



2nd Press Release

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PortAbility Partners Meet in Hamburg to Explore Long-Term Transformation of Port Regions and VET Systems

The *PortAbility* project — a European initiative co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union — has successfully completed the first phase of its implementation, focused on mapping skills needs, stakeholder collaboration, and workforce challenges in port-city regions across Europe.

Building on the findings of **Work Package 2**, project partners convened in **Hamburg, Germany**, during the second week of February for a **study visit and project board meeting**. The visit brought together key actors and decision-makers involved in the transformation of vocational education and training (VET) systems in port regions.

The study visit examined Hamburg's extensive transformation over the past two decades, including the evolution of the port itself, the redesign of surrounding urban areas, the diversification of the local economy, and the changing structures and delivery of vocational education and training. Particular attention was given to how long-term planning, cross-sector collaboration, and integrated skills strategies have supported sustainable economic development and social inclusion.

Insights from Hamburg provided valuable inspiration for PortAbility partners, offering transferable lessons for aligning VET systems with green and digital transitions in port regions. These learnings will inform the next phase of the project, which focuses on translating research findings into practical tools, cooperation models, and inclusive training approaches tailored to the needs of port-city ecosystems.

About PortAbility

PortAbility aims to strengthen the capacity of port regions to respond to green, digital, and social transitions through innovative vocational education and training (VET) approaches. The project brings together partners from several European countries to co-develop solutions that support inclusive and future-oriented port economies.



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