



3D4DEAF - Promoting digital transformation and social innovation in VET for better access of deaf students to the labour market



The 3D4DEAF aims to promote social inclusion and improve the outreach to people with fewer opportunities focusing on people with deafness/hearing impairments. The main objective is to develop a Training programme for VET teachers and students with deafness or hearing impairments to upgrade their 3D, coding, digital, and social entrepreneurial skills to meet the needs of the digital labour market and foster equal opportunities.

NATIONAL REPORT RESULTS

Education of deaf/hearing impairment students

1

National policies regarding the education

The education system in Cyprus is based on a centralized educational model managed by MoEC. Most of the laws in Cyprus specifically accommodate special-needs children. Moreover, the rights illustrated in the abovementioned laws refer to ensuring personal care with supportive bodies, and services that can support daily living and work such as an interpreter or a support worker, or any other support that is deemed necessary, social and financial rehabilitation services, professional evaluation and orientation and professional training and employment in the open labor market.



NUMBER OF DEAF/HEARING IMPAIRMENT STUDENTS IN CYPRUS

3,000

2

Training for the teachers

In VET education the teachers are authorized by the MoEC and they learn Cypriot Sign Language so they can communicate with the children. Is not necessary to finish any specific study or course.

In addition to this, although currently there is no CPD course related to courses for teachers in this field, Cyprus Government carries out CPD courses related to different studies fields. On the other hand, Cyprus College, The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus, or even the University of Central Lancashire offer CPDs for anyone interested too.

The situation of deaf people in the labor market

3

National policies regarding the labor market

In Cyprus, there is quota legislation, where in announcements of positions in the public sector, 10% of the positions concern people with disabilities. In addition, the Department of Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities announces Financial Plans to private companies, for grants to hire persons with Disabilities including deaf or hearing loss impairment people.

JOB POSITIONS FOR THE TARGET GROUP IN THE LABOR MARKET



Handcrafts



ICT



Cooking



Co-funded by the European Union

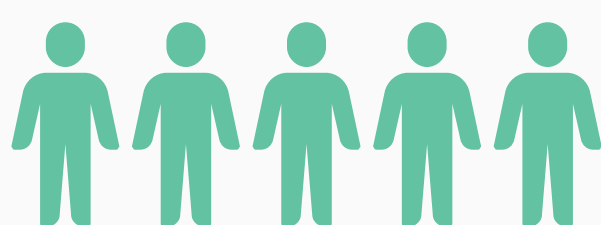
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Training for the teachers

Under the MoEC, an ICT integration plan has been implemented in the last seven years in all schools. This program aims to efficiently use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the educational process and improve students' and teachers' digital literacy. The Ministry has revised the National Curriculum of all subjects and all education sectors' timetables (primary, secondary, and VET education) as part of the Education Reform Programme. The focus of the new curriculum is to meet society's needs. This focus, in effect, influenced the Curriculum of ICT.

FOCUS GROUPS RESULTS

3 focus groups organised in Cyprus



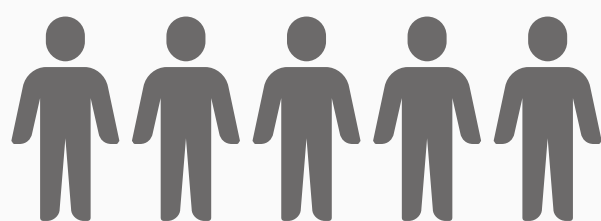
VET TEACHERS

5 VET teachers



VET STUDENTS

5 VET students



ENTREPRENEURS

5 entrepreneurs

5

Focus Group Results: VET Teachers

The focus group with VET Teachers was organized in person on the 25th of April 2023 with 5 VET teachers from the School of the Deaf in Nicosia, Cyprus. The main point that they mentioned during the discussion is that it is very important for the Cyprus educational system to have as a criterion and be mandatory to be a school teacher in special schools to know sign language. Additionally, it is very important for the Cypriot government to support deaf students with equipment in the classroom.

6

Focus Group Results: VET Students

The focus group with VET Students was organized in person on the 25th of April 2023 with 5 VET students from the School of the Deaf in Nicosia, Cyprus. The main point that they mentioned during the discussion is that they are happy with the school curriculum but they would like to use more technology as part of their everyday lessons and also they would prefer all the teachers to know sign language. Finally, they suggest that the labour market should have advanced technology that would help them with the interpretation.

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Focus Group Results: Entrepreneurs

The focus group with entrepreneurs was divided into one-to-one discussions due to the difficulty of the participants finding a common date. Some of the focus group discussions were organized on the 29th of March, 20th of April, 26th of April, and the 9th of May in total 5 entrepreneurs from different backgrounds. The main point that they mentioned is the importance of communication between all the employees in a company and the support provided to deaf people. In addition, they would like more LLL opportunities and easier access to the labour market and to be more motivated to do any job they would like.