

Press Release #2

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The SUSTAIN-EU Project Reaches Mid-Term

More than one year into its implementation, the **SUSTAIN-EU** project has reached an important milestone, with significant progress achieved across all work packages. Launched in November 2024, the project brings together organisations from six European Union countries - Portugal, Ireland, Romania, Austria, Italy and Germany - with the shared goal of strengthening Europe's capacity to respond to the green transition through high-quality vocational education and training (VET).

At mid-term, the SUSTAIN-EU partnership has successfully completed the initial research and design phases and is now well underway in developing innovative training solutions that support upskilling and reskilling in sustainability-related professions. Building on extensive labour market analysis and skills intelligence, the project is creating a future-oriented qualification that responds directly to the growing demand for Sustainability Experts across Europe. Key progress highlights include:

- The **European Sustainability Expert (ESE) Professional Profile and Competence Matrix at EQF Level 5** have been developed, clearly defining the knowledge, skills and competences required to perform effectively in sustainability-focused roles across sectors.
- The **ESE Curriculum** has been designed and structured into coherent learning units, aligned with European quality standards and informed by the needs of employers & VET professionals.
- The **ESE eLearning course** is developed, including interactive learning materials and the integration of an AI-supported tutoring feature to enhance the online learning experience.
- The **SUSTAIN-EU CPD programme for VET professionals** is under development, supporting educators and trainers to deliver sustainability-focused training and better understand emerging green labour market trends.

In parallel, dissemination and engagement activities have been actively implemented. The project website and social media channels are being used to share updates, raise awareness and engage stakeholders at local, national and European levels. Collaboration with VET providers, companies and policy-makers is ensuring that the project results remain relevant, practical and transferable.

As the project entered its second half, the focus will shift towards piloting, testing and refining the training resources with learners and VET professionals across partner countries. These activities will pave the way for wide-scale uptake and long-term impact, supporting Europe's ambition to build a skilled workforce capable of driving sustainable growth in line with the EU Green Deal and the European Skills Agenda. All SUSTAIN-EU training resources will be made freely available through the project website and promoted via the project's social media channels.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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