.

The multiplier event was held to promote the strengthening of skills among the different actors participating in work-based learning in the hospitality sector, suggesting a collaborative virtual environment where professionals and teachers can plan and support the training of apprentices in an innovative way.



Overcoming challenges in Dual VET practice in the Aragon region

FASE and the Chamber of Commerce of Zaragoza, following all the security measures currently required in the region of Aragon, brought together on 19th of May almost 100 people in the Chamber's assembly hall to talk about the future of vocational training in the hotel and catering sector.

In this conference entitled 'DUAL VET in the hospitality sector, a bet for the future', the head of the VET service of the Government of Aragon, Roberto Santolaria, spoke about the general panorama of VET in this region and all the advantages this educational system can bring to society. This event also counted with the participation of HORECA, its general secretary, Jesús Boillos, who, as an expert of the sector, spoke about the challenges that the sector is facing due to the crisis of the covid-19 and its new trends.

Different professionals from educational centers and hotel and catering schools also took part in the conference and they highlighted the value of technical and practical training in this sector, a key aspect for the employability of young people. Some restaurant owners who usually train young people in their kitchens highlighted the importance of the continuous training in the workplace, especially for the employees who are tutors and should get the suitable training for it.

Finally, FASE, as leader of the PADAWAN GENERATION Project, highlighted that this project brings the solution to the majority of the challenges of the hospitality sector's future: the importance of transversal skills, the training of the tutors, the need for digitization and innovation etc. For each of the pointed challenges, the Project PADAWAN Generation has the answer: the Manual of Transversal Skills for the apprentices encloses creativity, digital competences, stress management etc. The Manual for Tutors responds to a most acute need in this sector and will be of much help for this generation of tutors. FASE also presented the EASP Platform as the best means to ensure fluid communication between all the persons involved in the VET training profession, as well as the Communication Protocol which will benefit to all the parties involved.

The organizers and participants agreed on the success of the event, which was very informative and motivating for young people who want to be trained in the hospitality sector and who see this sector as their future career.



Any questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact the PADAWAN Generation partner in your area:

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PADAWAN Generation on Facebook

PADAWAN Generation Website
with Community and EASP:
<http://padawan-project.eu/>



Partners

