**WORK PACKAGE 4 – CAPACITY BUILDING**

**TEMPLATE FOR COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICES**

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| **Name of the best practice** | Sammtalk (<https://sammtalk.com>)  (international virtual learning environment) |
| **Country** | Netherlands |
| **Description** | The aim of this tool is to support the development of foreign languages education in European secondary schools. It offers partner classes and provide the platform, process, activities, and support needed for successful digital language exchange via video chat and online social media to develop intercultural and language skills. The platform provides teachers with information about their assigned partner class, as well as a schedule and activities, such as shared videos and photos to get started and video chat rooms to talk in real time.  The SammTalk team works very closely with teachers to ensure that participation is beneficial and also easy, conscious of time use, and fun. Low student motivation and inactive learning is counter-acted in a highly efficient manner, a playful and user-friendly approach.  The tool has been awarded two prizes (digital creativity improving society award by the Europe integration foreign affairs and European youth award ‘Digital solutions with social impact’). |
| **Who is involved? How were they motivated to participate?** | Teachers, trainers and students are involved.  For teachers / trainers:   * Personal moderator account on secure digital platform, range of activities to choose from, ability to see all students’ posts, ability to see which students have responded to which activities * Support from SammTalk with arranging and scheduling activities, and support with questions and difficulties that cannot be solved together with partner teacher   For students:   * Personal student account on secure digital platform, assigned small group on platform, ability to upload content and post in group * Possibility to join SammTalk student advisory team |
| **Benefits** | * A practical tool to use in classrooms to stimulate language, digital and intercultural skills, networking and co-operation between schools, teachers and students. * Sammtalk is an accessible tool for teachers and students that can be used at any level, tailored to the learning objectives and skills of any course. * Sammtalk could stimulate cooperation between partner schools at teacher and student level and stimulate cross-border exchanges between partners. |
| **Challenges and how they were overcome** | Promoting and applying new tools among teachers is a challenge. The added value must be visible and it must not take too much time. Programs such as E-twinning may initially demand too much time and energy from teachers, which can lead to dropping out quickly. Sharing good practices from other institutions or colleagues, training, preparation and evaluation ensures the implementation of the tool. |
| **Step by step for the implementation of the good practice (transferability to other VET college)** | - Implementation can take place by motivating and training teachers to integrate sammtalk activities in their existing curriculum by using the PDCA cycle (plan, do, check, act/adjust). Collect and evaluate the experiences and share the acquired knowledge with colleagues from different subjects and training courses. Promote the tool by visualizing experiences gained through videos and interviews to stimulate knowledge sharing within the institute. |