



VET STUDY VISIT, KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

22nd – 24th February 2011

Visit details

Study visit participants :

Katalin Simon (expert from Hungary)
Regina Labiniene (Project Advisory Group and host)
Liuda Radzeviciene (expert from Lithuania and host)
Egle Zybartiene (expert from Lithuania and host)
Mary Kyriazopoulou (European Agency staff member)
Diana Ingabire Karemano (European Agency staff member)

Programme:

1st day morning

Visit to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)

Welcome and short introduction of the educational system with a focus on VET and a short overview of current development at a policy level (Vice-Minister Vaidas Bacys, Director Romas Pusvaskis, representatives from MoES Egle Zybartiene, Regina Labiniene, Juozas Gaudiesius, Ruta Zukauskaite, Jolanda Zabitiene, Algis Simaitis, Daiva Vaisnoriene, representatives from National Centre Edita Norvaisiene, Lina Palacionene, Loreta Grikainiene, etc) ([see presentations VET-in-LT.pdf and PPS-in-LT.pdf](#))

Arrival in Kaunas and lunch in a restaurant where students with SEN carry out their practical training.

Presentation about experience and good practice in VET projects from Prof Liuda Radzeviciene, Siauliai University, Faculty of Social Welfare and Disability Studies ([see Presentation Preconditions-for-Success.pdf](#))

2nd day

Visit to the VET centre (Kaunas Vocational Training Centre of Social Services and Construction Business Specialists).



Meeting and discussion with the various stakeholders involved in the VET process in order to gather information from different perspectives at different levels of the system (regional level, school level)

Short introduction of the VET centre and a short overview of current developments: Kaunas Vocational Training Centre of Social Services and Construction Business Specialists “Integration of Disabled Students into Labour Market” by the headmaster Ricardas Sestokas.

A brief presentation of the activities of the centre, focusing on areas of development and improvement as well as the schemes to promote integration of trainees in the open labour market.

This is a mainstream Vocational training school with a total of 1000 students. One part of the school is for the training of students with SEN. There are 184 students with SEN, mainly with mental and associated disabilities. The courses include: construction, cooking, assistant for florist, foot-wear mender, fine craft weaver, light clothes tailor, joiner. The courses last for three years or, in accordance with the law, until the trainee is 24 years old. In the 3 year courses they learn theoretical and practical skills and carry out a traineeship in enterprises. They receive a training certificate according to their abilities. The training is of a high quality with high quality equipment and training material, (use of IT, interactive learning, innovative methods). They use a multi-disciplinary team and the staff have special education bachelor diplomas. The link to the labour market is based on staff initiatives. Although a high percentage of students find a job after the completion of the training course (62%) more formal work placements should be carried out in order to promote the link to the labour market. (see [Presentation Kaunas-Vocational-Training-Centre.pdf](#))

Public institution “Vilties Ziedas”, “Integration of Adults with Disabilities into Labour Market”, by the deputy Director Irena Pranckeviciute. She briefly presented the strategies and methods used by the institution to promote the integration of adults with SEN into the labour market. (see [Presentation Integration-of-Adults-into-Labor-Market.pdf](#))



Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, “The functions of Vocational Training Department”, by the Head of Vocational Training Department Danguole Sidiauskiene.

She presented the work and activities of the Chamber of Commerce to promote vocational training and employment for young people with SEN.

Kaunas Food Industry School “ Special Pegagogue’s Work with disabled Students”, by special pedagogue Lauryna Raudyte.

She briefly presented the work of special pedagogues with young persons with SEN.

Lunch was prepared and served by young trainees.

Then we took a tour to the different workshops of the VET centre and spoke with trainers and trainees about the programme, the challenges and the future developments. The quality of training and equipment was high.

The professionals said that although a high percentage of students get a job after the completion of the training course, more work needs to be done in a formal way to promote the link to the labour market



Visit to the Public institution/social enterprise dealing with vocational rehabilitation of disabled people.

This is a Public institution/social enterprise dealing with the vocational rehabilitation of disabled people. Social enterprise means that 2/3 of staff must be disabled. It is a very friendly and modern environment. The Director and staff presented the aims and activities of the institution. People are directed to them by job agencies and medical commissions and they deal with all adults up to pension age. There are strong links between school and the public institution: a confederation was set up to strengthen the material and learning base to ease the transition of SEN students to another level of education and to have the opportunity to choose from professions (from 1st April 2011).

Their aim is to facilitate and support the contact with employers, help them through application for jobs, etc.

They have different training courses and a lot of services responsible for learners’ health problems. The Programs and diplomas are approved by the Min. of Education and Science.



A high percentage of trainers get a job after the end of course (30% - 70%). The decrease in the number of people getting a job is due to the economic recession.

Additional information

- In 2009 the **new edition of the Law on Support for Employment** was approved (came into force on 1 August 2009). The Amendments to the Law aim at reducing the negative impact of the economic downturn on the growth of the unemployment, creating conditions for retaining jobs and involving more persons into the active labour market policy measures.
- **Implementation of 2007-2013 Human Resources Development Operational Programme** (*Žmogiškųjų išteklių plėtros programa, 2007*). Based on the programme, EU and national budget funding will be allocated for the development of human resources in enterprises and public sector, reorientation of workforce in rural areas from agriculture to other activities, integration of jobseekers to the labour market and etc. One of the areas of the support is the strengthening of key competencies and especially entrepreneurship (for more details on measures for strengthening entrepreneurship please refer to the example below).
- **Implementation of 2007-2013 Cohesion Promotion Operational Programme** (*Sanglaudos skatinimo veiksmų programa, 2007*). Based on the programme, EU and national budget funding will be allocated for the development of VET infrastructure and modernisation of adult education institutions, etc.
- **Implementation of Practical VET Resources Development Programme** (*Praktinio profesinio mokymo išteklių plėtros programa, 2007*). The programme is oriented towards the improvement of practical VET quality and improvement of the preparation of the learners for the real labour market. The Programme foresees activities for the development of modular VET system, further development of VET quality assurance system, the development of the VET infrastructure, including the creation of sectoral practical training centres network, etc. (see Section 8.3).
- **Implementation of provisions set in the new edition of Law on VET** (new edition was approved in 2007 replacing the previous Law effective since 1997), for example, the development of qualifications system, the reform of VET providers network.
- After approving Vocational Guidance and Counselling Strategy (*Profesinio orientavimo strategija*) and its Action plan the development of vocational guidance and counselling infrastructure was started. In 2004 the Open Information, Counselling and Guidance System (AIKOS; <http://www.aikos.smm.lt>) was started with a view to improving the presentation and dissemination of the information on learning possibilities.