



The re-use of old industrial sites has proven to provide new and dynamic opportunities to add value through learning, engagement and a sense of identity to the communities in which they sit. International policies for the safeguard of heritage reinforce the idea that **it is necessary to intervene in these sites**, which usually are handed down by industrial societies as utilitarian structures of the current century. This concept is embedded in a process of regeneration which follows the trends towards recovering industrial sites widespread in Europe in the past years, at the same time valuing dynamically its educational and touristic potential.

In that scope the project “**Echoes of the Past – Heritage Futures. Vocational Educational (VET) and Training in Post-Industrial Landscapes**” (ECHOES), funded by the European Commission through the ERASMUS+ programme, highlights the need for high quality vocational training in areas of post-industrial decline, often associated with high unemployment and social problems. Such areas specifically need new and fresh ways of looking at the opportunities the physical environment provides, aimed at both finding employment and on-the-job training.

This project intends to implement a set of sustainable activities and outputs of heritage education, particularly in the area of content/modules and online platforms **to make industrial heritage and landscapes more accessible**. It will provide VET methodologies to be used by the professionals of cultural institutions, VET providers, school teachers, trainers and professionals working with people with special needs. By setting these goals towards such specific target groups, and on an explicit cultural heritage area, the partnership hopes to contribute to the gradual and efficient implementation of a work-based learning programme, including apprenticeships that can benefit from the intrinsic unique character of the industrial heritage.

THE PARTNERSHIP

The project started on the 1st September 2015 and has a total duration of 24 months, ending 1st September 2017. Being a strategic partnership under the key action “**Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices**”, the project consortium is based on institutional diversity with two VET specialist organisations, two public body organisations with experience on heritage and cultural management, one local archive and one local authority, combining all the relevant professional viewpoints of the project objectives.

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