**PRESS RELEASE**

Klaipėdos Ernesto Galvanausko profesinio mokymo centras (Klaipeda Ernestas Galvanauskas vocational training centre) and their partners have started the implementation of the project entitled

**Vocational training in illicit drug addiction: Equipping health care practitioners with addiction treatment competences and techniques (CARE4SUD)**

**2022-1-LT01-KA220-VET-000086077**

**Project funded by the European Union**

*Vocational training in illicit drug addiction: Equipping health care practitioners with addiction treatment competences and techniques* (CARE4SUD) is a project which is funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union (KA 220 VET – Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training) and it is developed by Klaipėdos Ernesto Galvanausko Profesinio Mokymo Centras (Lithuania) in partnership with Institut Za Raziskave In Razvoj Utrip Zavod (Slovenia), Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark), Universidade do Porto (Portugal), Direcția de Asistență Socială și Medicală Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and Institute of Social Solidarity and Wellbeing: Social Mind (Greece).

*The project’s overall objective* is *to ensure a higher professionalism of the healthcare work force in the illicit drug addiction field at national and European level.*

In particular, the project anticipates to meet the following *specific objectives*:

* Contribute to improved competences on illicit drug addiction counselling skills related to screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment and respond to current, emerging and growing needs of the Vocational training sector addressing lack of addiction specialists.
* Provide opportunities for continuous professional development in the health industry and create the conditions for increasing the human capital capacity, and employability of health care workers.
* Empower cooperation between educational institutions and the health care industry, in order to draw critical recommendations on the evolution of the addiction skillset and related job opportunities.

The target group of the project is formed of: *health care practitioners* *in the primary health sector* inexperienced in illicit drug addiction and/or *physicians* who seek to enter the field of addiction to enhance their knowledge and skills required for employment and professional development; *addiction professionals (social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists working in illicit drug abuse settings)*; *VET Educators, experts in the SUD field*, *VET providers, social care professionals*, as well as targeted *policy makers.*

The approved budget of the project is of 250.000 Euros and its implementation period is 28 months (November 1st 2022- February 28th, 2025).

**“The European Commission support for the production of this press release does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the National Agency and Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein”.**