

#### **D4. Methodology of work of experts**

### **SUCCESS: Sustainable cooperation of VET providers and enterprise for improving graduates' employability**

Vocational education and training (VET) is an essential component in the development of human capital and in the socio-economic development of individuals and countries. It equips learners with practical and technical skills that are directly applicable on the job market. From this point of view, it is an essential factor in the fight against unemployment and the promotion of decent employment for young people. VET contributes to the stability of countries, particularly in Africa, where youth unemployment makes them vulnerable to armed terrorist groups.

Indeed, VET fosters the employability of young people through the acquisition of skills sought by companies, and in this respect contributes to the competitiveness of businesses. In fact, it provides companies and industries with the skilled and competent workforce they need to remain competitive in the marketplace. VET also contributes to entrepreneurship and self-employment by enabling young people to embark on entrepreneurial ventures. It also promotes youth empowerment, innovation, crafts and trade. VET contributes to the reduction of poverty and social inequality, as it increases the chances of professional integration.

However, VET must be aligned with the needs of the job market and companies. It must be developed in a collaborative dynamic between VET institutions and enterprises, so that learners can have immersion experiences in companies, and so that training is not just theoretical, but rather integrates the practical aspect to train truly competent young people.

Other challenges faced by VET, particularly in Africa, include building capacity building of trainers to keep up to date with the latest technology, equipping workshops and laboratories for practical training, adapting training curricula to the profile of workers needed by enterprises, connecting VET institutions and enterprises, creating employment offices within VET enterprises to facilitate internships, professional integration and training scholarships.

Sometimes perceived as second-chance training for those who lack the intellectual capacity to succeed in other fields, VET needs to be revalued in view of its vital role in the socio-economic development of individuals, companies and countries. Indeed, VET is a powerful lever for skills development, professional integration and economic growth. It can play a key role in socio-economic development, political stability and the prevention of armed terrorist groups, rebels and organized crime on the African continent.

## **1. General Overview and Methodology**

### **1.1 Research Objectives**

The primary objective of this research methodology within the SUCCESS project is to explore and analyze the models of cooperation between Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers and enterprises in Europe and Africa. The research identifies and transfers best practices from European contexts to African settings, thereby enhancing the collaboration between VET institutions and local entrepreneurs to better meet labor market needs. This dual focus on European and African contexts requires a comprehensive and comparative approach that ensures the transferability and adaptability of the practices identified.

### **1.2 Research Structure**

The research is structured in three distinct phases:

#### **1. Analysis of European Models of Cooperation between VET and Enterprises**

In this phase, a thorough literature review and case study analysis are conducted to identify effective models of collaboration between VET providers and enterprises in Europe. The analysis focuses on the mechanisms that facilitate successful partnerships, considering the role of public policies, institutional frameworks, and stakeholder engagement.

#### **2. Analysis of African Contexts and Existing Models**

In this phase, the research examines the socio-economic conditions and the existing models of cooperation between VET providers and enterprises in Africa. The objective is to understand the unique challenges and barriers that hinder effective collaboration in African contexts by analyzing structural, economic, and regulatory factors.

#### **3. Comparison and Development of an Adaptable Framework**

The final phase involves a comparative analysis of the European and African models, with the aim of developing a framework that adapts to the specific needs and conditions of African countries. This framework serves as a guide for implementing best practices and strengthening partnerships between VET institutions and enterprises in Africa.

This methodological approach is applied uniformly by both European and African experts, ensuring consistency and comparability in the research outcomes.

### **1.3 Work Plan and Communication**

The research activities are coordinated through continuous email communications between national experts and the lead expert, supplemented by online meetings when necessary. These meetings serve as platforms to monitor research progress, share preliminary findings, and align the activities of all partners. The communication strategy is based on transparency, collaboration, and the timely exchange of information, ensuring that the research objectives are achieved within the established deadlines.

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## **2. Research by EU Experts**

### **2.1 Objectives of European Research**

EU experts (Formac\_Poland; ACTEC\_Belgium; La Salle Foundation\_Italy) conduct a comprehensive literature review regarding partnerships between VET providers and enterprises in European countries (Poland, Belgium, Italy). The specific objectives of the research are:

- **Identification of Effective Models of Collaboration:**

The experts identify and analyze cooperation models that have proven effective in fostering robust partnerships between VET institutions and enterprises, through detailed examinations of case studies and success stories across various European countries.

- **Analysis of Public Policies Supporting Collaboration:**

The experts examine the role of public policies by analyzing the regulatory frameworks, funding mechanisms, and governing environments that contribute to the success of VET-enterprise collaborations in Europe.

- **Extraction of Best Practices and Transferable Strategies:**

The experts synthesize the results of the literature review and case studies to pinpoint best practices and strategies, evaluating their adaptability and potential impact in improving VET-enterprise cooperation in Africa.

### **2.2 Guidelines for Literature Review**

EU experts from Poland (Formac), Belgium (ACTEC), and Italy (LSF) follow a structured approach for the literature review:

- 1. Identification of Relevant Primary and Secondary Sources:**

They compile an exhaustive list of academic articles, policy documents, case studies, and reports concerning the cooperation between VET providers and enterprises in Europe.

- 2. Analysis of Case Studies and Successful Models:**

The selected sources are analyzed to extract key insights and lessons learned from successful cooperation models, with a focus on the roles of stakeholders, the impact of public policies, and the outcomes achieved.

- 3. Synthesis of Effective Strategies for Entrepreneur Engagement:**

The results are consolidated to identify the most effective strategies for engaging entrepreneurs in VET programs, documenting these strategies and assessing their transferability to African contexts.

### **2.3 Report Production**

Each EU expert (Formac, ACTEC, and LSF) produces a 10-page report (15,000 characters without spaces) that summarizes the research findings. The report follows the template below:

**1. Executive Summary:**

A concise summary of the report, highlighting key findings, trends, and recommendations.

**2. Introduction:**

Background on the cooperation between vocational schools and enterprises, along with the objectives and scope of the report.

**3. Methodology:**

A detailed description of the research methods used, including the research questions, data sources, and collection techniques.

**4. Types of Cooperation Models:**

A description of five different cooperation models (e.g., partnerships, internships, apprenticeships, joint projects, and other collaborative initiatives).

**5. Analysis of Best Practices:**

An identification of successful strategies and innovative approaches that foster effective collaboration.

**6. Impact on Students and Entrepreneurs:**

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the cooperation models for both students and enterprises.

**7. Level of Scalability:**

A discussion on the potential for adapting and applying these models in different contexts.

**8. References:**

A complete list of the sources used (academic articles, reports, sector studies).

Individual reports are delivered by the experts by July 2025. Subsequently, the lead expert from LSF compiles a Comparative EU Report (maximum 45,000 characters without spaces) by August 2025.

## 4. Agenda

Activity	January 1	February 2	March 3	April 4	May 5	June 6	July 7	August 8	September 9	October 10	November 11	December 12
<b>Research by EU Experts</b>												
Identification of Effective Models of Collaboration		X	X	X	X	X						
Analysis of Public Policies Supporting Collaboration		X	X	X	X	X						
Extraction of Best Practices and Transferable Strategies		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Literature Review</b>												
Identification of Relevant Primary and Secondary Sources		X	X	X	X	X						
Analysis of Case Studies and Successful Models		X	X	X	X	X						
Synthesis of Effective Strategies for Entrepreneur Engagement		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Report Production</b>												
<b>Individual Report Delivery by the experts by July 2025.</b>							July 2025					
<b>Lead expert from LSF compiles a Comparative EU Report (maximum 45,000 characters without spaces) by August 2025</b>								August 2025				

### 3. Research by African Experts

#### 3.1 Objectives of African Research

African partners focus on:

- **Socio-Economic Analysis and Existing Conditions for VET-Enterprise Cooperation:**

They analyze in detail the socio-economic conditions in their respective countries to understand the factors that influence cooperation between VET providers and enterprises.

- **Identification of Structural, Economic, and Regulatory Barriers:**

They identify the key barriers—structural, economic, and regulatory—that hinder effective collaboration between VET institutions and enterprises in Africa.

- **Development of Solutions to Improve Entrepreneur Engagement in VET Programs:**

They propose context-specific solutions to strengthen the engagement of entrepreneurs in VET programs, adapting them to the specific needs of African countries.

#### 3.2 Online Surveys for African Entrepreneurs

To collect data on the perceptions and needs of African entrepreneurs, specific online questionnaires are developed. These questionnaires gather information on:

- The current level of engagement between entrepreneurs and VET institutions.
- The perceived benefits and challenges of existing collaborations.
- The specific needs and expectations of entrepreneurs regarding VET programs.

The document "**Questionnaires for the Survey of African Entrepreneurs**" is drafted in French and finalized by March 2025. The definition of the survey questions is carried out jointly with all experts during the online experts meeting on 18 February 2025. Once finalized, Google Forms links are created for partners to disseminate among local entrepreneurs.

#### 3.3 Report Production

Each African partner produces a 6-page report (9,000 characters without spaces) summarizing their research findings, following the template below:

1. **Executive Summary:**

A summary of the main results, highlighting the current state of cooperation models and areas for improvement.

**2. Introduction:**

An overview of the importance of cooperation between vocational schools and entrepreneurs in Africa, and the objectives of the report.

**3. Contextual Analysis:**

An analysis of the economic, social, and educational context in the participating African countries.

**4. Objectives and Scope:**

A clear definition of the report's objectives, areas of interest, and criteria for selecting cooperation models.

**5. Methodology:**

A detailed description of the research methods used (data sources, surveys, and any interviews).

**6. Types of Cooperation Models:**

A classification and description of the various models identified.

**7. Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses:**

A comprehensive evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the current models, with special attention to their impact on education and entrepreneurship.

**8. Identification of Improvement Areas:**

An outline of common challenges, barriers, and shortcomings in the existing models.

**9. Recommendations for Improvement:**

Practical proposals and strategies to overcome the identified challenges, including the integration of innovation and technology.

**10. Conclusion:**

A synthesis of the main findings and a statement on the need for targeted interventions for improvement.

**11. References:**

A complete list of sources used (academic articles, reports, sector studies).

African individual reports are delivered by July 2025. Subsequently, a Comparative African Report (maximum 45,000 characters without spaces) is compiled by the expert from CFPC La Salle, with a deadline in August 2025.

### **3.4 Exclusion of Interviews and Focus Groups**

For WP2, data collection relies primarily on literature reviews, case studies, and online surveys. The use of interviews and focus groups is excluded to ensure an efficient and comprehensive research process.

#### 4. Conclusions

This research methodology provides a detailed and comparative analysis of the cooperation models between VET providers and enterprises in Europe and Africa. By integrating structured report templates into the data collection and documentation processes, both EU experts and African partners ensure that the results are systematically recorded and comparable. The outcomes constitute a solid foundation for implementing innovative and transferable practices, ultimately contributing to the development of more effective and responsive vocational education and training systems in Africa.

#### 5. Agenda

Activity	January 1	February 2	March 3	April 4	May 5	June 6	July 7	August 8	September 9	October 10	November 11	December 12
Research by African Experts												
Socio-Economic Analysis and Existing												

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Conditions for VET-Enterprise Cooperation		X	X	X	X	X						
Identification of Structural, Economic, and Regulatory Barriers		X	X	X	X	X						
Development of Solutions to Improve Entrepreneur Engagement in VET Programs		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Online Surveys for African Entrepreneurs</b>												
The current level of engagement between entrepreneurs and VET institutions		X	X	X	X	X						
The perceived benefits and challenges of existing collaborations		X	X	X	X	X						
The specific needs and expectations of entrepreneurs regarding VET programs		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Report Production</b>												
African Individual Report Delivery by July 2025							July 2025					
Comparative African Report compiled by the expert from CFPC La Salle (maximum 45,000 characters without spaces) by August 2025								August 2025				