

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

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01 | EAN European Educational Symposium: Empowering 21st Century Skills in Long-Term Care

On September 26-27, 2024, Athens hosted the **EAN European Educational Symposium**, where professionals and thought leaders from across Europe gathered to discuss the future of Long-Term Care (LTC). This prestigious event, co-organized by **AKMI, Metropolitan College and the European Ageing Network (EAN)** highlighted the intersection of innovation, skills development, and leadership in LTC.

Opening Highlights

The symposium opened with welcoming words from **Mr Jiří Horecký, President of EAN**, and **Mr Konstantinos Rodopoulos, President of the AKMI-Metropolitan College Group and Vice President of EVBB**, followed by a keynote from the **Greek Minister of Health, Mr Adonis Georgiadis**. These addresses set the tone for an engaging discussion on the evolving needs of the care sector, focusing on the panorama of skills in Europe.



Key Discussions

The event delved into themes critical to the future of LTC. A standout session on **Reskilling and Upskilling in LTC**, led by **Mrs Eva Vaiouli, Head of Development at AKMI International**, emphasized the urgent need for continuous training and the development of new competencies

in the workforce. Meanwhile, **Volunteering and Informal Care sessions**, led by **Eurocarers** and **ELIX**, showcased successful programs like **EngAge**, designed to promote the active participation of senior citizens in society.

A particularly impactful session focused on **Best Practices in Dementia Care**, where **Mrs Theodora Vasilopoulou** and **Mr Dimosthenis Lygouras** from **Metropolitan College** presented innovative approaches, such as using traditional dance for older adults with mild dementia and patient-to-patient education for daily activities. This session highlighted how non-pharmacological interventions can enrich the lives of individuals with dementia, offering hope and practical strategies for caregivers.

One of the event's technological highlights, **Robotics & Digitalization in LTC**, explored how technology is transforming care. Experts like **Mr Jean-Marc Blanc, University of Nîmes**, and **Mrs Vera Husakova (EAN)** demonstrated how digitalization can enhance both patient outcomes and operational efficiency in care settings.



Leadership Insights

An inspiring international leadership panel featured key figures like **Mrs Katie Sloan (Leading Age, USA)** and **Mr Donald Macaskill (Scottish Care, UK)**, providing the audience with global perspectives on leadership challenges and solutions in LTC.

Innovating for the Future

During the "**Thinking Out of the Box**" session, **Mr Theodor Grassos, General Secretary of**

EVBB and Director of AKMI International, and Mr Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate, offered thought-provoking perspectives on the rights and dignity of elders in LTC. Mr Theodor Grassos underscored the necessity of respecting the **fundamental rights of older adults**, particularly their right to quality care and social inclusion. Mr Dan Levitt built on this discussion, advocating for a future where **innovation and human-centered care** go hand in hand. His emphasis on creating environments where older adults can thrive resonated with the audience, inspiring **new approaches to elder care** that blend compassion with cutting-edge solutions.

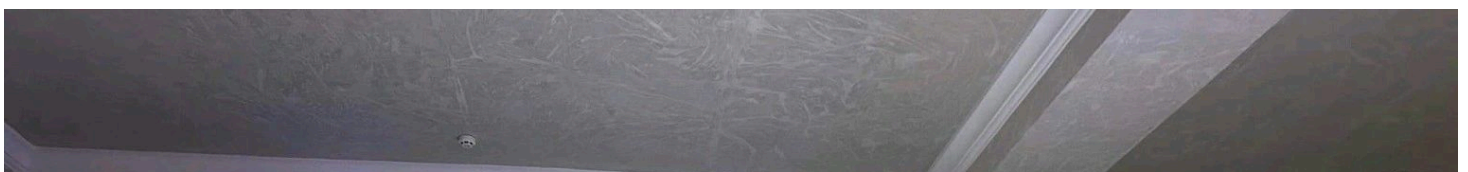


Looking Ahead

As the symposium drew to a close, discussions on the new EU curricula for caregivers and the principles of positive leadership reinforced the need for continuous evolution in skills development and team management. With valuable contributions from experts across sectors, the symposium successfully laid out a roadmap for a future where LTC is supported by innovation, technology, and strong leadership.

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02 | Forging New Partnerships: Strengthening EU-Ukraine Collaboration in Education and VET





From August 27th to 31st, 2024, our director, **Mr. Theodor Grassos**, visited **Ukraine**, a country that continues to display remarkable resilience amidst ongoing challenges. The visit focused on fostering collaboration and exploring new opportunities between **Ukrainian and European partners**.

Key Highlights:

Signing of an MoU with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MoES)

In Kyiv, Mr. Grassos signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Mr. Dmytro Zavgorodnii, Deputy Minister on Digital Transformation and VET of Ukraine**. This agreement enables Ukrainian VET schools to join the EVBB network, opening doors for cooperation with EU partners and creating exciting opportunities for educational growth.

Participation in the "Integration of Ukraine into the EU" Conference

In Vinnytsia, Mr. Grassos delivered a keynote speech and participated as a panelist at the conference hosted by **Vinnytsia Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyi State Pedagogical University** and **Vinnytsia Institute of Trade and Economics**. Joined by prominent figures like Richard Parkes, Ali Rashidi, and Svitlana Shytikova, the discussion focused on the future of Ukraine's integration into the EU.

Master Class on Grant Application Writing

As part of an ongoing voluntary upskilling initiative, Mr. Grassos contributed to a **grant-writing master class** aimed at enhancing the skills of local professionals.

Visits to VET Schools

The visit also included tours of various VET schools across Ukraine, emphasizing the vital role of education in shaping the future workforce of the country.

The visit further solidified collaboration, introducing **37 Ukrainian partners** to EU counterparts and leading to numerous successful project applications. The determination and morale of the Ukrainian people were evident throughout the visit, reinforcing confidence in Ukraine's bright future.

Stay tuned

03 | AKMI leads innovation in tourism VET through TourEdu4All study visit to Namibia and Kenya



As part of the “**TourEdu4All: A Holistic Model to Open Tourism VET for Vulnerable Groups**” project (Project n. 101129220), **AKMI** led a transformative study visit to **Namibia** and **Kenya** from 15 to 21 September. This initiative focused on empowering vulnerable groups through vocational education and training (VET) in the tourism and hospitality sector.

Namibia: Strengthening Vocational Infrastructure

In Namibia, AKMI worked with key institutions including **Africa Hospitality & Tourism (AHT)** and the **Prosperity Hotel School in Windhoek**. The delegation explored sustainable tourism practices, practical training and the integration of digital learning tools. A visit to **Kambaku Hospitality College** further highlighted the role of distance learning in modernising tourism education and equipping students with on-the-job skills. The tour concluded with cultural immersion programmes at the **Xwama Cultural Village**, which demonstrated how traditional practices can enrich vocational training.

At the Prosperity Hotel School, the AKMI team interacted with employed graduates, focusing on how their education was translating into real-world success at facilities such as the **Avani Hotel**. This highlighted the importance of practical training coupled with theoretical learning in producing employable graduates.



Kenya: Promoting inclusive VET through institutional collaboration

In Kenya, partners visit began at the **Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC)**, where discussions focused on Kenya's evolving VET strategies. Key government agencies such as **TVETA** and **CDACC** presented innovative approaches to curriculum development and certification in tourism. AKMI's partnership with **Kibondeni College** proved particularly fruitful as **Ms Josphine Njuguna, Dean of Studies**, unveiled a state-of-the-art **hotel simulation lab** inspired by **AKMI's Hospitality School in Athens**. This hands-on facility, equipped with fully

functional hotel room simulations, enhances students' practical experience and prepares them for employment in Kenya's dynamic hospitality sector.

Other engagements with institutions such as **Utalii College, Kiambu National Polytechnic and Karen Technical Training Institute** provided additional insights into how Kenya is adopting innovative, inclusive vocational training practices. These collaborations highlighted a shared commitment to improving access to quality education for vulnerable populations, ensuring that no student is left behind.



AKMI's leadership in tourism vocational training innovation

The study visit highlighted AKMI's key role in driving innovation and collaboration in tourism vocational education and training in **sub-Saharan Africa**. Through the **TourEdu4All project**, AKMI continues to foster meaningful partnerships, share best practices and deliver practical training solutions that empower both students and institutions. AKMI's expertise and leadership in vocational education and training has not only enhanced the capacity of the educational institutions but has also positioned the project as a **model for inclusive and sustainable development**.

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04 | AI4VET4AI Partners Attend AI and VET Event in Regensburg



On the 9th of September the **AI4VET4AI project partners** had the amazing opportunity to participate at the dissemination event '**AI Powered Vocational Education and Training**' in **Regensburg**, hosted by **Sensorik**.

The participants had productive sessions, during which the project partners and relevant industry representatives in Germany shared their insights, **best practices and AI developments** of their fields or areas of interest. Among representatives, two were by **Infineon Technologies and Siemens** - both being key players in cross-cutting technologies. The sessions were also divided by networking breaks, which gave amazing opportunities to increase the impact of the project and plant seeds of future collaborations.

The event concluded with a tour in the premises of Sensorik where we had the chance to further discuss the role of sensors in **Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and VET**. Sensorik provided the chance to interact with manufacturing equipment and sensors to provide an even more practical illustration of their day-to-day activities.

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