



Bridging the Gap Between Education and Business:

LCCL's Experience in EU Projects

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www.ltrk.lv



Largest business association in Latvia

Almost 3000 members;
Founded in 1934;
National chamber with regional representation.

LCCI strives to

Improve Latvia's business environment;
Enhance the competitiveness of businesses;
Promote export of Latvian companies.

Functions

Regional, national and international representation of interests;
Capacity building and increase of competitiveness through trainings;
International cooperation and export promotion activities (e.g. trade missions).



The role of the LCCI

Mission

Involvement in international projects that positively contribute to the business environment in Latvia and supports entrepreneurship. LCCI develops and implements projects taking into consideration EU priorities and interests of its members.

EU projects as an additional service to the members

- Participation in project activities with no or little fee;
- Participants are free from the administrative burden related to EU projects

Synergies with other LCCI departments

- LCCI is involved in policy making and shaping through EU projects, e.g. Interreg Europe;
- On EU level through the involvement in Eurochambres;



Three Thematic Pillars

Currently, **16** active projects

COMPETITIVENESS

- Export development within the EU – Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)
- Export to USA, Canada, South Korea
- Innovation and start-up scene
- Women entrepreneurs

SUSTAINABILITY

- Energy efficiency in SMEs and public organisations
- Renewable energy
- Green skills
- Circularity
- Entrepreneurship and sustainability
- Twin transition

SKILLS and LABOUR

- Content covering digitalisation, financial literacy, cybersecurity
- Cooperation with VET and HEI institutions
- Diversity in the workplace
- Silver economy

What do we bring to EU project

- 15 years of expertise in EU project administration;
- Technical infrastructure and experience for high quality event organisation;
- Largest industry network in Latvia;
- Effective communication channels;
- Key player in Latvia.



What value do we create in projects?

- Bringing real business needs and challenges into projects;
- SME capacity building;
- Speaking the language of businesses;
- Piloting and validation of activities or tools;
- A gateway to business expertise.



Common challenge

SMEs often lack practical understanding of how green and digital transitions apply to their business operations;
Limited capacity to translate strategy into concrete actions.

A practical approach

Diverse capacity building, including training, cross-border peer learning, study visits;
Development of action plans;
Implementation of pilot projects in real companies.

Outcomes

Valmiermuižas Alus developed their own filling service;
Kurzemes Atslēga developed a new wastewater treatment system;
Baltic Satellite Service developed an innovative solution to monitor forest pests;
Sakret developed a new IT solution.



Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Estonia – Latvia

TWINNOVATION



PERUZA

Involvement of VET institutions and students

Developing and piloting a training program for VET teachers and managers to streamline sustainability into the school curricula;

Testing innovative learning approaches in VET: local green hackathons, Baltic green hackathon.

Involvement of the business sector

Identification of good practices of green transition and circular economy principle application in Baltic companies;

Hackathon challenges were real life challenges from companies of the restauration, textile, construction material, insurance sectors.

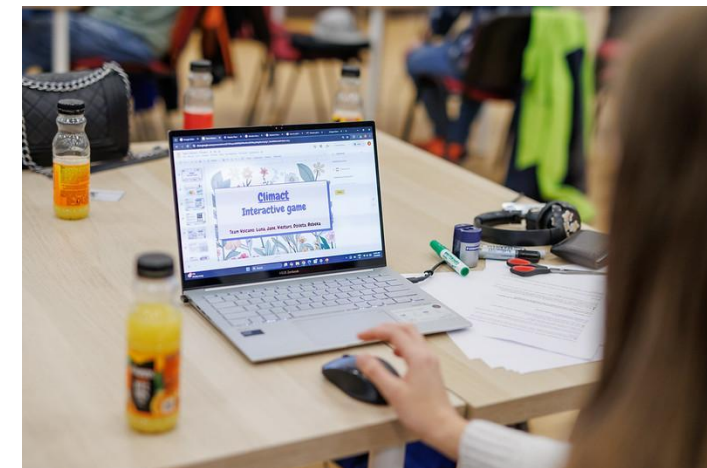
Take aways

The successful involvement of companies shows that sustainability is not an “imaginary” issue;

Do not underestimate the youth!

Reality of language barrier that hinders international experience;

Hackathons are suitable formats to develop green and digital skills.



Skills for Twin Transition

Developing digital and green competences (AI, VR, Social Innovation) for VET learners and trainers;

Focusing on practical, future-oriented skills for real business needs.

Collaboration and Co-Creation

Connecting VET providers, businesses, and EDIHs (knowledge triangle);

Co-developing and testing training programme based on real-life challenges;

Integrating VET into policy strategies and strengthening its role.

Take aways

Twin transition is a key driver for skills development;

Strong partnerships increase relevance and quality of training;

Practical training on AI tools, VR solutions and SI concepts can be integrated into business operations.



Common challenge

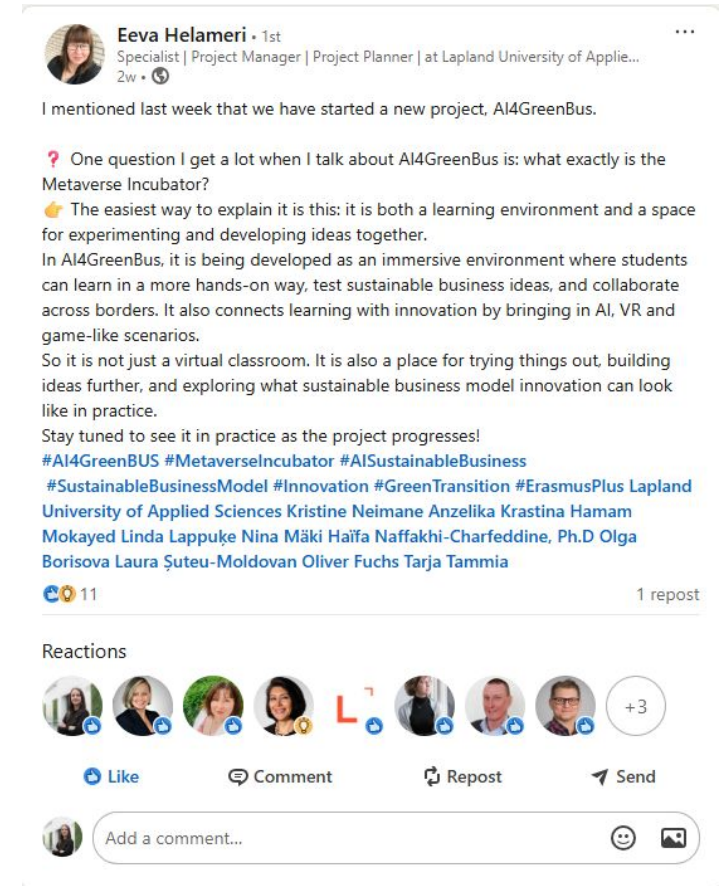
Growing demand for professionals capable of combining AI and sustainability;
Education needs to integrate innovation;
Gap between education outputs and labour market.

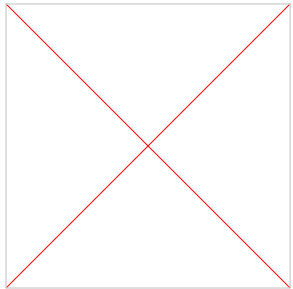
Approach

Focus on co-creation of solutions between education and enterprises;
Creation of a Sustainable Business Metaverse Incubator for immersive, practice-based learning;
Companies actively involved in defining problems and testing solutions.

Opportunity to get involved

Project conference presenting the developed tools and showing the project progress planned in Aachen in November 2026.





Twin transition is not a separate topic

Green and digital skills increasingly appear across all project areas.

Bridging requires real-life application

Training is good but practical activities and experimentation are better.

Different actors require translation

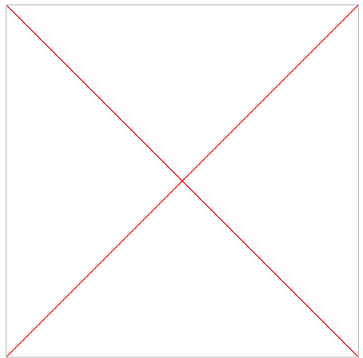
Education and business operate with different logics, the LCCE intervenes to facilitate dialogue.

Strong partnerships reflect the full ecosystem

Successful projects involve education providers, experts, businesses.

SME engagement requires clear value

Companies participate when projects are relevant to their operations.



VET education and STEM remains essential

The demand of blue collar jobs will only increase in the green economy.

(Perceived) relevance of education is strengthened by its ties to business

Close cooperation between education and business is appreciated by the students and the future employers.

The green transition supports resilience

Green transition will lead to a strong and autonomous Europe.

Facilitator roles remain important

We are bridges, translators and make it happen people!



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Interested in cooperating?

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