

GreenQampus Partners gather in St Andrews

The GreenQampus Partners recently gathered in the iconic golf town of St Andrews, Scotland, and for many it was their first visit. The project now moves into its 2nd year, and reaching a time when the project starts to see some results and the new colleges to the system start to learn from the process's being introduced.

This was the third time that the partners had come together, and although there are monthly conference calls, the face to face meeting are very valuable to all, and everyone wants to maximise on these opportunities to benefit the project, and in turn future greenkeepers that come through their systems in the future.

There could not be a better way to start the days of meeting than for them to visit the R&A clubhouse. Many see and recognise the famous building, but few actually get to pay a visit, and witness the vast history within this wonderful building. The R&A have and are great supporters of greenkeeping education, and it's therefore very important that the work of the GreenQampus project liaise and communicate closely with the ongoing work of the project. This visits provided the perfect start of a great 3 days of meetings, filled with intensity and purpose to the project.



When we think of Elmwood College, many will automatically think of greenkeeping education at its best, and so the visit by the other partner colleges to Elmwood was something they were really looking forward to seeing. For them to see the resources that Elmwood have in house, and also the wonderful teaching facility of their golf course was a real valuable learning opportunity. In short this was the perfect place for our third face to face meeting.

The Green Qampus project includes 8 partners from 5 European countries, these being:



- * Kao College, Finland
- * Benesov College, Czech Republic
- * Czech Greenkeepers Association
- * Kainuu College, Lithuania
- * Luua Vocational Training Centre, Estonia
- * Elmwood College, Scotland
- * Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association
- * Greenkeeper Training – Europe

This experienced group has and will make a significant contribution to Vocational Education Training systems in the partner countries by building upon good work done in the previous Green-e project. The results of this project will be based on research methodology, reporting, collection of data, development and testing, training, analyzing and validation of results and dissemination. Through the project, a robust Quality Assurance framework, which will be scalable and transferrable to suit the Ministry requirements of each country, will be offered to new and existing staff within the Golf industry in order to enhance the work in the sector and to gain relevant qualifications with recognition and increase their mobility across Europe.

The project will, with work already undertaken previously, have a major impact on the Vocational Education Training programs in each partner country. The implementation of a homogenous Quality Assurance framework, monitored and supported by EGEU/ FEGGA shall ensure future knowledge, skills and qualifications unilaterally are accepted in Europe.

The final part of the 3 day meeting took place at Elmwood Golf Club. The golf course provides a wonderful teaching centre, being able to offer every format of practical greenkeeper education delivered by very experienced teachers, many of which are experienced Golf Course Managers. However this is also a real operating golf club, offering great facilities and services to its members, which also has many benefits to attending students. During our visit the group were able to witness practical training and also how the assessments are carried out as part of the vocational education structure.



The meeting concluded with a roundup of how the week had progressed, and what the partners had gained from the whole experience, and setting the time lines for the next and important stage of the project.



The Partners would like to thank Wendy Cole, from the R&A Golf Course Management for organising the visit to the R&A clubhouse and also for participating in the concluding part of the meeting