

DIGEST 7

INTERVENTION 1: APPLIED RESEARCH IN VET IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

This digest collects and describes the first of five interventions showcasing the regional context of collaboration between VET organisations and the local ecosystem. In this summary we include the experiences and a list of recommendations and key elements for VET centres when implementing action to enhance AR activities to consider in their interventions.

The intervention aimed to promote Basque VET system's applied research practices to international audiences. It covered policy insights, examples of collaboration between companies and VET centres, and reflections on the role of policy makers. The session utilized lecture-based learning and multimedia case studies.

Key Points:

1. Audience: The training was open to individuals interested in applied research in VET, including educators, researchers, and industry representatives. Participants included project partners from various countries.
2. Training Objectives: Participants learned about Basque VET's applied research framework, collaboration examples, and the role of stakeholders. Learning objectives included understanding the applied research process, recognizing examples and methods, reflecting on educator roles, and inferring system applications.
3. Content Details: The training consisted of five blocks covering policy discussions, Basque business overview, SME perspectives, VET centre roles, and identifying development gaps.
4. Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session, participants were expected to identify and describe Basque VET's applied research process, recognize examples and methods, reflect on educator roles and SME applications, and infer system applications.

Overall, the intervention aimed to share Basque VET's applied research experiences, provide insights for international audiences, and facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders in the field.

The goal of this projects with small and medium-sized companies is to develop applied innovation projects with companies to respond to the requirement to bring the teaching staff up to date in terms of science and technology, promoting innovation both in SMEs and in vocational training centres.

During the final block of the intervention, participants applied their learning outcomes by planning the implementation of the TKgune programme in their respective regions. They utilized a questionnaire to identify gaps and challenges in developing TKgune in their countries. The intervention was informed by the work done in the AIRinVET project, particularly focusing on the TKgune programme's ecosystem and its comparison with European and Canadian contexts regarding applied research. Insights were drawn from various stakeholders, including policy makers, program coordinators, SMEs, and teachers.

Qualitative indicators highlighted areas for improvement in the vocational training landscape across different countries, such as enhancing industry collaboration, updating skill development programs, promoting apprenticeship programs, establishing research and innovation hubs, and engaging with the local community for feedback. Recommendations were made to enhance collaboration across borders, integrate advanced research methods, increase funding and support, and standardize innovation practices within vocational training centres. Implementing these recommendations would contribute to building a robust, innovative, and responsive vocational training ecosystem in Europe and regional markets.

You can watch the session at the [AIRINVET channel](#)

