

## **Description of an example of successful national/local VET programmes for learners with SEN in the Netherlands**

### **1) Short abstract**

'De Kapstok' is an institute for vocational education with a specific focus on preparing a vulnerable group of learners for their future employment. Its aim is to give youngsters with (severe) behavioural problems the possibility to develop their vocational, technical and social skills, to get work experience, so that they are better prepared to participate in the regular working processes, or become motivated again for education and wanted to follow up their educational career again. During these trajects, there is a lot of attention for personal problems of the learners themselves, often in cooperation with their families and in cooperation with other institutes for youth care.

'De kapstok' has developed their own educational programme, which has been implemented on several locations. These locations consists of professional small-scale companies, which are located throughout the region (Hengelo, Enschede, Markelo, Oldenzaal and Almelo). In these 'learning-companies', the youngsters will be approached as real employees, who are doing a vocational training and are orientated towards the labour market. Some examples of these small-scale companies are a bed & breakfast, a café/restaurant, a bakery, car cleaning, a garage, horse care, catering, etc. There are also specialised vocational training programmes for pupils with psychiatric disorders, the training of social skills, assertiveness training and apprenticeships and working experience.

By working in company-simulations, the provision of services, learning the technical aspects, and working within their own 'learning' companies, the learners will be confronted with the demands/requirements, which companies request from their employees. Think of social skills, quality aspects of working and taking responsibility to the employer.

'De Kapstok' has its own agency for the organisation and support of the apprenticeships (f.e. job coaches, job hunting, traject support). This agency is also supporting the transition to the labour market or another study.

### **2) Highlights / Uniqueness**

This is a very innovative and successful example concerning VET for youngsters with severe behavioral problems. The experiences of this example are giving direction to similar developments in other regions. The school succeeds in the transition of a very complex target group towards the labour market or another study. Many other professionals are engaged within these programmes: craftsman, teachers, youth care, job coaches, the regional labour market, the regional training centre (ROC), etc.

### **3) Availability of evaluation data**

Within the school, data are available. About 300 pupils are engaged in this VET example. Approximately 75% of these youngsters are succeeding the programme (transition to the labour market or another type of education). There is a follow up programme after the school period (after care, during a year).