

## EDU-VET

### IO5: Online Observatory

*February 2022, UPB*

**Project Title:** E-Learning, Digitisation and Units for Learning at  
VET schools – Creating online Learning  
Environments in Technical Education for European metal industry

**Acronym:** EDU-VET

**Reference number:** 2019-1-DE02-KA202-006068

**Project partners:**

P1	University Paderborn (UPB), DE
P2	Ingenious Knowledge GmbH (IK), DE
P3	Berufskolleg Bocholt-West (BKBW), DE
P4	Lancaster and Morecambe College (LMC), UK
P5	Centro Integrado de Formación Profesional Someso (CIFP), ES
P6	Stichting BE Oost-Gelderland (SBEOG), NL

## 1 About the online observatory

To show how metal companies integrate new ways of digitisation into training the EDU-VET consortium creates an online tool where amongst others, VET teachers, VET trainers and learners can find information of practical examples of digitisation and industry 4.0 in the metal VET field. The tool provides insights into real existing showcases and offer pictures and videos of best practices examples.

The objectives of this EDU-VET Online Showroom are:

- (1) to present role models for metal enterprises and enterprise owners to inspire learning and teaching processes and to provide realistic information for teaching processes;
- (2) to provide instant access to a library of information resources identified by partners during the research process that might be useful to teachers;
- (3) to provide a range of online environments and forums where teachers and VET professionals can exchange ideas and practices with their peers in partner countries, and collaborate.

## 2 The EDU-VET Online Showroom

In this context, the best practices thus act as a role model for learners as well as teachers and trainers of the VET sector of the metal industry. Furthermore, the experiences of the best practices can be a fundamental help for the development of ideas and the further professional future. Consequently, the online observatory offers access to valuable and useful information resources, which can be accessed at any time and which will be continuously expanded during the research process. Ultimately, the Online Observatory aims to provide a forum for sharing experiences, practices and other concerns within the topic of digitisation in the metal VET sector can be exchanged.

The EDU-VET Online Showroom will be an online hosted environment running on a web server tailored for the purpose. It will be built on a Content Management System, based on the framework of IKs technical experts. This framework is a scalable, includes features such as language versioning, object relations and ownership models, all with a flexible connection interface. The core technologies behind the framework are Open-Source and include PHP, MySQL Database, Apache Web service and an adequate server. The object-based and modular nature of the framework and the services built on it allow for flexible combining of the available modules as well as cost-efficient creation of new ones should the need for special purpose-built extensions arise.

The Online Showroom is Web 2.0 enabled and cater for all mainstream social networking activities and is developed in all partner languages. The portal is optimized for mobile access and functions equally well on laptop, tablet or smartphone. The proposed technology infrastructure is developed to accessibility compliance standards. The online showroom also includes features like rss feeds from appropriate organisations to ensure that the information available through the portal is always up to date. It is fully web 2.0 compliant and includes all the standard and expected social media features that are now an essential part of online learning.

The partners has collected the showcases and all information and put them together according to a description guideline. This guideline is based on criteria which will be used in the showroom presentation of the information, too. The partners has collected graphics, videos, text descriptions on the enterprises, their processes, aims and target groups as well as on contact data, perspectives and pedagogical hints for schools. Moreover, a description of the enterprise and how the use digitisation in the metal VET training it provided together with contact data. In total, there are at least 20 showcases in the observatory.

In order to be able to fill the platform with content, the project is guided by a general guideline that will be used as a basis for each project partner. Preferably, interviews (face-to-face, telephone, online) should be conducted with the metal companies. Here, the interviews must first be organised. This means that metal enterprises have to be identified and contacted. In this step an introduction to the EDU-VET project as well as explanations of the further procedure and the objectives of the online platform was addressed. If the metal entrepreneurs are interested, they can be invited for an interview, e.g. via e-mail or telephone. In addition, finding a date and a venue and the determination of a meeting place contribute to the success of the interviews. If a personal meeting is not possible because of the Corona pandemic, the interview can also be conducted by video conference or telephone. During the interviews, it is important to ask questions in a coherent and consistent way so that the answers and finally the content of the internet platform are authentic and complete.

At this point, the project uses the *EDU-VET Business Profile*. This instrument can be used to create a company profile. First of all, the name and the year of foundation of the company are noted. The categorisation into areas, e. g. Industry, Services, IT, etc. provides all interested parties a better orientation and clarity of the online observatory. The classification is followed by a description of the business context and the products or services. Facts such as turnover figures or the number of customers/employees can be entered in the next step. Particularly relevant for learners are the aspects of supports the companies accessed when setting up their business and digital learning and teaching

processes in their enterprise, i.e. financial, mentoring, technical aspects, organizational aspects, professional services, marketing, etc. Moreover, this observatory is aimed at teachers and learners. Therefore, the following questions, for example, are also interesting for the target group from the perspective of the companies: If you were to look at digital learning and teaching processes and your business again, could you mention something you would do differently this time? Are there any pitfalls to setting up digital learning and teaching processes which new businesses should be aware of? What are the main challenges you faced in this sector? Finally, an outlook on digital learning in metal education rounds off the questionnaire. In addition to that, video material as well as logos can also be made available online.

To get an impression of such a completed business profile, you will find an example of the German company Metallbau Welsing – H-T-W Metall- und Fassadenbau GmbH below. This table serves as a basic structure for the content implementation of the Online Showroom.

EDU-VET Business Profile	
<b>1. Name of the business</b>	Metallbau Welsing – H-T-W Metall- und Fassadenbau GmbH
<b>2. Years in business</b>	1971
<b>3. Category of business</b>	Services in the metal sector
<b>4. Description of business and digitisation</b>	<p>Metal and steel construction includes a variety of structural and aesthetic solutions. The combination with other materials results in structural craftsmanship that can be used both indoors and outdoors. We advise planners, builders and architects in Paderborn and the surrounding area in the planning and implementation of aesthetic yet functional solutions. Our custom-made metal products meet the requirements of the industry as well as fire protection tasks. Whether in the private, public or industrial sector, we produce individual metal solutions that contribute to creating a piece of quality of life. According to your specifications, we create a wide variety of metal products made to measure for the home, garden and industry: carports, canopies, steel staircases, steel structures, balcony and stair railings, terrace roofs, porch balconies, garden furniture and bikeports.</p> <p>Whether for house owners, industry or property management companies: Our many years of experience and comprehensive professional competence enable us to carry out the entire range of services from steel construction to locksmith work.</p>


	<p>Whether fences or garage doors, balconies, awnings or railings, doors or window grilles: we have the experience and expertise to ensure professional installations. Even solutions made of steel or metal in combination with other materials pose no problem for us. We are happy to provide you with our full service on site to help you turn your vision into reality. There are virtually no limits to the possibilities: With us, you will receive the complete services for your steel construction project in or near Paderborn. We are there for you from consultation, planning, production and construction to assembly. Our professional staff will carry out all work reliably and on schedule.</p>
<p>5. Size of your business</p>	<p>25 employees</p>
<p>6. Supports to set up your business and digitization</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7. Pitfalls and challenges</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>8. Opportunities and plans for the future</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Logo of business Maybe: enterprise film</p>	<p><a href="http://www.metallbau-welsing.de">www.metallbau-welsing.de</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.metallbau-welsing.de/upload/Fassadenbau-Dachblechmontage20200 609-1005.mp4">https://www.metallbau-welsing.de/upload/Fassadenbau-Dachblechmontage20200 609-1005.mp4</a></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p><b>WELSING</b></p> <p>METALLBAU FASSADENBAU BLECHBEARBEITUNG ABKANTTECHNIK</p> </div>  </div>

Table 1: EDU-VET Business Profile – Metallbau Welsing

Source: Own representation based on METALLBAU WELSING (2020).

### 3 Best practice showcases – some examples

The following chapter aims to show several examples of best practice showcases for VET within the metal field.

The EDU-VET Online Observatory can be accessed via the following link:

<https://eduvet-observatory.eduproject.eu/>

The online observatory tool is structured as follows and will be demonstrated in the next screenshots:

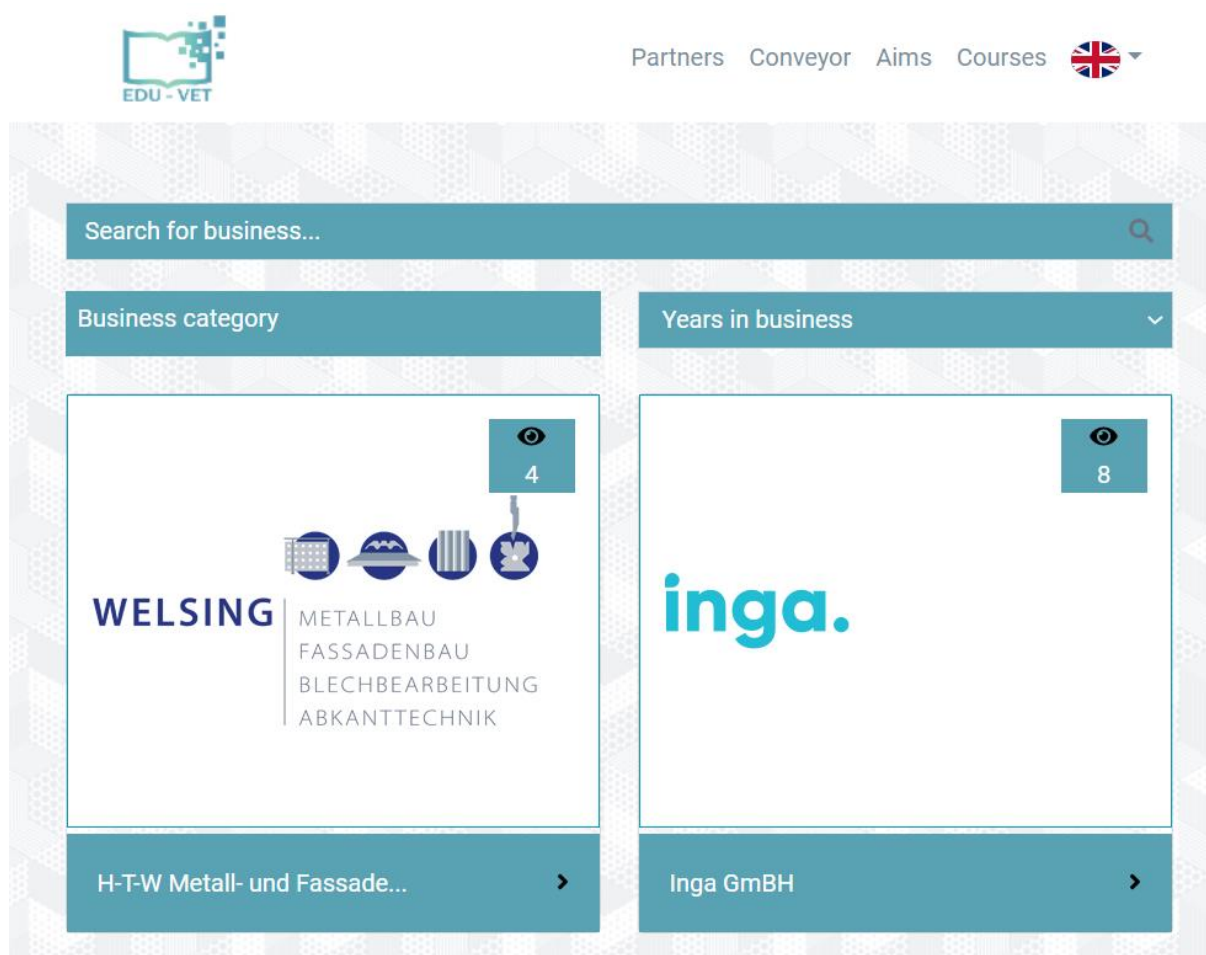
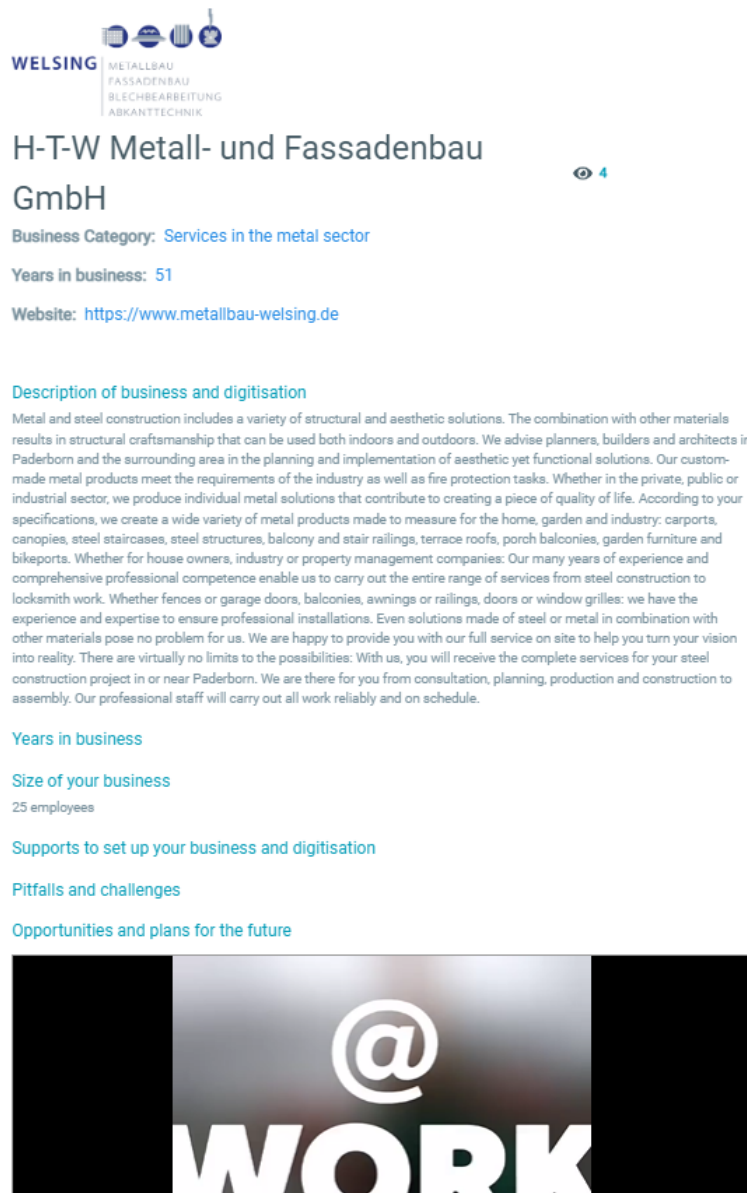


Table 1: EDU-VET Online Observatory – Start page  
Source: EDU-VET ONLINE OBSERVATORY (2022).

As you can see in the picture before, there is a search bar. This can be used to search for a company or a keyword. There are also further filter options. On the one hand, the user can filter according to the business category and on the other hand according to the years of businesses. All business profiles of the partner countries are listed below. In addition, it is possible to view the profiles in English as well as in the respective partner languages like German, Spanish or Dutch. The individual profiles can be clicked on for further information. As an example, you can see the business profile of the German company Welsing Metallbau.



**WELSING** METALLBAU  
FASSADENBAU  
BLECHBEARBEITUNG  
ABKANTTECHNIK

## H-T-W Metall- und Fassadenbau GmbH

Business Category: [Services in the metal sector](#)

Years in business: 51

Website: <https://www.metallbau-welsing.de>

**Description of business and digitisation**

Metal and steel construction includes a variety of structural and aesthetic solutions. The combination with other materials results in structural craftsmanship that can be used both indoors and outdoors. We advise planners, builders and architects in Paderborn and the surrounding area in the planning and implementation of aesthetic yet functional solutions. Our custom-made metal products meet the requirements of the industry as well as fire protection tasks. Whether in the private, public or industrial sector, we produce individual metal solutions that contribute to creating a piece of quality of life. According to your specifications, we create a wide variety of metal products made to measure for the home, garden and industry: carports, canopies, steel staircases, steel structures, balcony and stair railings, terrace roofs, porch balconies, garden furniture and bikeports. Whether for house owners, industry or property management companies: Our many years of experience and comprehensive professional competence enable us to carry out the entire range of services from steel construction to locksmith work. Whether fences or garage doors, balconies, awnings or railings, doors or window grilles: we have the experience and expertise to ensure professional installations. Even solutions made of steel or metal in combination with other materials pose no problem for us. We are happy to provide you with our full service on site to help you turn your vision into reality. There are virtually no limits to the possibilities: With us, you will receive the complete services for your steel construction project in or near Paderborn. We are there for you from consultation, planning, production and construction to assembly. Our professional staff will carry out all work reliably and on schedule.

**Years in business**

**Size of your business**  
25 employees

**Supports to set up your business and digitisation**

**Pitfalls and challenges**

**Opportunities and plans for the future**




Table 2: EDU-VET Online Observatory - Example of a Business Profile  
Source: EDU-VET ONLINE OBSERVATORY (2022).



The screenshot shows that, in addition to the company description, also references to digitalisation. Finally, the logo and a video round off the company presentation. Besides the users can find the link to the company's website. As this example is a German company, it is possible that the profile will also be displayed in German.