

Newsletter

Supporting Trainers to Shape the Future of Apprenticeship

Our Future Skills Training (FST) project aims to help trainers and mentors equip young people with essential transversal skills for the future - technical, social and creative skills. The FST tool, along with other project activities, provides flexible and free learning opportunities that you can use directly in your training sessions with apprentices.

We recently had the opportunity to present the tool and project activities at several events. Engaging discussions with trainers and apprenticeship educators confirmed that Future Skills Training has a vital role to play in the development of vocational education and training (VET).

In this newsletter share highlights from these events, insights into our international collaboration and an overview of ibis acam's work in apprenticeship programmes.

FST Event Highlights

In the last months, we had the opportunity to present the FST-Tool and the supporting activities in the following events:

Online Presentation at ETBI Hub Meeting

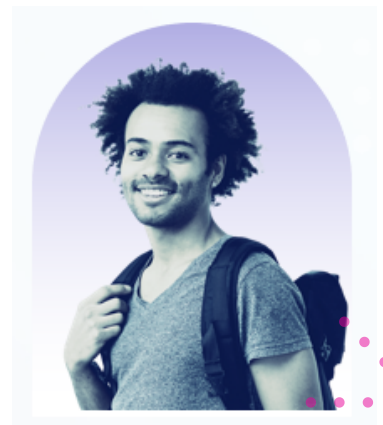
On 18th November 2024, we presented the FST project during an online session with representatives from most of the ETBs around Ireland. We provided an overview of the project and demonstrated the FST Online Tool and User Guide. Trainers appreciated the flexible, free e-learning tool for its practicality in supporting skills development. The FST project addresses the need for accessible upskilling, especially for educators facing challenging conditions.

FST in VET Pilot - Ballyfermot Training Centre

On 25th November 2024 we presented the FST tool to 15 apprenticeship instructors across a range of disciplines from both Ballyfermot and Finglas Training Centres.

Many recognised the value of Future Skills and how the tool could enhance their work. The event provided vital feedback and new connections to take the project forward.

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Presenting the Austrian Apprenticeship System ÜBA

In Austria, there are several apprenticeship schemes in place, in which the apprentices are either training in a company and attend courses at a school or training in a VET school with internships at companies and additionally attend courses at a school. ibis acam supports unemployed young people through the second option called the Überbetriebliche Ausbildung (ÜBA) programme (inter-company apprenticeship), which aims to integrate young people into the labour market in a sustainable way.

How does it work? After a one-week trial period, apprentices are employed by ibis acam for the duration of their training. Practical skills are developed in partner companies, and internships often lead to permanent positions.

The ÜBA programme offers a wide range of training opportunities, from cosmetology and chiropody to application development and coding. Our trainers work closely with the Public Employment Service, vocational schools and training companies to promote not only technical expertise, but also the social development of the trainees.

Learning from collaboration: Visiting Ballyfermont Training Centre

As part of the FST project, a team from ibis acam visited the Irish project partner, City of Dublin ETB, at their Ballyfermont Training Centre close to Dublin.

In Ireland, apprenticeship starts at the age of 18, compared to Austria, where it starts with 15 years. Similar to Austria, the system is dual, combining practical work in companies with additional training in centres such as Ballyfermont. Apprentices earn a salary while attending day, evening or online courses tailored to their field, such as painting, mechanics or electrical work.

This approach highlights the flexibility and accessibility of Irish vocational training and provides valuable insights and inspiration for improving apprenticeship models in Austria.

The Austrian partners of ibis acam are grateful for this innovative collaboration and the enriching exchange of ideas in the field of vocational education and training.

