

Unique

EqUal iNcluslon of **LGBTIQ** stUdents in VET

About Unique

The UNIQUE project is a two-year project (2021-2023) to reduce LGBTIQ+ bullying, harassment and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ trainees in Vocational Education and Training (VET). It is funded by the EU Erasmus+ program and it has 9 partners in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus, Poland, the Netherlands and Germany.

The project partners will recruit VET teachers as ambassadors for LGBTIQ+ equality and train them to do this effectively. The ambassadors will take initiatives to improve VET institutional policies and wider supportive policies.

The third transnational meeting



The third transnational meeting of the UNIQUE project was held on 9 and 10 May, 2022 in Amsterdam. This was the first time that the partnership finally met in person after several lockdowns and COVID-19 related obstacles. The partnership discussed the progress of the project and decided about the content of the MOOC – an online course for VET Teachers/Trainers which will be developed in the coming months.

The fourth transnational meeting is planned in October, in Croatia. There the partnership will review the MOOC and discuss the final phase of the project.

The student competition



Equal Inclusion of LGBTIQ students in VET

VET Student Contest

Are you passionate about artistic work?
Do you care about diversity and non-discrimination in your VET school?
Then, this competition is for you!!!

Open registrations
www.uniqueproject.eu

Art submissions deadline:
31/05/2022

Open to all VET Learners over 16 years old, regardless of their field of expertise

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Partners



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What is it about?

The VET contest is implemented within Unique project, funded under KA3-Social Inclusion of E+ Programme, which aims at reducing anti-LGBTIQ bullying, harassment and discrimination within VET schools and embracing diversity and mutual understanding. AKMI S.A. has been participating in the consortium, along with 8 more partners from Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Croatia and Germany.

How to take part?

You can take part individually, or as part of a group. Maybe you can ask your teacher to consider spending time on the contest with your classmates.

Read the contest conditions if you want to find out more about the type of artworks and the way we will rate the submissions.

When you are ready, fill in the submission form and send it via e-mail, along with your artwork **before 1 June 2022** to:
uniqueproject.eu@gmail.com

You may submit your project anonymously as well (providing a contact email) as only art matters here!

Award-winning process

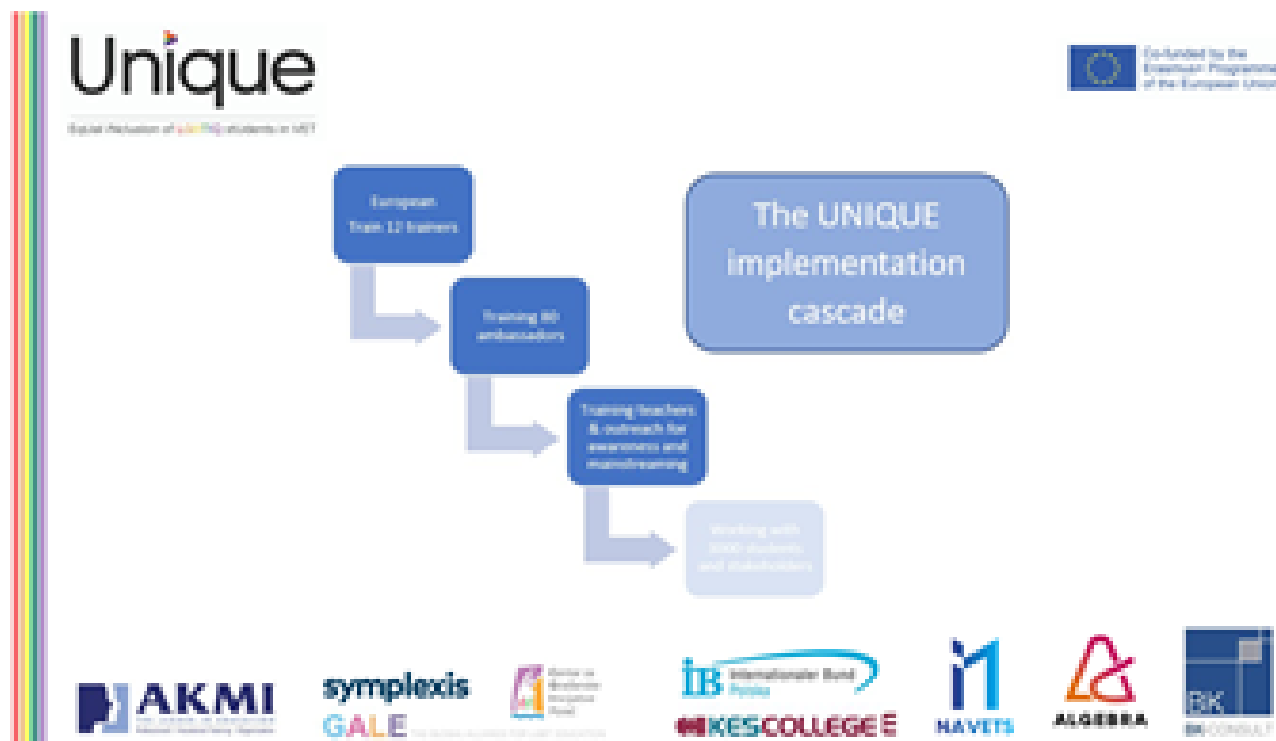
In the first half of June, an independent jury will rate the submissions and decide on the winners. Each contestant will receive an acknowledgment card but the first 3 pieces will be published in (partner's website), the project's website, Facebook and Instagram page. We can mention your name as a creator in our posts but only if this is your choice. Do you have any questions?
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Training-the-Trainers

On the 11, 12 and 13 May, the international “Train the Trainers” activity took place in Amsterdam. Ten trainers from four Unique countries took part. Facilitated by GALE, the training had two main goals: to acquaint trainers with the process of exclusion of LGBTIQ+ VET learners and to create an international leading team of trainers and advisors who would be responsible of providing peer-to-peer training to their colleagues at national level. The trained trainers have become members of the UNIQUE Advocacy Working Group and, hopefully, the first team of Ambassadors who will spread the word about the project in the Unique partner countries. As an effect, these 10 trained VET Teachers/Trainers are on top of the cascade model which will be implemented to attract the interest of aspiring Ambassadors.





The training started with an introduction of the project and the role of the trainers in the implementation of cascade model and possible concrete interventions that can be introduced by Ambassadors and VET Teachers. Special attention was given to the importance of emotions and attitudes in the creation of LGBTIQ+ inclusion. Because VET is commonly focussed on transferring knowledge and concrete skills, this focus on changing attitudes may be a new and challenging concept.

Development of the curriculum

One of the most important outputs of the project is the development of a training Curriculum that addresses the specific needs of VET Teachers/Trainers. It is an ambitious attempt to build a comprehensive Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which is free to use and will remain available for 5 years after the end of the project.

The partnership had substantial discussions on the development of the MOOC so as not to be strictly informational, but also raise the VET Teachers/Trainers self-awareness on their emotions and attitudes in an unfacilitated mode. We finally decided on a categorization in 4 modules:

1. An introduction on what inclusion of LGBTIQ+ VET learners means
2. Ways to embed diversity and inclusion in classrooms
3. Strategies to make VET school environment more inclusive
4. Ways on how to concretely support LGBTIQ+ VET learners

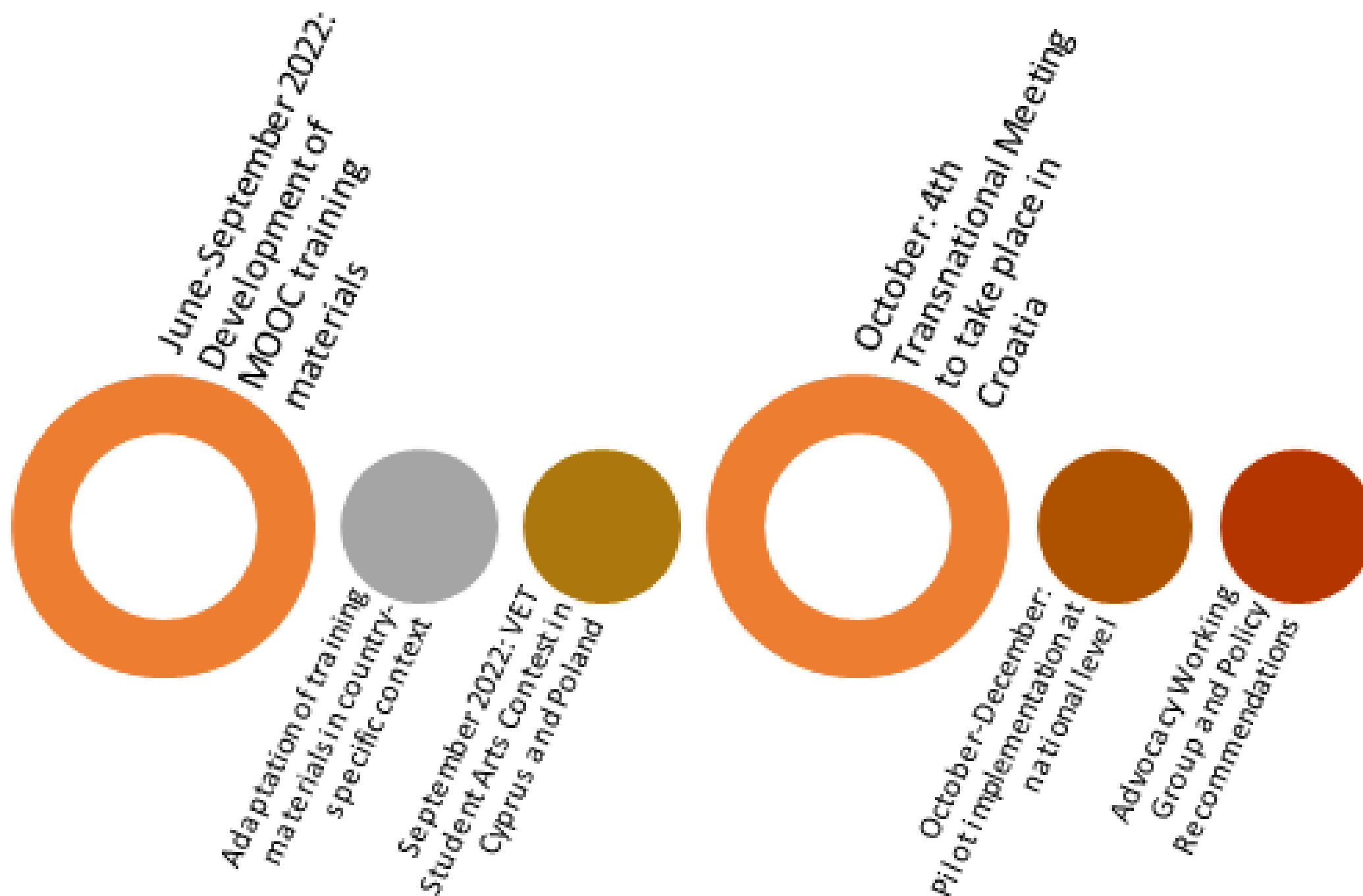
In the summer, we will start to develop the units. The entire MOOC, translated and culturally adapted in the partner countries' context, will be available online next year.

Dissemination of the project results



In June, several media actions were undertaken to highlight the support and involvement of the UNIQUE project and partners in local Pride events. A special mention should be made to our partner KES College, which managed to become a formal Pride partner with a special Pride button.

Planning of next semester activities



Become an ambassador!

Are you living in Croatia, Greece, Cyprus or Poland? Would you be interested to become an Ambassador for sensitivity on gender and sexual diversity in VET? Would you like to explore what you can do as a UNIQUE Ambassador?

We are looking for VET Teachers/Trainers and Staff from Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and Poland who are interested in participating in our activities and playing an active role in the social transformation of VET system in their countries.

If you are interested, go to uniqueproject.eu/ambassador and register as aspirant Ambassador! We will then send you materials and invite you for a conversation to get acquainted, and to take part in the training.



Partnership

