

# WHAT the HACK?!

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2020



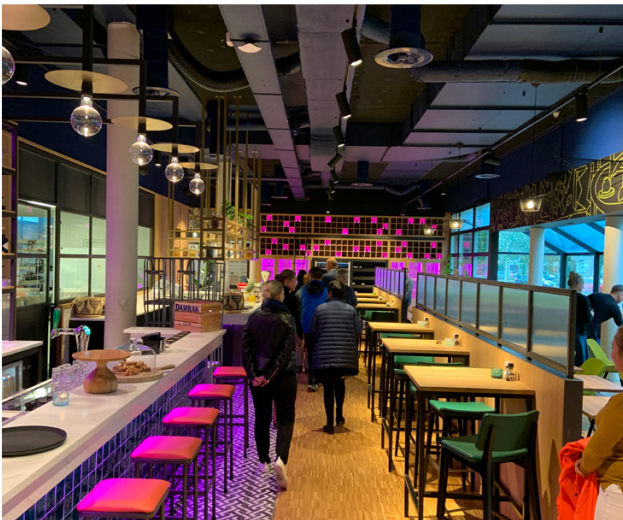
**WHAT THE HACK?!** Providing young people with more opportunities in a safer cyber environment.

Find out more at [www.what-the-hack.eu](http://www.what-the-hack.eu)



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## GETTING STARTED

In the first issue of WHAT THE HACK?! Newsletter you will get updates on the WHAT THE HACK?! Project conducted under the Erasmus+ KA2 Programme for Strategic Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training funded by the European Commission.

WHAT THE HACK?! is an Erasmus+ KA202 project and brings together project partners and experts from The Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia and Spain.

It is primarily aimed at young people in VET education and others outside it-the so-called NEETs. The project is open to digitally aware young people, gamers, school leavers, people from the autism spectrum and young people who need a challenge in their current education. The project will target NEETS and VET students with ICT affinities from different sectors and enable students from different backgrounds to learn from each other.

We have just completed the first quarter of the project. In this issue you will get more information about project activities and outputs. At the moment partners from Estonia are organising the Training Week in Estonia, from the 11th to the 15th of May, 2020, structured as follows:

- Day 1: Introduction day: getting to know each other and the WHAT THE HACK?! Project
- Day 2: Visits to IT start-ups
- Day 3: Cybersecurity training day
- Day 4: Capture the Flag contest
- Day 5: Fine-tuning the WHAT THE HACK?!: assignment and free time.

Forty students and eight people accompanying them will participate in this blended mobility for VET learners. You will also read about the kick-off meeting hosted by Friesland College, The Netherlands between 16th and 17st September 2019.





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cybercrime in SMEs is a growing concern. SMEs dependency on IT and Internet has made them vulnerable to cybercrime. This vulnerability is making information security a critical issue for all SMEs. Tackling cybersecurity threats and attacks is becoming more and more important in the European Union and worldwide.

The shortage of cyber security professionals adds to the challenge of ensuring cybersecurity, now a top priority in Europe. According to the latest reports, Europe will face a shortage of 350,000 cyber security professionals by 2022.

Not many serious attempts have been made to strengthen the cyber security sector. It comprises a basically self-taught and rebellious community - the rebellious ones are the hackers. This community is often not served by formal education providers nor wants to be.

## THESE ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WHAT THE HACK?! PROJECT:

To improve young people's level of key ICT competences and skills and thus the avenues of employment open to them by developing new educational content on Cybersecurity, Ethical Hacking and Cybersafety.

To develop inclusive ICT learning environments for young people in VET education and outside it by setting up and further developing 'hack labs', sheltered ICT learning sites.

Include NEETS in non-formal learning, and as a result guide them through education and towards employment.

To empower SMEs and individuals to secure their online life through cybersafety education and awareness raising.

To promote synergies, cooperation and cross-fertilisation between the different stakeholders active in the ICT sector within education, industry and semi-governmental bodies.

To ensure that VET teachers and students are at the forefront of technological developments in the ICT sector and stimulate the rapid inclusion of these developments in VET curricula and qualifications through the participation of VET education providers in triple helix partnerships

To promote lifelong learning for ICT professionals by developing their pedagogical competences and skills and prepare them to become 'hack-lab coaches'.

To increase the opportunities for international peer-learning and learning mobility for VET young people by facilitating joint international student projects and training weeks;

To foster quality improvements, innovation, excellence and internationalisation of VET institutions through enhanced transnational co-operation between public and private VET institutions and ICT stakeholders in Europe.

## TARGET GROUPS

The WHAT THE HACK?! Project is primarily aimed at young people both in VET education and others outside it -the latter group being the so-called NEETs. The project is open to digitally aware young people, gamers, school leavers, people from the autism spectrum and young people who need a challenge in their current education. The project will target NEETS and VET students from different sectors with affinities to ICT and enable students from different backgrounds to learn from each other. In addition, the project targets VET teachers, staff and ICT professionals as it actively involves ICT professionals in education. During the lifespan of the project, 180 young people, 24 teachers and 80 ICT stakeholders will actively participate in the project's activities.



## RESULTS

Now that the project has been approved, WHAT THE HACK?! activities will kick-off in September 2019 in Leeuwarden and continue until August 2022.

Upon completion of the project the following Open Educational Resources will be available:

**I01-WHAT THE HACK?!** blended training programme for young people in VET.

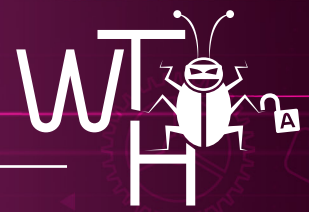
**I02-WHAT THE HACK?!** hack lab set-up guide.

**I03-WHAT THE HACK?!** blended training programme for hack-lab coaches.

**I04-WHAT THE HACK?!** online Community

## ACTIVITY

In addition, WHAT THE HACK?! will organise several promotional events and three learning activities for young people in Pärnu, Estonia in April 2020; in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, in December 2020 and in San Sebastian, Spain, in September 2021.



## IMPACT & LONG-TERM BENEFITS

The fundamental change the project desires to bring about is to increase young people's avenues of employment in the labour market. This will strengthen the local and regional economy as ICT companies will have access to competent vocational cyber security professionals that will contribute to the growth of companies. The project will thus provide employment opportunities and create economic welfare in Europe. Future professionals will be well-equipped and appropriately educated to meet the demands of the market which will in turn increase their employability and competitive edge on the global market and their socio-economic standing. The project will direct unemployed youth to training or the labour market and increase their long-term professional and socio-economic prospects (equal opportunities for all).

The project impacts Europe as it contributes to making SMEs and individuals less vulnerable to cybercrime and tackling cybersecurity threats and attacks by educating competent vocational cyber security professionals.

## PARTNERS

Four regions will participate in the WHAT THE HACK?! Project. What binds these regions is their ambition to make the cyber world a place of safety and opportunity for young people in VET and others outside it. There will be a VET institution from all the regions involved in the consortium, together with a regional stakeholder in ICT. Project partners are:

- P1 Friesland College - D'Drive - NL
- P2 Learning Hub Friesland Foundation - NL
- P3 Foundation for Cybersafety Northern Netherlands - NL
- P4 GO! Technisch Atheneum Zavelenberg - BE
- P5 Cebanc - ES
- P6 Fanaad - NL
- P7 Pärnumaa Vocational Education Centre - EE
- P8 Information Technology Foundation for Education (HITSA) - EE





## KICK-OFF MEETING

The WHAT THE HACK?! Project kicked off in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, on the 16th and 17th of September, 2019. The project meeting was held at the third partner's centre, the Foundation for CyberSafety in Northern Netherlands. The centre is a start-up ecosystem: a base for ICT companies and venue for events and training courses for students on Cybersafety and security. These events and courses are organized by educational institutions in Leeuwarden.

The partners got the opportunity to have a look at the Leeuwarden Hackathon, which is organised for VET and final year secondary students. These students, entrepreneurs and other cyberfanatics have the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise during Cybersafety hackathon. The students spend the day working on solutions for problems presented by professionals from the cyber world.

After introductions and a word of welcome from Erik Miedema from Friesland College, the representatives from HITSA and Pärnumaa Vocational Education Centre (Estonia), GO! Technical Atheneum Zavelenberg (Belgium), Friesland College, Learning Hub, Friesland, Cyber Safety Foundation, Northern Netherlands and Fanaad (The Netherlands) and Cebanc (Spain) gathered for a two-day meeting to discuss the following areas: quality management and impact evaluation strategy, dissemination and sustainability strategies and the basic principles, tasks, methods and strategies or developing intellectual outputs, activities and events in the following months. This meeting was the perfect way for everyone to get to know to each other and to begin what will be a productive and effective partnership!

## NEXT PROJECT MEETING AND C1 ACTIVITY

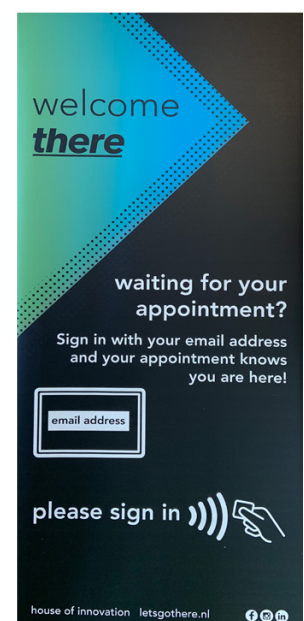
The first youth training session for teachers and hack lab coaches will take place in Pärnu, Estonia between the 11th and 15th of May, 2020. The 2nd transnational project meeting will be held on the 14th and 15th of May, 2020, in Pärnu, Estonia. The partner meeting will be hosted by project partner, Pärnumaa Kutsehariduskeskus.

## PROJECT WEB SITE

Why not follow the link and join our brand new project website loaded with information on project goals, news, activities and resources for you to access:

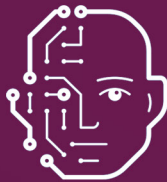
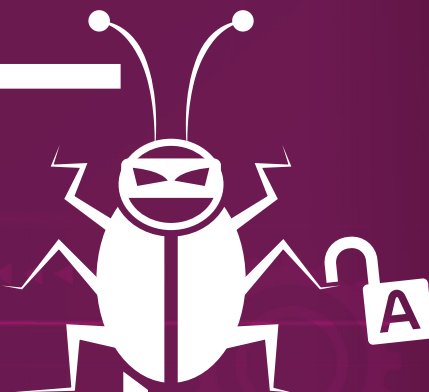
<https://what-the-hack.eu>

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication (communication) reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. Project granted under Agreement no. 2019-1-NL01-KA202-060502.



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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