



Keynote Session II : Presentation- 1

Matching Skills with Needs Based in the Basque RIS

Mr. Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga

ABSTRACT

.For the Basque Country, Vocational excellence is a new policy concept that aims to maximize the contribution of VET (including at higher level) to innovation and smart specialization at local and regional level. It is the basis for the Erasmus+ initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE), but to be most effective the concept needs a wider application. This should be through the modernization of the education and training system-itself.

In our case, we took different references when we started defining our strategy. On the one hand, we took the European Smart Specialization Strategies and based on that, The Basque Government defined its own Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy. This means that, all the Basque Government departments have the same objective, but different development ways, plans and activities.

Thus, focused on Vocational Educational Training of the Basque Country, I would like to explain which is the meaning of Vocational Excellence for us.

The first point is that we must be active and not reactive, we are convinced of it, but it is a highly relevant article since the attitude of most VET systems has been highly reactive during the last years.

The Vice Ministry of VET of the Basque Country, instead of continuing to display a reactive attitude to the consequences that occur in a rather complex situation, has put all its efforts in displaying a proactive attitude, anticipating and focusing its efforts on the additional need to work differently, with other aims and goals, with a different type of organization, with a modern forward-looking vision and the need to try and find a different way of doing things, that is based on collaborative and cooperative work among people and among organizations, but especially between VET centres and companies.

At the present time, not only in the Basque Country but all over Europe and, maybe, all over the world, it is vital for this collaborative work to increase, so that in this way we can make the most of the sum of forces and efforts that guarantee us the possibility of creating dynamic systems that prosper in changing environments, and reasonably ensure us that, training, qualifications, productive sectors and job market are progressing in coordination along the right path. Two key words: partnerships and network.

The approval in 2018 of the Basque Law was an important milestone for us because this is our legal framework to achieve our objective. The law introduces, as a new approach, a combined VET model, which includes not just VET in the education system and training for Jobs, but also learning about applied innovation and entrepreneurship. As well as, boosting the dual system, regulation of the certifications of specialization programs or internationalization. We published also “The V Basque VET Plan” that will boost and develop the measures established in this Law. As I said before, this Basque Vet Plan is based on the Basque Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy. For us the VET Excellence is to define, create, and design the answers that not only the companies, but also the society claims to match the needs with the skills.

- To sum up, let me emphasize that the Vice Ministry of Vocational Educational Training of the Basque Country, who is trying to anticipate and trying to be proactive instead of being reactive, is working hard for:
- Firstly, having human students who are serious about their values, who communicate well, who act empathetically, who are aware of their environment, who are concerned about the world, etc.
- Secondly, working on developing technical skills. In addition, the “Centres of Vocational Excellence” project is the best example and I will give you information about this.

Keywords: Centres of Vocational Excellence, Smart Specialization Strategies, VET Systems, VET Plan, VET Law

BRIEF CV

Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga was appointed Director of Technology and Advanced Learning at the Basque Government's Ministry of Education in 2017.

His Directorate is responsible for VET teacher-training, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics) strategy in VET schools, applied innovation in cooperation with SMEs and for promoting active participation of all Basque VET schools in European programs, mainly ERASMUS +.

Prior to joining the Basque Government, he worked as a VET teacher and was the Principal of Aretxabaleta VET Integrated Centre. From 2015 to 2017 he was also Vice-President of IKASLAN GIPUZKOA (Association of public VET schools in Gipuzkoa).

He obtained a TVET EQF 8 qualification in Machine Tooling in 1999 and a Master's in IWE (International Welding Engineer) in 2010.

He speaks fluent Basque and Spanish and has a B1 certificate in English. Mr. Lamadrid is a firm believer in the value of teamwork and between 2008 and 2018 was a member of a competitive rowing team in the traditional Basque sport of fixed-bench rowing.