Melissa Muscat Skillszone Malta +356 7986 1168 skillszonemalta@gmail.com

Older EU and vulnerable workers will not be left behind.

Maltese professional training hub, Skills Zone Malta has announced that it has officially partnered up with organisations Be-Creative (Sweden), Spectrum Research Centre (Ireland), Skills Elevation (Germany), CARDET (Cyprus), Soluciones Tecnoprofesionales Consulting (Spain) and Proportional Message Associacao (Portugal) to develop free educational training resources to ensure vulnerable workers can be retained in employment.

The RETAIN-ME project will support business owners, managers and individual vulnerable employees to take the first step towards rebuilding their social, civic and economic lives by adapting to remote working. The initiative was inspired by The European Green deal and the Sustainable Development Goals proposing a fairer, more equitable society where no one is left behind and takes into consideration the vast number of people in all EU Member States who were unable to continue working due to self-isolation due to being easily classified as high-risk where Covid-19 was concerned.

The highlights of the project will be both the RETAIN-ME Employer's and Vulnerable Employee Toolkit. Both toolkits will be completely free of charge and encompass video lectures and simulations as part of the curriculum to help support vulnerable businesses and individuals to better adapt to remote working practices. Essential subjects which will be covered but not limited to, will be communication and collaboration in remote work, personality and remote working, leadership and emotional intelligence, trust and expectation and digital tools.

Maltese Project Manager, Maryrose Francica said all project partners feel strongly that carefully designed programmes are essential to help those in our communities that are most vulnerable in order to protect their livelihood.

"There is a large group of older adults in particular who simply don't have the digital skills or the professional competencies to remote work. Are they to be just cast aside? If the EU is to recover from the devastating impact of Covid-19, it needs to

build solidarity between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' in our communities now more than ever before. By teaching older workers or those with underlying health conditions how to work from home using today's digital technology, we can ensure that they continue to succeed, work, and prosper in the world of work'.

The project is set to run for 2 years and target at least 1000 stakeholder across Europe, which will include vulnerable individuals, local businesses, education institutes and more. The EU spends approximately 100 euro per citizen per year on regional funds, creating jobs, improving infrastructure and organising training.

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Skills Zone Malta is a training hub of professional trainers in the field of Entrepreneurship, personal development and soft skills, training people in both f2f and online environments with over 16 years experience.

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For further information, please contact -

Melissa Muscat

Marketing & Communications Coordinator skillszonemalta@gmail.com +365 7986 1168