

Exchanges of educational ideas and technology - a professional development opportunity

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Change of technologies requires a vocational teacher to be able not only to precisely plan activities, know how to choose suitable tools, communicate and assess, but also acquire strategic (professional-technological) competency, corresponding to science, technologies and advanced practical achievements, this way improving vocational training to the requirements of labour market. A vocational teacher must be able to use new technological devices and technologies to help the students in achieving high professional standards.

For this reason new technologies and innovations must be transferred to vocational curricula which determine high quality of specialist training.

Increasing information flow, mobility of personnel not only in Lithuania but also in EU, forces vocational teachers to get acquainted with new technologies, materials, equipment and modern training/learning environment.

With this project we implement to create favourable conditions for vocational teachers to improve professional skills and competency. Project implementation period is one year. Wide partnership: 5 sending Lithuanian partners (4 equal partners sending 11 vocational teachers each) and 6 hosting institutions abroad. 50 vocational teachers who work in 16 training programmes will participate in study visits abroad. Study visit duration is one week as such period is sufficient and necessary for the requirements of the participants and implementation of the project aims.

The main project aims:

- to create favourable conditions for vocational teachers to improve professional competency, to acquire best practices of education and apply them at home institutions;
- to give a chance for every vocational teacher to self-assess professional activities, plan professional development, creatively try new training/learning methods and new technological equipment;
- to create favourable conditions for vocational teachers to develop personal initiative, improve own qualifications sharing best practice experience with the colleagues in Lithuania and abroad.

The needs of the project participants were identified using a questioning method. Vocational teachers will implement to implement the following identified needs:

- to improve own professional qualifications and competency;
- to get acquainted with vocational training innovations of foreign countries and modern technologies under the requirements of EU;
- to exchange the acquired experience with colleagues, to acquire the best vocational training practices implementing their application at work;
- to convey the acquired knowledge to students and enable future employees to meet the requirements of employers and modern labour market both in Lithuania and EU counties;

Implementing the project aims we will create a concrete product, i.e. vocational training process development programme with concrete suggestions to introduce new training subjects, urgent topics, new technologies, discussions on the issues of industrial practice organisation, implementing maximum implementation of vocational training to labour market changes, educating competitive future employees.