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Lessons learned from the SYNERGY Project

SYNERGY – Harnessing the Learning Assets with the SME Business Community was an ambitious project which undertook to trial a new method to support the way in which the SME and VET sectors interact with each other. The project also aimed to transform the way in which vocational education and training opportunities are designed for and delivered to the business community in Europe, with the aim of upskilling VET practitioners to better respond to the needs of businesses, and in turn, reducing the risk of business failure. While the project has largely been a success, with such an ambitious undertaking, the project team accepts that there will always be room for improvement.

Based on our experience of delivering the SYNERGY project, the partners agreed on two primary policy recommendations:

1. Peer-to-peer learning, e-learning and micro-learning techniques should be fostered to make VET provision more accessible, relevant and suitable to the needs of the SME business community;
2. Initial and continuing education for VET professionals should include coaching in e-didactics, so that comprehensive, concise and industry-relevant training courses and resources can be developed by VET professionals as part of their mainstream service offering.

A full overview of our lessons learned and our policy recommendations are available in the SYNERGY Policy Paper. This paper addresses both national and European policy makers, as well as practitioners working in both the VET and SME sectors; and reflects the experiences of this project consortium in attempting to put into practice these innovative policy objectives.

For more information, please consult our project website at www.projectsynergy.eu, or alternatively contact our EU Team in our Kells office on 046-9280790.

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