SEED Website

D 7.2

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SEED

sustainable energy education

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Summary sheet

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Summary	The SEED (Sustainable Energy Education) project is focused on providing excellent and innovative vocational education in order to establish a fossil-free energy continent. Its objectives are to equip learners, students, and professionals with the right capabilities, foster regional innovation based on local requirements, expand and promote work-based education, and build an international learning network of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVES). This document describes the format of the project's website. The website of the project, available at www.coveseed.eu, offers a comprehensive overview of the project. In fact, the website provides a centralized location for all information related to the project that allows visitors to stay informed, engaged and to track its progress over time. Last but not least, the website includes a library of the project's public deliverables, which will allow members of the SEED community to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the project and help ensure its long-term success.

COVE SEED

COVE SEED (Centre of Vocational Excellence – Sustainable Energy Education) is focused on providing excellent and innovative vocational education to become a fossil free energy continent. While challenges on the energy transition develop rapidly and technologies are constantly evolving, well-equipped students, professionals and suitable labor capacity are needed. SEED sees vocational education as an important driver for innovation and growth, agile in adapting to the labor market. The objectives of the project are therefore focused on innovative energy education that meets the needs of the labor market: a) Preparing learners, students and professionals with skills and competences for the future; b) Empowering regional innovation based on regional needs; c) Upscaling and promote work-based education, and will lead to d) the establishment of an international learning community and e) establishment of Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVES) in five regions. SEED consists of educational VET providers (EQF level 2-7), working professionals and policymakers from The Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Germany, and Greece. The result is an international community on vocational excellence dedicated to sustainable energy. During the project the partners will co-create and increase not only regional cooperation, but also transnational cooperation. Good practices and innovative approaches for learning with impact will be exchanged and developed.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Website objectives

The SEED project website (www.coveseed.eu) is an essential resource for anyone interested in learning more about the project and its activities. Its structure aims to engage actors, citizens, local stakeholders and other concerned parties who are interested in upgrading and updating their skills in the field of sustainable energy. The website seeks to serve as a central hub for delivering detailed information regarding the project's undertakings. As the primary digital portal, it focuses on providing a comprehensive description of the project objectives, the consortium, and the CoVEs initiative as well as describing the different work packages of the project and presenting its deliverables to all interested parties. Most importantly, it strives to disseminate the good practices developed during the project and the salient points that are acquired through the project's tasks and results. Therefore, strong commitment is required so as to consistently update the website with new reports, publications, and training materials derived from the various activities and workshops conducted under the SEED project.

Furthermore, the SEED project website aims to facilitate stakeholder engagement and enrich the interactions held within the SEED community. For that purpose, the website hosts the online platform of that community, which is designed to collect and address questions and comments from the participants, thus facilitating members synergy which, in turn, enriches the project with diverse perspectives. As such, several up-to-date articles are available on the website to inform the community about the latest news and introduce them to the importance of Vocational Excellence. Apparently, an integral part of this process is the established and continuous enhancement of an engaging and user-friendly environment that facilitates exploration and interaction. Consequently, the SEED website is designed to be accessible across various devices, ensuring that it adheres to web accessibility standards, thus providing a seamless and inclusive user experience for everyone interested in the project. All in all, the SEED website strives to demonstrate the project's outputs while nurturing a community of informed, engaged, and skilled individuals.

1.2 Knowledge Sharing Objectives

The website serves as a knowledge hub, featuring insights gleaned from two main sources: the project's diverse work packages and the active interactions among its members. This dual approach allows the site to offer a comprehensive perspective on sustainable energy education and the establishment of CoVEs. The synergy between structured project outputs and dynamic community exchanges ensures a multifaceted understanding of these key areas. For instance, a set of guideline on how to develop skills, detailed reports regarding the skills gaps in five regions from five European countries and material for two workshops on skills will pave the way for addressing the educational and vocational needs of the sustainable energy sector, thus providing invaluable tools to people interested in assessing the situation in their regions.

Furthermore, a toolset comprising of governance models and templates on CoVE maturity assessments combined with 5 different regional development plans aims to support the development of new sustainable CoVEs; ultimately, promoting the synergy of the labour market and vocational education towards the bridging of skills gaps. These resources combined with material from another workshop regarding co-design methodologies and a shared strategy between regional and

transnational learning will provide a structured pathway to stakeholders, facilitating a more coordinated approach to vocational excellence.

Additionally, the project features a comprehensive catalogue of good practices in several key areas: teaching and learning, cooperation and partnership, as well as governance and funding. This catalogue is designed to support the reinforcement of sustainable skills and the development of regional skills ecosystems. It is uniquely tailored to be responsive and adaptable to the varying needs of different regions, particularly in the context of regional activities. Furthermore, this resource serves as a foundational tool for stakeholders. It enables them to develop and refine their strategies concerning local vocational competencies. By providing detailed examples of successful practices, the catalogue offers valuable guidance for stakeholders aiming to enhance their vocational education and training initiatives.

Additionally, the dynamic nature of the information provided through the SEED website and the online platform, which interacts and evolves with varying regional needs, offers a living resource that remains relevant and valuable over time. This, in turn, fosters a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration, and innovation among educational institutions, industry partners, and policymakers, thereby contributing to the strengthening of regional skills ecosystems and advancing the goal of promoting sustainability and excellence in vocational education and the sustainable energy sector. In conclusion, utilising the website as a dissemination medium, the goal is to reach a broader audience and establish a lasting digital footprint for the project. This digital outreach will function as a catalyst for engaging with a wider audience, thus amplifying the project's message and fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of the project's outcomes.

2. Development Methodology

The "SEED Website" was developed using WordPress, a user-friendly content management system that is widely utilised for that purpose. Websites built on WordPress benefit from SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) friendliness, which translates to improved visibility in search engine results across Google, Bing, Yahoo, and others, thus enhancing the SEED community's online presence and attracting potential new members. To further enhance the website's design and interactivity, the Elementor website builder was integrated. Elementor is a valuable tool that aims to facilitate the page building process with its advanced drag-and-drop widgets, empowering designers to construct responsive, fast-loading web pages with meticulous attention to detail. Therefore, this tool elevated the website's appearance to make it more appealing to the visitors, providing an environment that corresponds to the modern visual standards. Moreover, separate sections of the website were translated in different languages, utilising the WPML Language plugin, which allowed the management of multi-language webpages under a single domain. In conclusion, the combination of the aforementioned tools resulted in a highly functional, aesthetically pleasing, and globally accessible website that aims to disseminate the SEED Project and enhance its impact.

3. Set up

The website was designed to be attractive, catchy, and user-friendly aiming to provide an engaging and informative platform for visitors. The content is meticulously organised to enable a quick overview of key project information, while its visual design follows the most updated standards in web

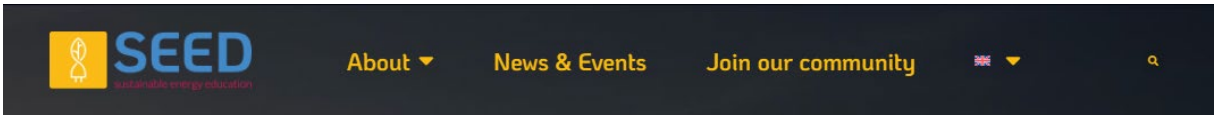
development and mirrors the project's corporate identity, fostering a cohesive visual identity. Its contents reflect the ongoing project progress, with regular updates and important milestones as well as news and events in the sustainable energy education landscape. Through them the website aims to promote knowledge sharing, efficient access, and reuse of project outputs, establishing a bridge between the project and the broader community, while also guaranteeing a safe environment in which user data will be safely stored and protected from any third-party access.

The website was launched in January 2023. Since then, it is being regularly updated in order to meet the project's needs, e.g. hosting the online platform or emphasising on new additions and outcomes that were not available at the beginning of the project.

3.1 Navigation Bar

The navigation bar, as depicted in Figure 1, serves as the central guide to the SEED website, offering access to its various subpages.

Figure 1: "Navigation Bar" Features.



The "Navigation Bar" includes multiple features represented by various icons or straightforward words that aim to facilitate the website browsing. The SEED logo -the first element of the navigation bar- is an interactive button that can be used to redirect users back to the homepage, providing a quick way to return to the start, ensuring easy navigation and a constant point of reference. The next feature is the "About" dropdown list which contain links to several website subpages that aim to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the project and will be further explained in the respective sections. The "News & Events" feature redirects visitors to the article repository of the website, where the latest project's updates, upcoming events related to sustainable energy education and other valuable information for the sustainable energy education community are available. Additionally, the "Join our community" leads visitors to the project's online platform where they can interact with others, join thematic groups about the Good Practices and Sustainable Energy Education, and participate in discussions, fostering a collaborative environment of knowledge and ideas exchange. Moreover, to foster accessibility and inclusivity, the icon indicating language selection demonstrates the different languages in which each subpage's contents are available. More specifically, the sections that present the most important information of the website are translated in 6 languages (English, Dutch, German, Greek, Finnish and Spanish) to broad the project's impact even to non-English speakers. Therefore, the language indicating icon features a drop-down list with various language selections, as depicted in Figure 2. Finally, the magnifying glass icon represents the project's search bar which enables visitors to use keywords in order to find easily specific content of the website, enhancing the user experience and facilitating information retrieval.

Figure 2: Drop-down list of the language indicating icons.

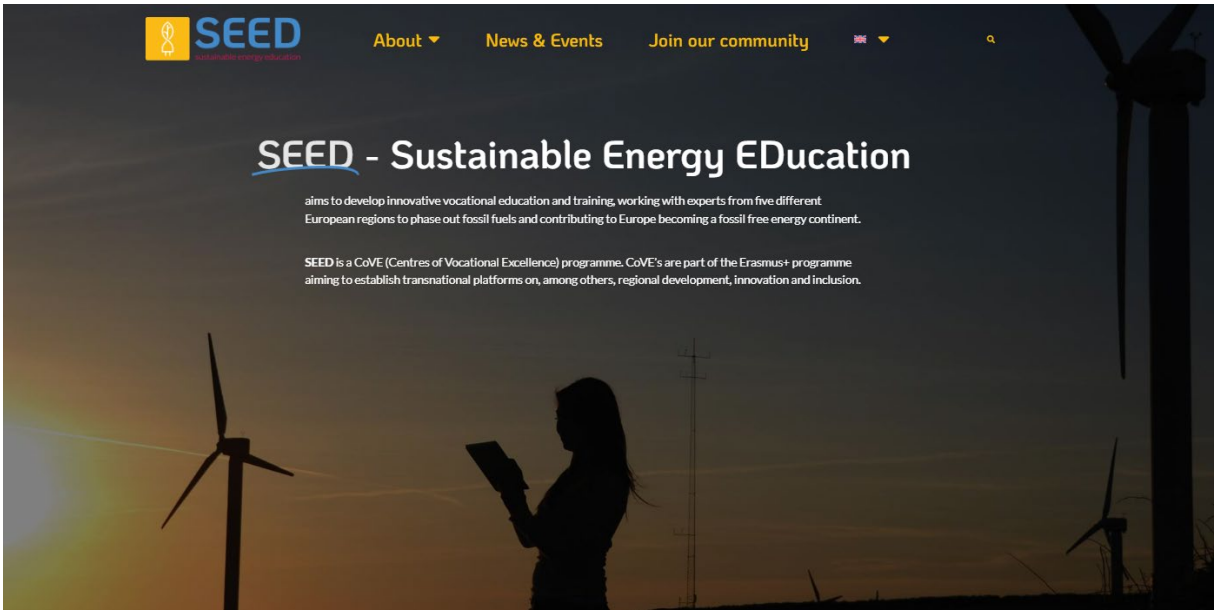
In conclusion, each element of the navigation bar is carefully designed to offer smooth user experience, promote accessibility, and enhance the visitor's experience. Its various elements were meticulously selected to provide valuable information of the project and encourage active participation within the SEED community, as described below.

3.2 Homepage

The "Homepage" serves as the primary information point of the website, accommodating a brief summary of the project, providing essential information and resources such as direct links to the project's social media channels or a subscription form for its newsletter. The "Homepage" is separated in 3 sections by the means of a header, a footer and the main section, each serving a specific purpose in enhancing user experience.

The header (Figure 3) features the project logo, introducing the project's identity to the visitors, and a navigation bar to provide easy access to the website's subpages. Furthermore, a short description of the project, showcases the most important information and aims to intrigue the visitors to learn more by browsing through the website.

Figure 3: Homepage - Navigation Bar and Brief Summary.



The main section of the page (Figure 4) consists of the project objectives and demonstrates how SEED aims to influence the current education landscape, emphasising on the respective achievements that will be accomplished by the establishment of CoVEs in every region. Additionally, direct links to the project's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram) are provided, enabling users to follow and engage with the latest project developments. To further enhance engagement, real-time updates from our social media feeds are displayed, offering a glimpse of their content and encouraging visitors to actively participate in the conversation.

Figure 4: Main Section - Project objectives and social media feeds.

The third part of the Homepage, which is the footer (Figure 5), displays the interactive logos of all consortium partners, allowing visitors to be redirected to each partner's website, enabling them to obtain more detailed information about project participants. Additionally, a newsletter subscription form is available for visitors who wish to receive semesterly updates on the project, ensuring they remain informed and engaged. To further demonstrate transparency and compliance with the legal standards, the footer also contains crucial information such as the European Union's disclaimer, the Grant Agreement Number, and essential contact details, as well as the Privacy Policy and Cookie Policy of the website.

Figure 5: Footer - Consortium logos, site map, newsletter subscription, and legal information.

3.3 About

The "About" drop-down list of the Navigation bar contains a detailed overview of the "SEED Project", the "Partners" involved, the "Good Practices" and the expected "Results" of the project.

3.3.1. The Project

This subsection presents detailed information about the project concept, objectives, and approach. It begins with an overview of the project's central concept (Figure 6), highlighting key focus areas like the need for future-ready skills, the emphasis on regional innovation and the collaborative learning community, that are crucial throughout the project's lifecycle. Furthermore, recognising that the concept of CoVEs might be unfamiliar to some visitors, a concise explanation of their role and significance in the educational sector is provided (Figure 7), offering essential context for understanding the project's impact.

Figure 6: Project Overview.

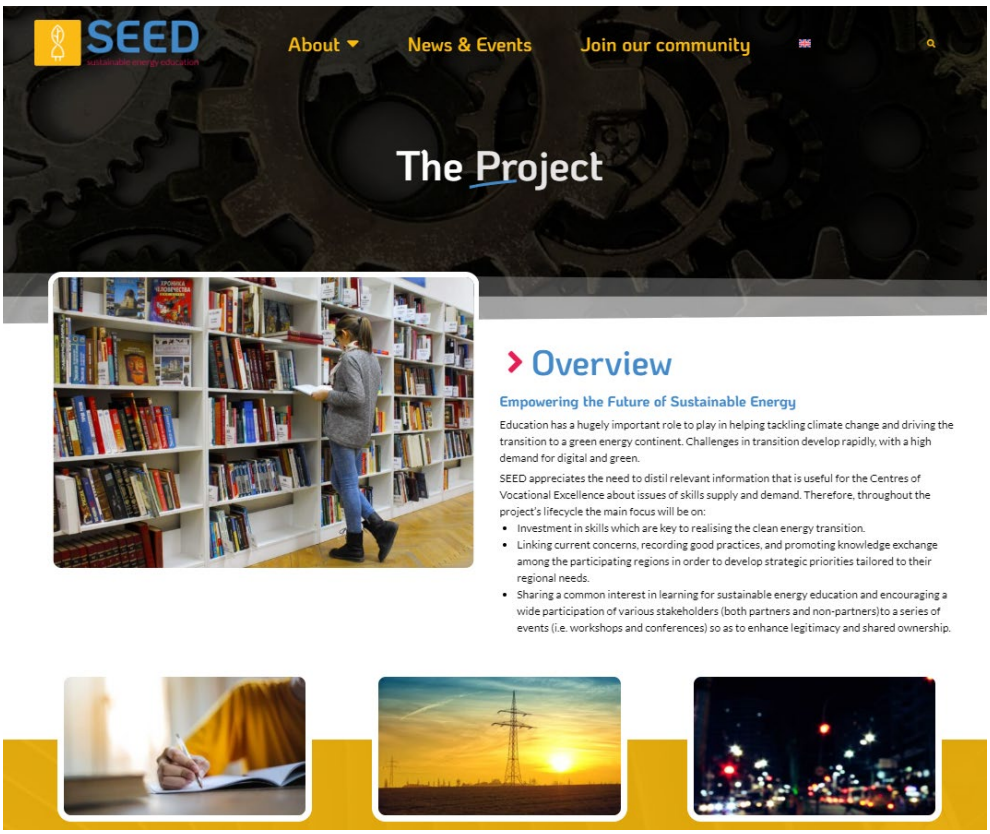
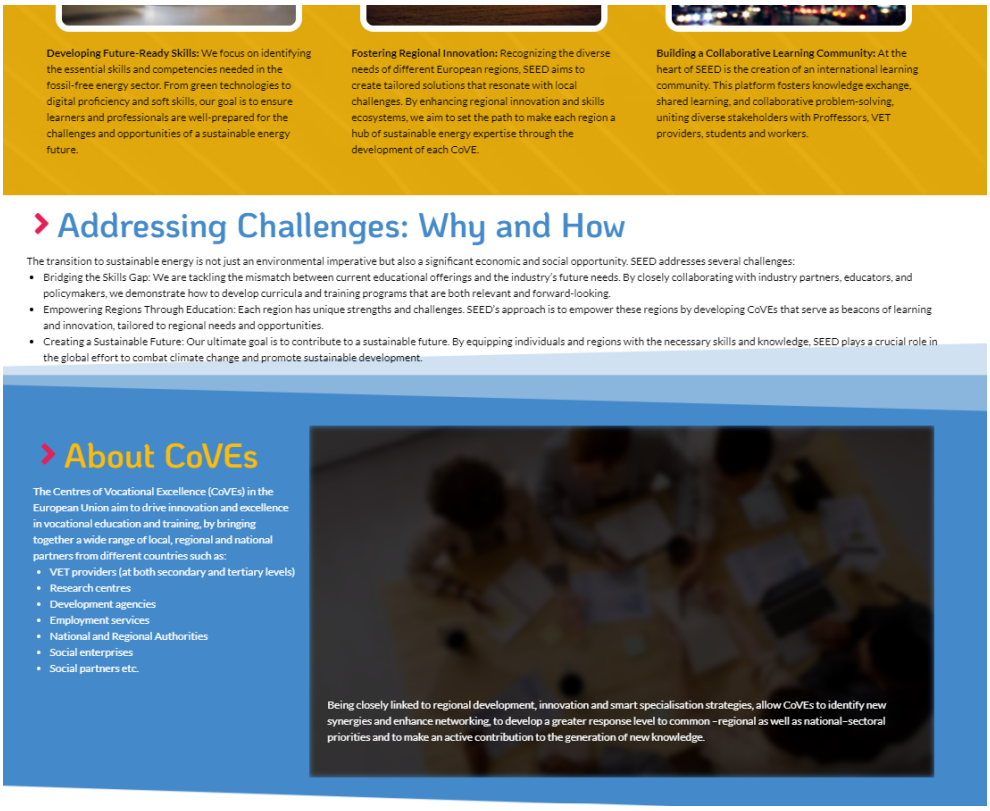
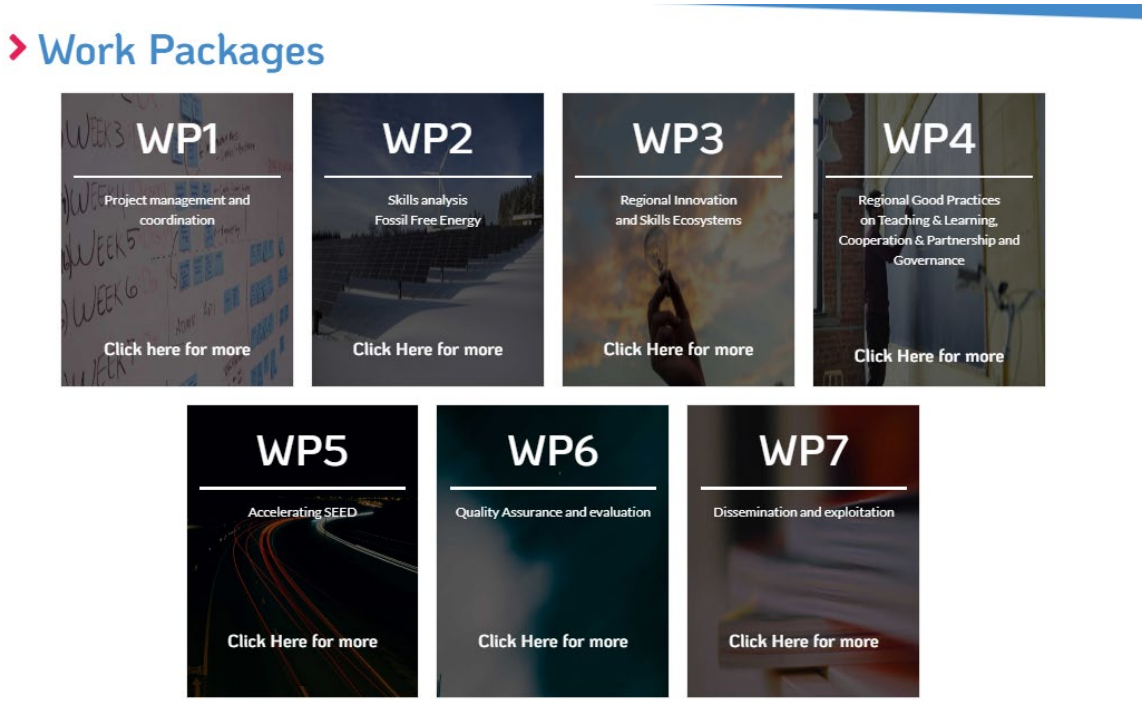


Figure 7: Project's core information and CoVEs description.



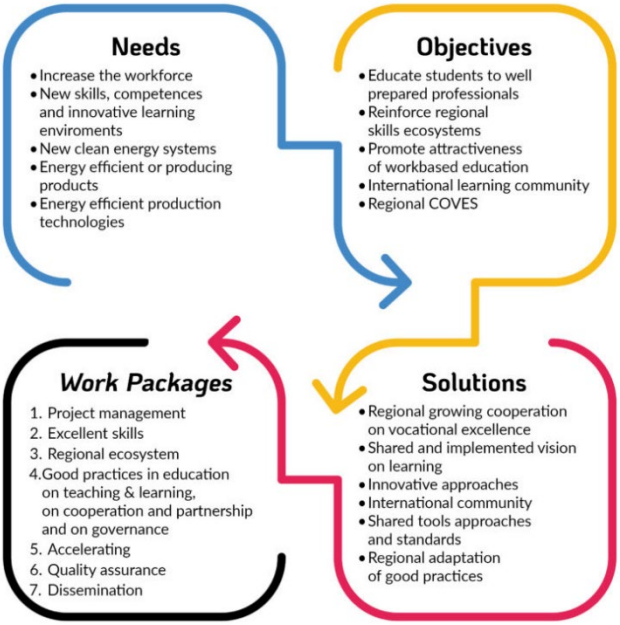
Additionally, the subsection features an overview of the Work Packages, each accompanied by a link leading to a dedicated page (Figure 8). These links offer in-depth information about the objectives and activities of each Work Package. This design choice ensures the website remains user-friendly and uncluttered, making it easier for users to find specific information while maintaining a simplified main page experience.

Figure 8: Work Packages list.



Lastly, this page features and infographic (Figure 9) that provides a visual summary of the project's components, and serves as a navigational tool, guiding viewers through the project's structure and encouraging further exploration of each component. More specifically, it demonstrates the interconnectivity between the "Need' that drive the project, the "Objectives" that should be achieved, the detailed "Work Packages" that outline the project's implementation, and the "Solutions" that are anticipated to derive from that process. Therefore, this illustration the project's strategic framework, makes the available information more digestible, and offers a roadmap of the journey from conception to realization to inspire future CoVEs to emerge.

Figure 9: Project Roadmap - How SEED's CoVE emerged.



3.3.2. The Partners

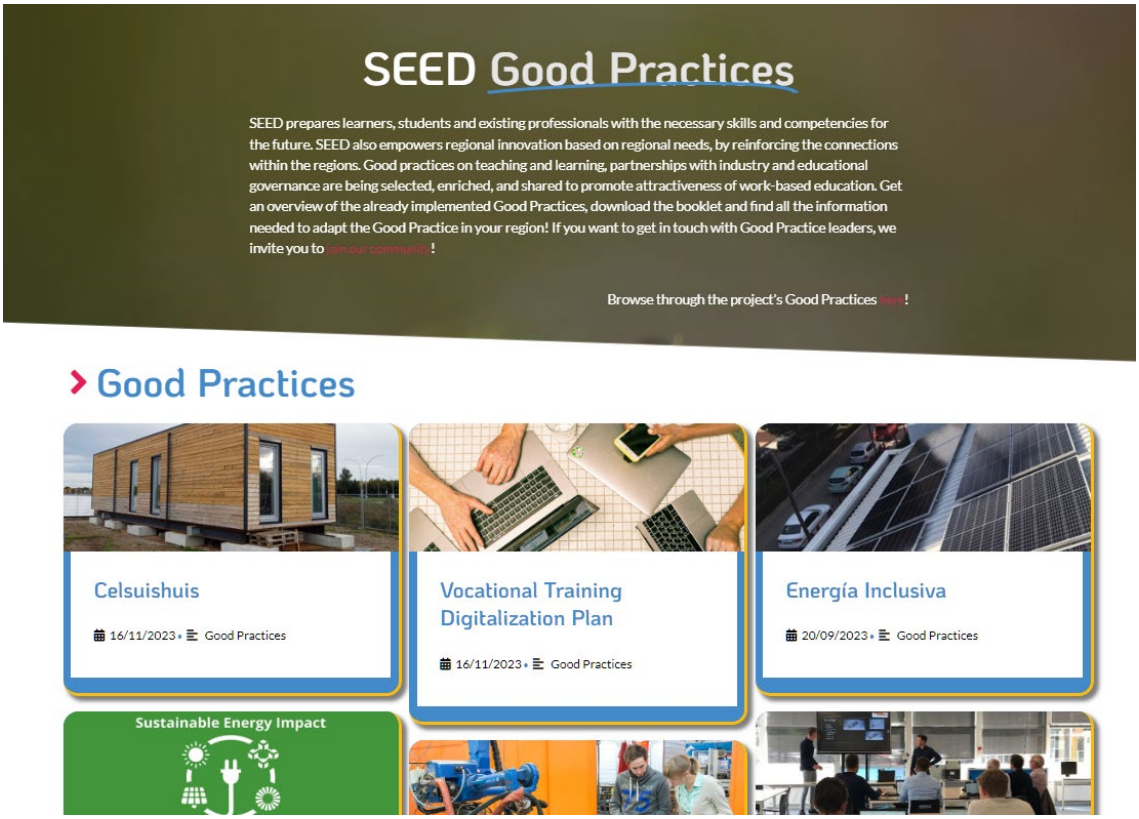
The "Partners" subsection introduces the SEED consortium is dedicated to introducing the SEED consortium in detail, with an emphasis on showcasing the diversity and expertise of the collaborating partners. These partners span a wide range, including educational institutes across 5 to 8 EQF levels, enterprises, industry clusters, and policy bodies. Unlike the homepage's footer, which offers a quick visual reference, this subsection provides in-depth information about each partner. It includes a detailed list and descriptions, as shown in Figure 10, which enriches the understanding of visitors about the consortium's structure and the specific role and expertise of each member. This comprehensive presentation not only highlights the significance of the collective effort but also enables stakeholders to grasp the full scope of collaboration and the unique contributions of each entity within the CoVE framework.

3.3.3. The Good Practices

In the "Good Practices" section visitors can find out more about several actions that cultivate and nurture green skills that are crucial for the future, in Teaching & Learning, Cooperation & Partnership and Governance & Funding. In this section, the "Good Practices" concept is presented to the visitors along with a complementary brochure that describes them briefly (Figure 11). These selected practices are shared with the form of informative articles that provide even more information as well as media content to facilitate their better understanding. In addition, each article includes a link to the "Online Platform's" specific groups dedicated to each Good Practice, enabling visitors to discuss and explore how these practices can be adapted and implemented in their own regions.

Figure 10: SEED Consortium - Partners' descriptions.

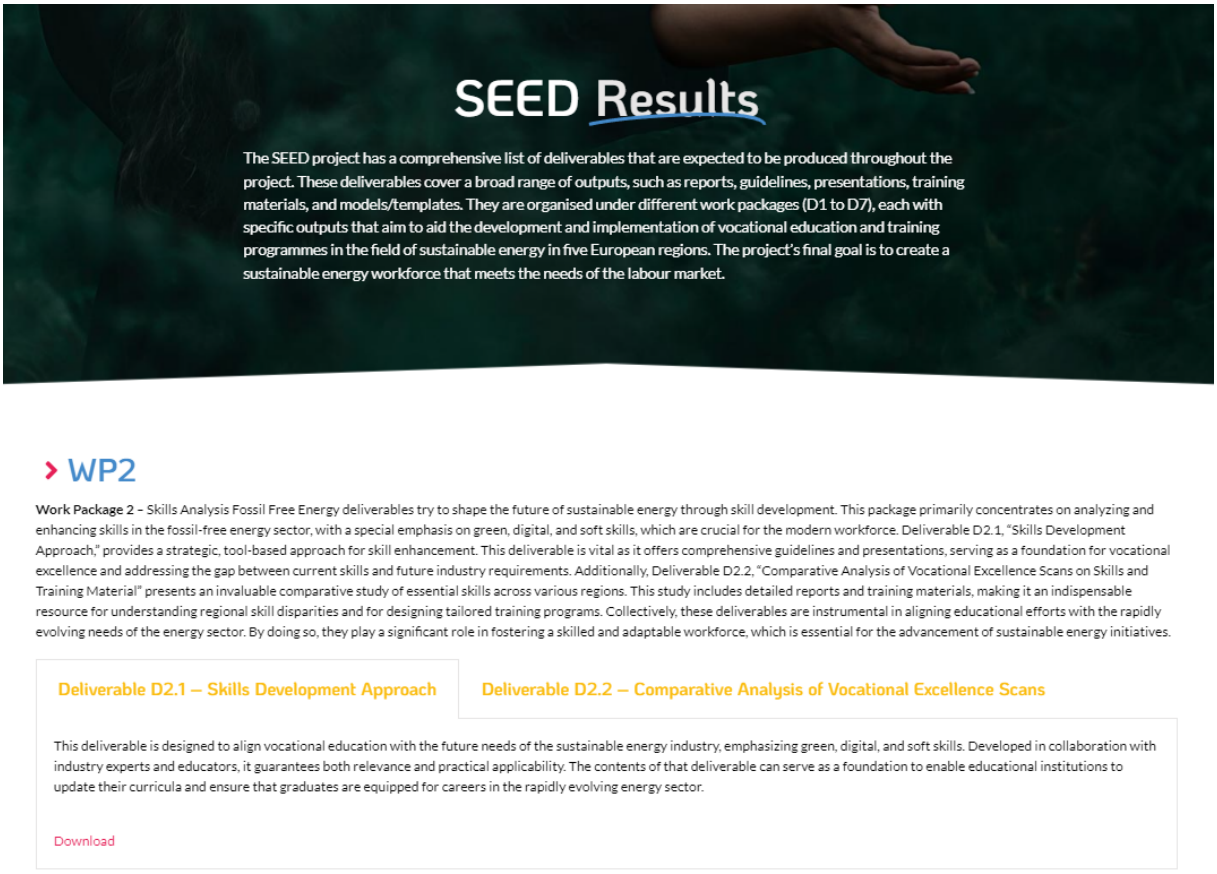
Figure 11: Good Practices Articles.



3.3.4. The Results

This section includes the most major outcomes of the "SEED Project" that are understood by the respective deliverables. It thus acts as a hub for updating the progress of the project ensuring continuous visitor engagement. Deliverables are organised by Work Package and are accompanied by a brief description of their content (Figure 12). The "SEED Project" has a comprehensive list of public deliverables that are expected to be produced throughout the project. These deliverables cover a broad range of outputs, such as reports, guidelines, presentations, training materials, and models/templates. The goal is to aid the development and implementation of vocational education and training programmes, regarding sustainable energy in five European regions. Therefore, this subpage aims to foster accessibility to the project's most important outcomes, enabling interested visitors to download them and utilise them accordingly to enlarge the impact of the project.

Figure 12: List of the Project's uploaded deliverables categorised per Work Package.



3.3.5. News & Events

This subsection is divided in two different categories to better organise the uploaded information. The "News" Category (Figure 13) provides direct access to articles regarding the project's latest updates, reports from the field of vocational education, and sustainable energy education as well as partner interviews to provide a more personal experience, introducing not only the partners, but the people that are involved in the project and providing a platform to their thoughts. On the other hand, the "Events" section (Figure 14) is used to inform the visitors about interesting actions on the field of sustainable energy education to keep them updated to upcoming conferences, workshops, seminars, and webinars.

Figure 13: List of News Articles.

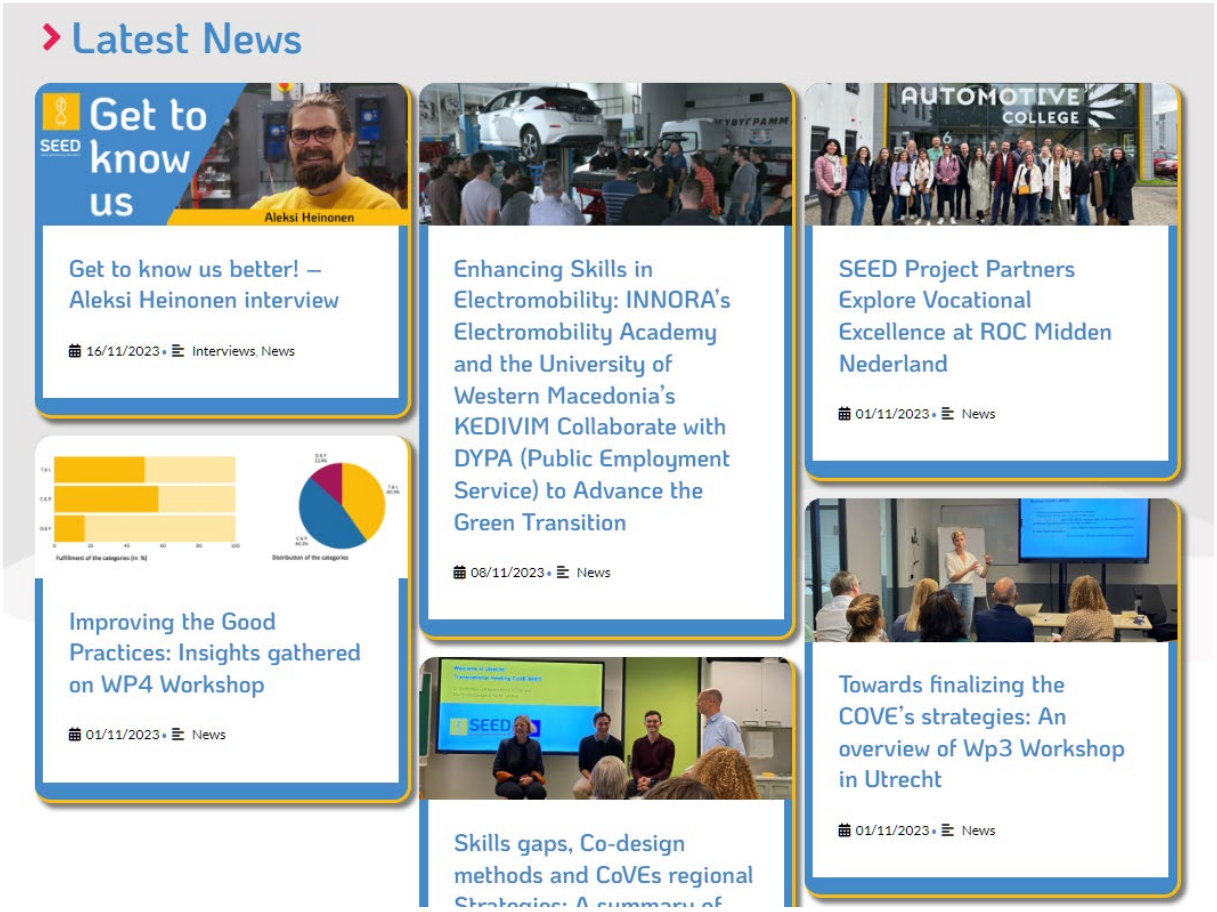
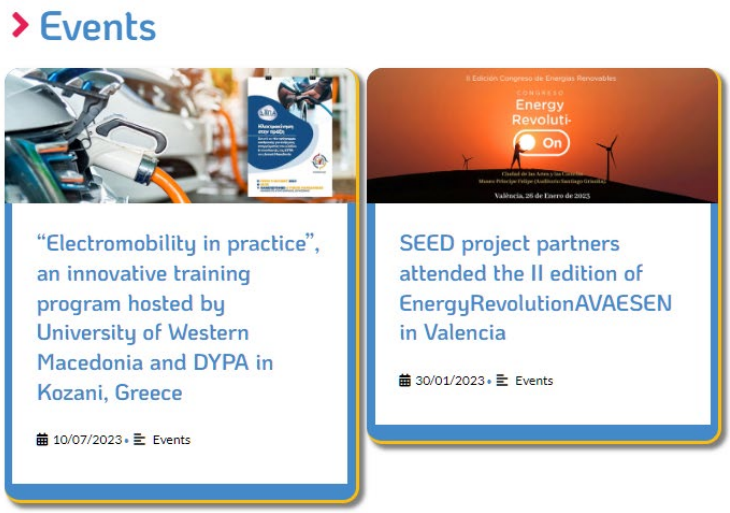


Figure 14: List of Events articles.



3.3.6. Join Our Community

The "Join our Community" feature is used to lead visitors to the "SEED Online Platform", an interactive space designed to facilitate the understanding of the project's "Good Practices" within the sustainable energy sector. Here, members can join thematic Groups to share and enhance their knowledge,

actively engage in discussions, and exchange innovative ideas. This platform aims to promote and fostering communication among community members, from individuals and students to professionals that are interested in the sustainable energy education. Furthermore, by joining that platform, users are encouraged to showcase sustainable energy initiatives, partake in forums discussing the latest research and innovations, and create a detailed profile reflecting their expertise. This not only keeps members informed about recent advancements but also nurtures a network of collaboration and shared expertise.

4. Impact

In conclusion, the SEED Project website aims to disseminate crucial information, engage visitors, and foster the creation of the SEED Community. The website's content, combined with its modern design, strives to attract a wide array of visitors and inform them about the project, its outcomes as well as inspiring other initiatives on Sustainable Energy Education. The different sections of the navigation bar categorize the project's information accordingly to enhance the user experience. Furthermore, the multilingual pages of the website aim to extend its reach, inviting an international audience to engage with the project's initiatives. Overall, the SEED website stands as a beacon for vocational education and training in sustainable energy, promoting best practices, sharing innovative solutions, and ultimately, contributing to the cultivation of a skilled workforce equipped to meet the challenges of the future. As the project progresses, the website will continue to evolve, reflecting new insights and milestones, and maintaining its role as an information hub not only for the project's implementation but also for those who are interested in Sustainable Energy Education.

SEED

sustainable energy education

www.coveseed.eu

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