



# **BRIDGES PROJECT: INNOVATING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR**

The BRIDGES (Bring & Develop Good Education Systems) project is dedicated to enhancing Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems, particularly in the tourism sector, to better meet the growing demands of the labor market. By addressing the skills gap, the project seeks to develop innovative pre-apprenticeship programs (PaPs) that align with industry needs, helping young individuals gain the competencies required for successful careers in tourism.

## **Project Goals and Consortium**

The BRIDGES project aims to:

- Develop pre-apprenticeship programs tailored to the tourism industry, ensuring young learners acquire the necessary skills for future employment.
- Engage employers in quality apprenticeships, securing the workforce needed for the tourism sector.
- Equip trainers with the tools to support students in high-quality apprenticeship experiences.
- Bridge the gap between businesses and educational institutions to co-create innovative, practical teaching methodologies.



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## First Transnational Meeting in Valencia, Spain

Our journey began with an energizing first transnational partnership meeting in Valencia, Spain, on March 12th and 13th, 2024. This gathering brought together partners from across the globe, each committed to educational reform and innovation. The two-day event, hosted by ALPE and TUCEP, was filled with strategic discussions and collaborative planning, all aimed at integrating cutting-edge educational methods with the specific demands of the tourism sector. The meeting set the stage for the project's next steps and solidified our unified approach to addressing the skills gap through apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

### Consortium Partners:

The project is driven by a consortium of experienced partners from Europe and Latin America:

- **TUCEP (Italy):** Project Coordinator with expertise in Quality Assurance and VET curriculum design.
- **DIMITRA Education & Consulting (Greece):** Leading VET provider, offering customized training courses.
- **ARTES Srl (Italy):** Specializes in socio-economic research and professional education in the tourism sector.
- **ALPE (Spain):** A collective of educators focused on innovative teaching practices.
- **ICAPET (Mexico):** Provides skills training and certification for socially excluded populations.
- **CAINCOTAR (Bolivia):** Business association promoting economic development and professional training.
- **ACTIA (Argentina):** Fosters Italian-Argentine connections through project management.
  - **Italian Chamber of Commerce of Rosario (Argentina):** Promotes trade and supports SMEs.
  - **Rosario National University (Argentina):** Prestigious institution committed to education and community outreach.

### Next Steps

With the project website already in place, the BRIDGES project is moving forward to deliver innovative solutions that will positively impact the vocational education landscape in tourism.

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