

Project HansaVET Newsletter No.1

HansaVET - Hanseatic Tradition for Vocational Education Training (VET): Mobility Strategies for Promoting Entrepreneurship Skills of VET students

HansaVET – a part of a flagship

In the revised Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) the HansaVET project has been included in the flagship, Baltic Training Programme (BTP). BTP is one of close to 100 flagship projects within the Strategy.



EUSBSR is the first macro-regional strategy in Europe. It aims at reinforcing cooperation within this large region in order to face several challenges by working together as well as promoting more balanced development in the area. The Strategy also contributes to major EU policies and reinforces the integration within the area. The Baltic Sea Region counts 85 million inhabitants (17% of EU population) and eight countries (Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) which share common features and challenges.

Hence there is a clear need for joining forces and working in cooperation. Against this background, the Strategy has three overall targets:

- to save the sea,
- to connect the region,
- to increase prosperity.

The Strategy aims at bringing together initiatives in different sectors (growth, sustainable development etc.) as well as promoting cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Strategy also promotes flagship projects and contributing projects funded in the Baltic Sea Region. These projects have a macro-regional impact and start from joint initiatives involving partnership from different countries.



Baltic Sea Region countries; Source: Norman Einstein

Implementation of the Strategy requires active participation by all the actors and stakeholders implicated in the process not only at a national level but at a macro-regional level.

HansaVET plays an important role in transferring the methods developed in three test platforms, in three different geographical areas of the Baltic Sea Region. The method we named the “**HansaVET - model of journeyman travelling**” will be an important cornerstone supporting increased prosperity to an improvement labour mobility of highly skilled graduates from vocational education and training (VET). Furthermore, the prosperity will be increased by start-ups and business internationalisation among graduates from VET.

Anders Bergström, Priority Area Coordinator for Priority Area Education, Norden Association, Sweden

Read more on EUSBSR on <http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu>

About HansaVET project



From the left: Guntra Kaufmane, Inta Baranovska, Anders Bergström at the Kick-Off Meeting in Stockholm on December 2, 2011

The HansaVET project (2011-1-LV1-LEO05-02221) with Lead Partner from Latvia – National Centre for Education (VISC) is EU **Leonardo da Vinci** Multilateral Project 'Transfer of Innovation' with 5 partners from 5 Baltic Sea Region countries: Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden.

The project has ambitious aims:

- to promote entrepreneurship skills of VET students,
- to promote international mobility of VET students and to ensure high-quality internships,
- to equip VET teachers, trainers and VET mobility coordinators with skills for coaching and
- **to introduce a new mobility strategy for promoting entrepreneurship in VET schools and in Baltic Sea Region.**

The project measures are first of all addressed to VET policy and decision makers, VET teacher trainers and VET teachers to implement and establish measures from which afterwards the main target group – VET students in countries around the Baltic Sea – will benefit.

The project work is rapid and now far progressed. The base of the project works partly lies on results of an extensive survey to the status-quo of international mobility of VET students focused on development of entrepreneurship skills in participated project countries

containing such questions like: Does your country have a government adopted “Action plan” to integrate entrepreneurship into VET education? Please indicate whether your country has a plan/strategy of integrating elements of entrepreneurship into the training of new VET teachers? Does your VET school/centre have a coordinator for international students’ mobility?

An important project outcome is the Training Program for VET teacher trainers. It was developed taking into account the experiences of the Baltic Training Program (BTP) - a flagship project within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The BTP emphasizes the need of boosting internationalization and entrepreneurship within vocational education and training. In addition a guide for VET Teacher Trainers and VET teachers and mobility coordinators will be developed.

The training program was tested during international Teacher Trainer Training seminar in Riga in October 2012. 12 trainers from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden were introduced to BTP methodology and equipped with knowledge for piloting the Program in local seminars for VET teachers and mobility coordinators. More than 300 teachers will be trained in these seminars in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden. Training activities have already started in Latvia. 37 VET teachers from 21 school attended two-day training seminars held in Ogre, Kuldīga and Priekule.



VET teacher training in Kuldīga, Latvia

Also in Stockholm the VET teacher training has been started recently. The training was hosted by Frans Schartau Business Institute, the oldest business institute in Stockholm founded in 1865. 16 teachers and administrators from 11 VET providers participated. The participants came from different parts of Sweden from Trel-

leborg in the south to Umeå in the north. The trainer was Claes Pierrou, a former project coach within the Baltic Training Programme. Next part of the training will be on April, 24.

After piloting the training model will be disseminated to all BSR countries.



VET teacher training in Stockholm, Sweden

What is special about HansaVET?

The HansaVET project is potentially a very powerful development tool – besides training purely vocational skills, a student learns to internalize other objectives (the host company, sometimes the home company and the school). Both competences act together in one targeted effort – the project.

Summarised the main results of the project are: common mobility strategy in 5 countries, trained VET teacher trainers and VET teachers, and a published methodological guide/manual for international VET mobility organizers.

Visit the HansaVET project website to get more information: www.hansavet.eu



VET teacher training in Riga, Latvia

Upcoming regional VET teacher training seminars

In Latvia: from 21-22 of March and from 4-5 of April in Riga and from 25-26 April in Preiļi.

In Estonia: from 4-5 of April and 11-12 of April in Tartu, Estonia.

In Lithuania: from 25-28 of March in Kaunas and Marijampole.

In Sweden: on 24 of April in Stockholm (first part of the training took place on 13.03.)

If you would like to participate in one of the trainings or you need more information, please contact Project managers in Latvia: inta.baranovska@visc.gov.lv; in Estonia: margus.pekk@khk.ee; in Lithuania: k.pukelis@smf.vdu.lt; and in Sweden: anders.bergstrom@norden.se

Developing entrepreneurship skills in VET

Employment of young people is one of the most urgent issues in Europe as well in the world. On the other hand the extent of this problem could be significantly reduced developing self-employment skills of young graduates from VET as well as from Universities and Colleges. Development of entrepreneurship skills could be one of the most efficient ways decreasing unemployment of young as well as adult work force.

One of the main outcomes of HansaVET project is to present recommendations for improvement of entrepreneurship skills development in VET system. Achieving such result it is important to know the state of the art of entrepreneurship skills development in VET. This is why in project partner countries a research was carried out to the development of entrepreneurship skills. For this questionnaires were sent to all VET schools in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hamburg and Stockholm.

The research findings provide evidence that all countries have developed policy documents linked to integration of entrepreneurship skills into VET. For example, in 2009 the Swedish Government adopted the *Strategy for Entrepreneurship in the Field of Education* with the *Action Plan* ensuring integration of entrepreneurship skills into all levels of education.

The Government outlines that entrepreneurship is important in both - providing skills for those who want to start and run businesses and stimulating young people's creativity. In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania there are no Action Plans on the national level but majority of surveyed VET schools and centres has their own plans or strategies for the development of VET students' entrepreneurship skills. To improve integration of entrepreneurship skills into VET it would be rational to discuss possibilities of transferring Swedish and German experience and developing similar *Action Plans* in the Baltic countries.



VET teacher training in Ogre, Latvia

It is obvious that success of development of entrepreneurship skills depends a lot on VET teachers' competence. Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia responded that their countries do not have any unified plan/strategy for integrating elements of entrepreneurship into the continuing professional development of VET teachers as well as into the training of new VET teachers.

Research findings also show that in partner countries formal and non-formal VET curriculum, quality of internships abroad should be also developed.

Prof. habil. dr. Kestutis Pukelis, Head of Research Group for Quality of Studies and Career, Kaunas, Lithuania

Youth mobility trends and developments in EU

Based on information gleaned from a large number of sources both at European and national level, the following significant trends and developments in mobility can be observed in Europe:

- The numbers of participants from the target group has been rising annually from 2005 to 2010. However, 2011 has experienced a slight decrease, due to the economic recession and cuts in funding.
- The ESF (European Social Fund) has in the period 2007-13 become a significant funding source for mobility, with a specific focus on what has been termed "disadvantaged youth" (or "young people with fewer opportunities").
- "Employability" is increasingly being cited as the most important learning objective of transnational mobility. Hand in hand with this, work placements have become more popular as a mode of mobility (vis-à-vis e.g. school stays, study tours and other types of peer encounters).
- There is an increasing understanding of the "engineering" of mobility projects – how it works as a pedagogical tool. Yet very few mobility schemes and projects work with detailed quality management systems to ensure consistent quality in delivery and outcomes.
- There is apparently as yet only little uptake of European instruments for recognition and documentation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through participation in mobility activities.

Read more: Søren Kristensen, PhD;
<http://www.euroapprenticeship.eu/en/mobility-trends-and-developments.html>

Innovation in SMEs



Involvement of enterprises in supporting vocational education and training means investment in skills development, investment in sustainability of the specific sectors and industries. One of the project long term impacts is to strengthen development of SMEs in the region through entrepreneurship knowledge transfer and increasing the number of young entrepreneurs.

HansaVET project is in line with other BSR initiatives promoting development of innovative SMEs.

Due to relative high tax and social costs in the Baltic Sea Region, local companies cannot compete with other countries in terms of prices, but only with quality and reliability. To stay competitive versus fast growing low labour cost countries like China SMEs need to be more innovative. This is valid for almost all companies, independent from their industry or sector.

The Baltic Sea Region Program formed a cluster of many "Innovation in SMEs" related projects in the area. This cluster is coordinated by the Hanse Parliament. Main objective is to transfer best practices from previous projects, but also to identify the future needs for innovation. Should there be more projects concentrating on organisational innovations or product innovations? What do you think your company or university needs to support innovations?

To identify the future needs a survey will **start on the 14th of March 2013**. You can participate **anonymous**, but you can also choose to leave your e-mail to have a chance to be rewarded with **100 EUR** for the approx. **5 minutes** that takes to fill out the survey. Visit www.bsr-innovation.eu to participate online!

Project events

May 8th, 2013 in Tartu, Estonia– Round table discussion with VET policy makers and other stakeholders

May 9th, 2013 in Tartu, Estonia – Project Meeting with all project partners

Other events

Hanse Parliament invites all Hanse Parliament and Baltic Sea Academy members to the 8th annual Hanseatic Conference "**Corporate Social Responsibility and Women's Entrepreneurship around the Mare Balticum**" on 6th and 7th of June, 2013.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat of Hanse Parliament: info@hanse-parlament.eu

Visit the HansaVET project website to get more information: www.hansavet.eu

*HansaVET project team wish
Happy Easter to you all!*



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