



SUPPORTSPHERE

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the Third Edition of the SupportSphere Newsletter

Over the past months, the SupportSphere project has entered an important phase of dissemination, piloting and exchange with stakeholders across Europe.

This third edition of the SupportSphere newsletter highlights the key activities carried out by the partnership, including Multiplier Events in partner countries, the piloting of training materials and tools, and the project's presence in European-level discussions on VET, inclusion and the prevention of early leaving.

These activities have provided valuable opportunities to share the project's results with VET providers, trainers, guidance professionals, learners, policymakers and other stakeholders. They have also allowed partners to collect feedback, reflect on the practical use of the SupportSphere resources and strengthen the project's contribution to more inclusive and supportive VET pathways.

In this edition, you will find updates on recent dissemination events, key reflections from the pilot training activities, and information on the next steps of the project as we move towards the final conference and the long-term use of the SupportSphere results.

Main Activities and Updates

Multiplier Events across Europe: Sharing SupportSphere Results with VET Stakeholders

As the SupportSphere project moved towards its final phase, partners organised multiplier events in different countries to present the main project results and promote their future use among relevant stakeholders.

These events were designed to introduce the SupportSphere approach to preventing VET students from becoming NEET by strengthening career guidance, mentoring and support systems within vocational education and training. They also provided an opportunity to share the project's main outputs, including the SupportSphere Handbook, the training programme for VET trainers and tutors, the self-evaluation tool for students, the e-learning platform and the video interviews with young professionals and former VET learners.

Beyond the presentation of results, the multiplier events created spaces for discussion and exchange with VET providers, trainers, educators, guidance professionals, learners, policymakers and other stakeholders. Participants were invited to reflect on how the SupportSphere resources could be used in different educational and professional contexts, and how career guidance can contribute to more inclusive and preventive support systems for young people.

The events organised in Spain, Greece and Belgium reflected the European dimension of the project and allowed the partnership to disseminate its results across different VET ecosystems.

Multiplier Event in Greece: SupportSphere Project Results Showcased

On 2 June 2026, EURICON organised in the premises of the Experimental Vocational Training Institute of Thermi (S.A.E.K. Thermi) a Multiplier Event dedicated to presenting the Erasmus+ project SupportSphere: Prevent VET Students from Going NEET and its main results, bringing together 70 participants, including VET students, educators, directors from S.A.E.K. Thermi and other local public initial vocational institutes, representatives of S.A.E.K. Aigaleo and other relevant stakeholders.

The session introduced the main objectives of SupportSphere and its focus on creating stronger support networks for students in vocational education and training. Particular attention was given to the role of career guidance, mentoring and cooperation between educational actors and labour market stakeholders in supporting young people during their transition from education to employment.

The event also presented the project's practical outputs and highlighted how they can support VET educators, career counsellors and other professionals working with young people. Through its results, SupportSphere aims to strengthen the capacity of VET systems to identify learners' needs, provide timely support and create more inclusive pathways towards education, training and employment.

The Greek multiplier event provided an important opportunity to disseminate the project results at national level, engage directly with VET stakeholders and collect reflections on how the SupportSphere resources can be used in practice.

Multiplier Event in Belgium: Supporting Young People Through Guidance and Inclusion

EVTA organised the SupportSphere Multiplier Event in Brussels on 18 June 2026, bringing together participants in a hybrid format to present and discuss the main results developed throughout the project.

The event introduced the SupportSphere approach to preventing VET learners from becoming NEET by strengthening career guidance, mentoring and support systems within vocational education and training. Participants were presented with the project's main outputs, including the SupportSphere Handbook, the training programme for VET trainers and tutors, the self-evaluation tool, the e-learning platform and the video interviews with young professionals and former VET learners.

The event also created space for exchange and discussion on how these resources can be used by VET providers, trainers, guidance professionals and education stakeholders in different contexts. As a European VET network, EVTA was able to reach a diverse audience, including participants from Belgium, Italy, Spain, Georgia, Hungary and Serbia.

One of the main reflections emerging from the event was the importance of career guidance as a continuous process, rather than a one-off activity. Participants recognised the value of practical and accessible tools that can help learners reflect on their interests, strengths and future pathways, while also supporting trainers, tutors and institutions in their guidance role.

Through this Multiplier Event, EVTA contributed to the dissemination and exploitation of the SupportSphere results, helping to promote practical tools that support learners during key transition moments between education, training and employment.

Multiplier Event in Spain: Montecastelo's Event

The SupportSphere Multiplier Event in Spain took place on 22 June 2026 at CPR FP Montecastelo, a vocational education and training centre in Vigo. The event brought together VET teachers and education staff to present the SupportSphere project and discuss its contribution to preventing NEET situations among VET learners.

The session introduced the project, its objectives and its expected results. It also addressed the NEET phenomenon in Europe, with particular attention to the challenges linked to social and labour market exclusion. The theoretical framework of the project was also presented, highlighting the importance of social support in learners' educational success.

Participants were introduced to the main results and tools developed within SupportSphere, as well as to the five key pillars for career guidance in VET. These pillars focus on personal development, employability, decision-making, inclusive ecosystems and access to guidance resources.

The event encouraged active participation and created a space for reflection and discussion on current challenges in vocational education and training. Participants showed strong interest in the practical use of the SupportSphere tools, particularly their potential to improve guidance processes and strengthen support for learners throughout their educational and professional pathways.

Lessons Learnt from the Pilot Training Activities: Testing the SupportSphere Resources with Learners and Trainers

As part of the final implementation phase, SupportSphere partners tested the project's training materials, digital tools and guidance resources with different groups of learners, trainers and education professionals.

The pilot activities were designed to assess how the SupportSphere resources can support career guidance, self-reflection and decision-making processes in different educational contexts. They also provided an opportunity to collect feedback from users, identify possible improvements and reflect on how the materials can be adapted to the needs of VET learners, trainers and institutions.

Across the piloting experiences, one common finding emerged clearly: career guidance becomes more meaningful when it is practical, reflective and connected to real-life situations. The activities confirmed the importance of combining digital resources with facilitated discussion, mentoring, peer exchange and personalised support.

The following reflections summarise the main lessons learnt from the pilot activities implemented by project partners.

Pilot Experience at the University of Verona

During the pilot testing implemented at the University of Verona, the SupportSphere training materials were tested with university students and academic participants. Although the project primarily addresses VET learners and trainers, this setting offered an opportunity to explore the adaptability of the materials in a broader educational context.

One of the main lessons learnt was that career guidance activities are most effective when they go beyond employment information and help learners reflect on their values, strengths, expectations and aspirations. Activities focused on self-awareness, personal development and career planning encouraged participants to connect future choices with their identity, motivation and decision-making processes.

The pilot also highlighted the importance of adapting guidance tools to the specific learning context. While the SupportSphere materials were developed mainly for VET settings, the experience showed that they can also be meaningful for wider educational audiences when properly contextualised. This confirms the transferability potential of the project outputs, while also underlining the importance of flexible facilitation by trainers and educators.

Another key reflection concerned the value of practical, interactive and relational approaches. Participants responded positively to activities that invited them to engage with real-life situations, discuss possible choices and reflect on concrete steps for the future. This confirms that career guidance should not be limited to one-way information provision, but should create spaces for dialogue, mentoring and peer exchange.

Finally, the pilot confirmed the relevance of accessible digital tools. The e-learning platform was perceived as clear and useful, especially when combined with guided explanation and classroom discussion. Overall, the experience showed that supporting young people in their transition pathways requires an integrated approach combining practical tools, reflective activities, mentoring and collaboration among educational actors.

Pilot Experience by ENAIP NET

As part of the SupportSphere piloting phase, ENAIP NET tested the project's learning materials and digital tools with 19 VET learners and 7 trainers. The activities provided valuable insights into how the project resources can support students in reflecting on their skills, values and future choices, while also gathering feedback from trainers on how the materials can be used in vocational education and training contexts.

The learner piloting activity took place on 19 March 2026 at the ENAIP training centre in Isola della Scala, with 19 students from an IT class. The session combined digital and face-to-face activities, creating an engaging learning experience focused on career orientation and self-reflection.

Students accessed the SupportSphere e-learning platform and watched video interviews with former VET learners who shared their educational journeys, career decisions and transition into employment. These real-life stories helped make career pathways more tangible and allowed participants to connect the project contents with concrete experiences.

A key element of the activity was the self-assessment tool developed by ENAIP NET, which encouraged learners to reflect on their competences, learning styles, values and future choices. The tool supported students in thinking more consciously about their strengths, interests and aspirations, helping them approach career orientation as a personal and active process.

The digital experience was complemented by collaborative classroom activities, including the Values Cards Activity and the Professional Self-Portrait. These exercises encouraged students to identify work-related values, reflect on their competences and discuss their aspirations with peers. They proved particularly useful in stimulating participation, dialogue and personal reflection.

The piloting process continued with 7 ENAIP NET trainers, who tested the training modules available on the SupportSphere e-learning platform. Their feedback confirmed that the resources can be valuable not only as standalone digital materials, but also as tools to facilitate classroom dialogue, reflection and peer exchange.

One of the main lessons learnt from the ENAIP NET pilot is that career guidance becomes more meaningful when it is connected to real stories, practical examples and moments of personal reflection. The experience also showed that flexibility is essential: some activities may need to be adapted to students' age, learning profile and level of autonomy, using clear language, concrete examples and guided facilitation.

By involving both learners and trainers, ENAIP NET gathered complementary perspectives on the SupportSphere resources. Students confirmed the value of practical and reflective tools for career exploration, while trainers contributed useful insights on how to make the course accessible, flexible and easy to integrate into different educational contexts.

Pilot Experience in Spain

The pilot implementation in Spain provided valuable lessons on how the SupportSphere approach and resources can support teaching and guidance practices in vocational education and training.

One of the main lessons learnt was the need to provide teachers and trainers with structured, practical tools that can support student guidance, especially in contexts where learners may be at risk of disengagement, demotivation or early leaving. In this regard, the SupportSphere resources were considered useful and transferable to classroom practice.

The pilot also confirmed the relevance of combining social support with the development of personal competences. Participatory methodologies encouraged greater interaction and reflection among students, helping them engage more actively with their educational and personal development.

Another important reflection concerned the need to adapt the materials to the specific context of vocational education and training. The experience in Spain showed that resources are more effective when they are directly applicable to everyday teaching practice and can be integrated naturally into existing educational activities.

Finally, both teachers and participants highlighted the importance of continuing to develop this type of initiative at European level. The Spanish pilot underlined the value of international cooperation and the exchange of good practices as key elements for addressing current challenges in VET and improving support for learners.

Overall, the pilot activities confirmed the relevance of the SupportSphere approach. The feedback collected showed that learners benefit from resources that help them reflect on their strengths, values and aspirations, while trainers need flexible and practical tools that can be adapted to different classroom realities. These lessons will support the final refinement and future use of the SupportSphere training programme, e-learning platform and guidance resources across Europe.

Presentation of SupportSphere in CEDEFOP's Webinar: Building Inclusive Futures - VET Solutions for Europe's NEETs

On 10 June 2026, the SupportSphere project was presented during the fifth webinar of Cedefop's Ambassadors Tackling Early Leaving from VET network, entitled Building Inclusive Futures for NEETs: VET Solutions for Europe's Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training.

The webinar brought together experts, policymakers and practitioners from across Europe to discuss the challenges faced by young people who are not in employment, education or training. Participants explored long-term trends, gender inequalities and territorial disparities affecting young people's educational and labour market participation, while also examining the role of vocational education and training in supporting their inclusion.

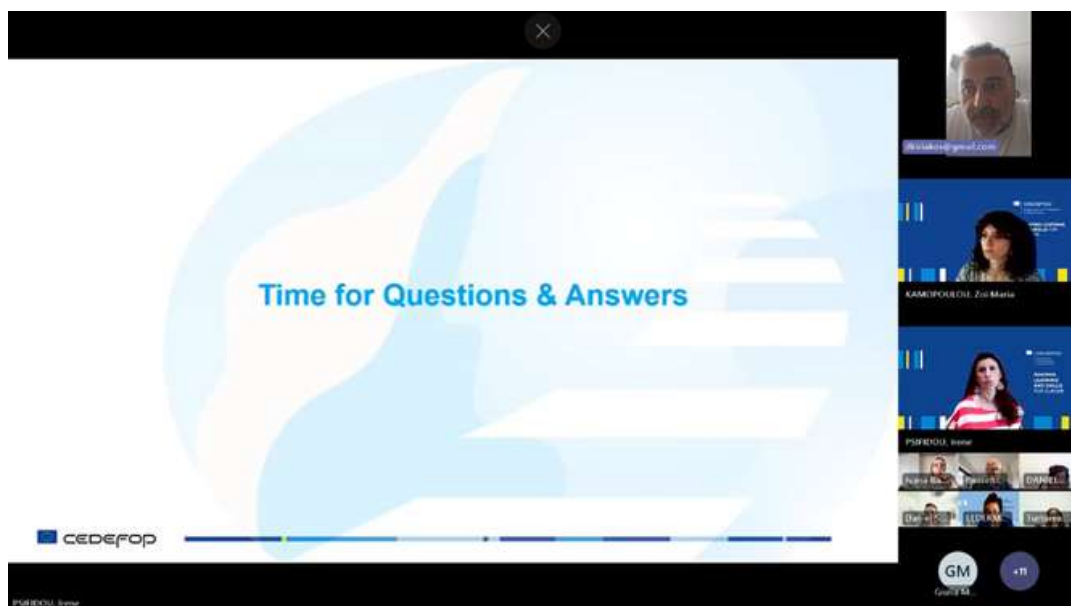
Representing the SupportSphere project, Dr Dimitrios Kiriakos, Director of SAEK Egaleo and project coordinator, introduced the project's objectives, methodology and key results. His presentation highlighted how SupportSphere addresses the risk of VET learners becoming NEET through a holistic approach that combines career guidance, social support, mentoring, self-reflection and personalised learning pathways.

The project's practical results were also presented, showing how SupportSphere contributes to strengthening guidance practices and building more supportive learning environments within VET. In particular, the presentation emphasised the importance of early intervention, learner-centred support and cooperation between educational actors, guidance professionals and wider support networks.

The webinar also provided an opportunity to showcase SupportSphere as an example of good practice within the broader European discussion on NEET prevention. The project's focus on early intervention, learner-centred guidance and stronger support networks closely aligns with the recommendations presented by Cedefop during the event.

SupportSphere was pleased to contribute to this important European dialogue and to share its experience with members of the Cedefop network. Participation in the webinar further reinforced the project's commitment to promoting inclusive vocational education systems and supporting young people at risk of educational and social exclusion.

The Ambassadors Tackling Early Leaving from VET network, established by Cedefop in 2017, brings together representatives from 23 European countries and EU-level experts working to address early leaving from vocational education and training and to support young people at risk of becoming NEET.



The webinar recording is available online. Watch [Building Inclusive Futures for NEETs](#) to discover key insights on supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET and learn more about the SupportSphere project.

SupportSphere presented in EVTA's Community Meetups

On 30 June 2026, SupportSphere was presented during the EVTA Community MeetUp “Building More Inclusive VET Systems Across Europe”, an online event bringing together practitioners and experts to exchange on how VET can better advance inclusion and respond to the real needs of learners across Europe.

The presentation introduced SupportSphere as an Erasmus+ project focused on preventing VET students from becoming NEET by strengthening career guidance and support systems within vocational education and training. The session highlighted the relevance of the NEET phenomenon in Europe and explained how guidance, mentoring, practical tools and strong support networks can help learners navigate key transition moments between education, training and employment.

The project's main results were presented as practical resources supporting both learners and professionals in building more inclusive and learner-centred VET environments.

The presentation also created an opportunity to connect SupportSphere with the broader discussion on inclusion in VET. By promoting accessible guidance, supporting trainers and helping learners reflect on their strengths and aspirations, SupportSphere contributes to more inclusive pathways that reduce the risk of disengagement and support young people in moving towards education, training and employment opportunities.



What is coming next

As the SupportSphere project moves towards its final phase, the partnership will continue working on the dissemination, exploitation and sustainability of the project results.

A key upcoming milestone will be the SupportSphere Final Conference in Thessaloniki, which will bring together project partners, VET experts, practitioners and relevant stakeholders to present the main results of the project and discuss how these resources can continue to support learners, trainers and guidance professionals beyond the project lifetime.

The final phase will also focus on encouraging the wider use of the SupportSphere resources within VET institutions and stakeholder networks. Through continued communication, dissemination and cooperation activities, the project aims to ensure that its tools remain accessible and useful for those working to prevent disengagement and support young people during key educational and professional transitions.

Stay connected through the SupportSphere website, learning platform and social media channels to follow the final project activities and access the resources developed by the partnership.

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