

Parallel session: applied research



Moderator: Jone Etxebeste
International Project Manager, Tknika, Secretary at the WFCP affinity group on applied research, Spain



Juan Ganboa
Researcher at Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness, University of Deusto, Spain



John Edwards
Secretary General European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), Belgium



Jakob Vest Arler
Project coordinator of BARCOVE, Director of HRD at OKNygaard, Denmark



Adrijana Hodak
Project coordinator CHALLENGER Head of Intercompany training centre (MIC) at School Center Nova Gorica, Slovenia



Josu Riezu
Project partner of AIRinVET. Responsible for People Development area at AFM, Spanish Association of Manufacturers of Machine Tools, Spain



Vaso Anastasopoulou
Project coordinator NEARVET AR project, Greece



Jone Extebeste

International Project Manager, Tknika
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She has worked for the Basque Government department of Education in Vocational Training for the last 20 years, where she has served as teacher of business, coordinator for international projects in a VET centre and since 2019 holds position as an international project manager at Tknika, Basque VET Applied Research Centre.

Along with her current position, she is also secretary at the WFCP's affinity group on applied research.

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Dr Juan P. Gamboa is researcher at Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness, University of Deusto, Spain. His research focus is on Vocational Education and Training and tertiary education, skills for competitiveness and wellbeing at the regional level, human capital and employability.

He is also scientific co-leader of the Observatory on VET in Spain.

Dr Juan P. Gamboa

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John Edwards

Secretary General

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John Edwards is Secretary General of EURASHE, the European association representing institutions that deliver professional higher education and conduct applied research. In this role he acts as an interface between European policy makers and EURASHE members in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, research, enterprise, and regional policy.

John previously worked for the European Commission's Joint Research Centre between 2011 and 2020, managing projects on the role of higher education and vocational excellence in Smart Specialisation. He is currently coordinating an Erasmus+ project on mapping the regional impact of Universities of Applied Science. John holds degrees from the University of St Andrews, the College of Europe in Bruges, and Newcastle University, where he completed his PhD in economic geography. He is a dual Portuguese/UK national.

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My background in the building/landscaping industry goes back to 2012. I have been part of OKNygaard since 2019, currently I am head of HR-development in the company.

We are one of the largest landscaping companies in Denmark, with app. 600 FTE, and a 2021 turnover at 85 mio Euro. My educational background is teacher and social anthropology.

Jakob Vest Arler

Project coordinator of BARCOVE

Director of HRD at OKNygaard, Denmark

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Adrijana Hodak

Head of Intercompany training centre

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She has worked at the School Center Nova Gorica for 22 years where she has served as teacher of German Language, coordinator for international projects and since 2007 holds position as Head of Intercompany Training Center. She is an active member of Consortium of Slovenian School Centers since 2004 and the last five years also representative of the Consortium in EUproVET, the representational platform for European VET providers.

She used to be a VET ambassador and project leader of Talentjourney, the Platform of IoT vocational excellence. She leads Munera 3, a four-year ESF-funded project that aims at training approximately 17.400 employees according to the needs of the modern labour market, industry 4.0 in tight collaboration with companies and smart specialization chains.

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Josu Riezu is currently responsible for the organisation's People Development Area. He has worked at AFM CLUSTER for 20 years, having held different functions during all this time in the Quality and International Departments, as well as a Finance Director.

Along with his current position, he is also director of AFMEC, the association for contract manufacturing and mechanical engineering enterprises, within AFM CLUSTER.

Josu Riezu

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Vaso is passionate about service excellence in social policy and education, while designing lifelong learning projects, as a competitive edge to capacity building and innovation.

During the last 20 years, she has facilitated and participated in over 300 national and transnational EU co-funded successful initiatives in the areas of social inclusion and employability. She co-developed range of curricula based on a learning outcomes approach, using innovative and learner-centric pedagogies in VET, and co-designed flexible learning pathways, as a response to emerging needs, in several fields and occupational profiles. She enjoys working for the development of educators' professional and pedagogical capacity, as the essential driving force for high quality and inclusive education.

Her qualifications also include a Master's degree in Adult Education and in Business Administration (MBA).

Vaso Anastasopoulou

Project coordinator

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