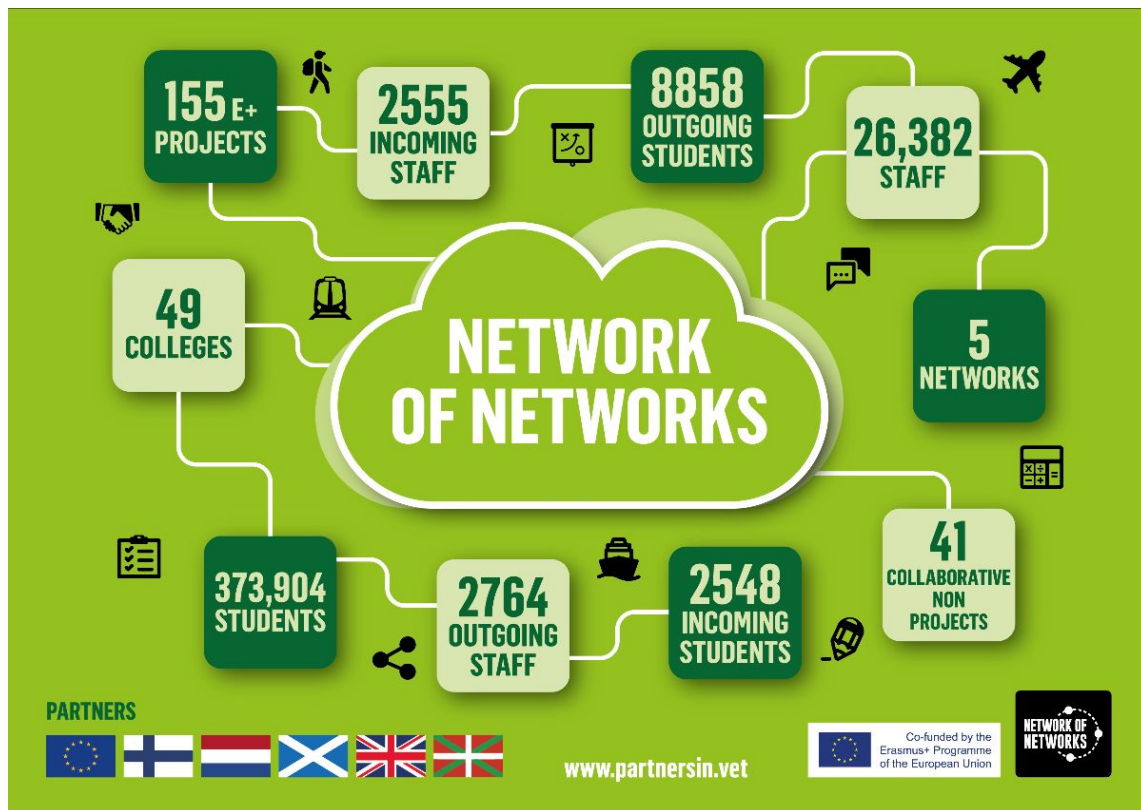# NETWORK OF NETWORKS

Your college is a member of the Network of Networks and this is the first newsletter being sent to VET leaders from all of the 49 network colleges. We will be publishing a newsletter 4 times a year with topical articles for discussion, and updates on NoN activities including our Erasmus+ Key Action 3 project. If you would like to contribute, or if you have any suggestions for future articles please email us info@partnersin.vet

Building Confidence for returning to Campus post Covid

By the time the first wave of Covid-19 had peaked, it was clear that the delivery of skills education through VET colleges was going to have to be done differently than had been the case before the virus emerged. This presented a significant challenge to Directors and Principals as they had to formulate return plans that would incorporate a more flexible paradigm for skills education whilst securing the confidence of staff and students.

Professor Christopher Moore, the recently appointed Principal of New College Lanarkshire in Scotland elected to adopt a Scenario Planning approach to this challenge as this incorporated a process that allowed staff and students to develop a shared response.

Scenario Planning is a tool that helps institutions develop plans for an uncertain future based on what is known and understood about current concerns and the factors that influence them. More prosaically, individuals indulge in scenario planning almost every day and, certainly, when we make long-term plans or reflect upon our ambitions. Consequently, Scenario Planning offered a means through which the principal actors in a large VET school – staff and students – could exercise a degree of control over charting a way forward to the "new normal".

The process involved consultations with a range of the principal actors across five work streams – Staff, Academic Activity, Professional Services, Student Experience, and Public/External Business. While each work stream focused on a specific domain, each respected the key principles of protecting the safety of staff and students, protecting the quality of the College's educational offer, and protecting the College's good reputation.

Each stage of the Scenario Planning consultation process was carried out transparently and included inputs from the relevant trades unions and health and safety experts, and the reporting of outcomes and results were publicised and communicated through the College's intranet. Not only did this approach ensure the involvement of many people, but it also helped secure their commitment and ownership of the return to work plans and scenarios that were developed.

What is the Network of Networks?

The Network of Networks is an informal alliance of regional and national groupings of colleges providing professional, technical, and vocational education in the skills that the current and future workforce require.

Network of Networks aims to offer an international dimension to the education of our students and the development of our staff.

Partners in the Network of Networks share and exchange experience and cooperate with each other to develop meaningful and sustainable relationships.

Annual face-to-face meetings serve as a practical platform in which views on European and international developments may be shared and translated into practical collaborative projects and initiatives.
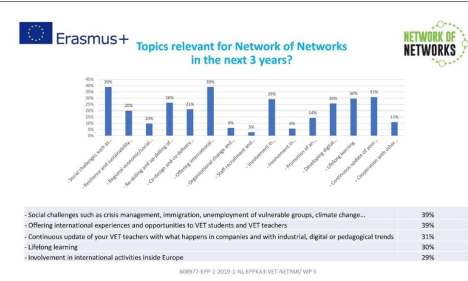
See website for more info »

NON Questionnaire Results

Network of Networks questionnaire: focus on lifelong learning, international experiences and opportunities, developing digital competence and continuous update for what happens in companies and with industrial, digital or pedagogical trends.

In May 2020, Network of Networks conducted an initial questionnaire amongst its VET leaders to find out what factors and issues are influencing current strategy development and what topics they believe will be important for their colleges in the next 5 years. The results will allow Network of Networks to define its objectives, providing better support to meet the needs of its members.

Read more »

Due to the Covid situation, this year´s Network of Networks annual meeting will take place online and will consider: 'How can we deal with the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on VET in Europe?" Click to view programme and to register for the different sessions.