

Vocational Education and Training - Empowerment Opportunity for Vulnerable Youth?

Conference

7th of December 2023 at Vytautas Magnus University
(K. Donelaičio 52, Room 502, Kaunas, Lithuania)



Baltic Research Programme Project “Vocational education and workplace training enhancing social inclusion of at-risk young people” (EmpowerVET, No. LT08-2-LMT-K-01-010) seeks to investigate, how can vocational education and training (VET) enhance social inclusion of young people at-risk in the Baltic countries and Norway, both in terms of combating school drop-out and promoting transitions between various (social) learning contexts, such as school-work transition. The project comprises of three sub-studies. The first focuses on understanding personal strategies and institutional factors supporting or hindering educational careers of young people. In parallel a narrative study focusing on at-risk youth in VET schools and workplace learning contexts, statistical analyses based on PIAAC data has been conducted. The second part of the study has mapped the “best practice” of approaches, methods and tools used to support inclusion of at-risk youth. The third phase implemented and experimented an Educational Learning Lab intervention to develop, test and assess methods and technology-based tools for successful inclusion of at-risk youth. More information about the project can be found here: www.empowervet.net.

The project team kindly invites You to participate in the final conference of this research project which will be held on the 7th of December 2023 at Vytautas Magnus University, K. Donelaičio 52, Room 502 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

The conference will be held both live and online (the link will be provided to registered participants). Please indicate your preferred option of participation in the registration form. Please also indicate your preferred group for the afternoon discussion (Groups 1, 2, 3, 4).

REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10.00-10.15	Welcoming of delegates by the Academy of Education at Vytautas Magnus University
10.15-10.30	What EmpowerVET project is about? Vidmantas Tūtlys, Vytautas Magnus University
10.30-11.00	Methodological approach of researching empowerment of the vulnerable VET students in the Baltic countries and Norway Tarja Tikkanen, University of Stavanger
11.00-11.30	Political-economic and institutional factors of empowerment of vulnerable VET students in the Baltic countries and Norway Vidmantas Tūtlys, Vytautas Magnus University
11.30-12.00	Coffee break.

12.00–12.30	The voice of vulnerable learners – relevant reference for empowerment? Marieke Bruin, University of Stavanger
12.30-13.00	What the VET schools and social partners can do? Factors of VET stakeholders' agency in empowering vulnerable learners. Biruta Sloka, University of Latvia
13.00-13.30	What the teachers can do in empowering vulnerable VET students? Insights from the pedagogical interventions experimented in Estonia, Lithuania and Norway. Meril Ümarik, Tallinn University
13.30-14.30	Lunch break.
14.30-15.30 Looking into the future research agenda. Group work of delegates in the 4 parallel groups.	
1 st Group	Changing concepts of vulnerability and empowerment in the context of transformations in education and the world of work. Moderator: Tarja Tikkanen. Questions for discussion: – What research problems and topics could address the issues of changing concepts of vulnerability of young people? –What aspects of empowerment of vulnerable learners in VET require more attention of research?
2 nd Group	Discourse of vulnerable learners in the VET research. Moderator: Marieke Bruin. Questions for discussion: – What future research questions and topics could be covered in researching the discourse of vulnerable VET students? – What kind of research could enhance and support participation of the vulnerable VET students in learning and employment?
3 rd Group	Empowering practices and potential of VET schools and teachers. Moderators: Meril Ümarik / Biruta Sloka Questions for discussion: – What new research topics could disclose the agency of the VET schools in empowering vulnerable learners? – How the research could help in strengthening the agency of VET teachers and trainers in empowering vulnerable students?
4 th Group	Empowering skills ecosystems. Moderators: Vidmantas Tütlys / Lina Kaminskiene Questions for discussion: – What could be the priorities in researching potential of skill ecosystems in empowering vulnerable youth? – What are the prospects of the comparative studies on the empowering potential of skill ecosystems?
15.30-16.00	Sharing of key results of discussions by the moderators
16.00-16.15	Closing of the conference