LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME

QUALITY AWARD

2002 Projects

Czech Republic
Leonardo da Vinci programme

QUALITY AWARD

Report on Quality Assessment of the 2002 Mobility Projects

Czech Republic
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http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/
leonardo2_en.html

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1. Mobility projects of the Leonardo da Vinci programme

European vocational training action programme Leonardo da Vinci supports the development of the vocational education and training in Europe already ten years. It follows from 1995 the previous Community programmes which were focused either on the specific target group or vocational education and training area. It had two realisation phases with the specific thematic priorities. The current second phase of the programme will be finished in 2006. Since 2007 the support of the vocational education and training will be part of a new large Community programme dealing with lifelong learning.

Leonardo da Vinci programme is focused on the entire area of the vocational education and training incl. initial vocational education and training, tertiary education and/or lifelong learning. Various groups are target groups of this programme, e. g. the students of secondary and higher vocational schools, university students, employees in enterprises as well as unemployed persons. It is also challenge for people responsible for vocational education and training both within educational system and outside of it, e. g. personnel managers and career guidance practitioners.

The Czech Republic is one of 31 European countries involved in the Leonardo da Vinci programme. Since entering the country in the programme in 1997 nearly seven hundreds mobility projects submitted by the Czech organisations were supported and more than six thousands their participants brought back from abroad with new professional, personal and language experience.

There are five types of Leonardo projects. The most frequent and most accessible project types are the mobility projects enabling to acquire vocational and language skills of their participants abroad. Two forms of these projects exist: placements projects and exchanges projects. The placements projects mean the practical training abroad in European enterprises. The apprentices and students of secondary and higher vocational schools, university students, graduates, young employees as well as job seekers participate in them. The exchanges projects are visits abroad during which the professionals dealing with vocational education and training – teachers, trainers, tutors, personnel managers, HRD managers from enterprises, curricula designers, decision makers and career guidance practitioners - exchange their experience with the foreign colleagues.

In the Czech Republic the mobility projects have been implementing already nine years. They have been prepared and realised mostly by the vocational schools of various types as well as by enterprises, training firms, non-profit organisations, employment services, chambers and other institutions. The total amount of the financial support for the Czech mobility projects reached more than million Euro, however after accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union in 2004 this amount doubled and in 2005 already reached about 2.9 million Euro.

Approx. two thirds of all participants of the mobility projects are the apprentices and students of secondary and higher vocational schools, 7 % university students and 7 % young employees or other young people entering the labour market (graduates, young employees and job seekers). About one fifth of mobility project participants are teachers, trainers, tutors, instructors, persons responsible for human resources development and development of vocational education and training as well as the career guidance practitioners. They all had a chance to know directly not only the VET system in their branch in a EU country but also work in enterprises. Through it they could acquire both practical skills in their branch and learn the work and life environment in the Union.

Besides the effort to increase the number of the mobility projects it is necessary – in accordance with the objectives of the European educational policy – to enhance also the quality of mobility projects. Therefore, the Czech National Agency of the Leonardo da Vinci programme already twice evaluated and selected in co-operation with team of experts and using the specific methodology the best quality mobility projects. The selected projects received Quality Award certificate signed by the Minister of education, youth and sports and Minister of labour and social affairs.

After the positive experience from these two years the National Agency organised the third round of evaluation and selection of the mobility projects, in this case 2002 mobility projects. This publication
informs on this round. The evaluation results, evaluation methodology, list of all evaluated 2002 mobility projects as well as the short descriptions of selected projects are presented there.

This brochure should be a challenge for the relevant readers to follow the example of the best promoters and to support intensively enhancing quality of the vocational education and training system.

2. Quality assessment of the 2002 mobility projects

About 50,000 people participate in mobility within the Leonardo da Vinci programme every year, but the mobility projects are not only a mechanism for sending and receiving of persons. The quality of mobility is important, i.e. question whether the mobility corresponds with the objective of the programme – to be an organised learning process which is integral part of the vocational education and training of a person and has intended impact on participating organisations and vocational training in general.

Since 2001 an initiative of National Agencies focused on enhancing quality of mobility projects has been developed at national level. This initiative has been launched by the Austrian National Agency of the Leonardo da Vinci programme through awarding projects submitted by Austrian promoters.

In 2002 the Czech National Agency followed this initiative through evaluation and selection of 2000 mobility projects. Later in 2003 the next round with evaluation of 2001 projects was realised. This initiative was also enlarged by the Hungarian and Spanish National Agency and their evaluation and selection procedure. In October 2003 the mentioned four National Agencies presented their experience and results at the European seminar in Vienna. This experience helped to improve the methodology of assessment of the mobility projects. Always the finished projects and projects selected in a specific year have been evaluated.

In the first round concerning the 2000 mobility projects the participation in evaluation was voluntary. 44 promoters (out of 82) applied for participation in the evaluation. The projects were assessed by three external experts representing the area of secondary and higher vocational education, tertiary education and employment support and HRD.

Each expert assessed independently all projects so that three assessments were available for each project. The experts used the Evaluation Form with 34 indicators distributed into five groups of criteria: innovativeness, results and contributions, project management, dissemination and valorisation, sustainability. Project, Final Report incl. reports of participants and questionnaire completed by the project promoter and focused on dissemination and valorisation were the documents assessed. In this first round ten projects were selected: eight placements projects for apprentices and students of secondary vocational school, one placements project for university students and one exchanges project for teachers.

The assessment results, reports of evaluators and short descriptions of selected projects were presented through the publication „Report on Assessment of Mobility Projects“. During the national conference organised in March 2003 the selected projects received the Quality Award certificates from the Vice-minister of education. About 220 persons participated in the conference incl. representatives of selected projects and some their foreign partners.

In the second round when the 2001 projects were assessed the assessment methodology has been improved by the experience from previous round. All 69 projects were assessed in this round. The Evaluation Form was divided into lower number of criteria and also number of indicators was decreased. On the other hand the team of experts was enlarged, eight experts were involved. Each expert assessed 17 or 18 projects. Project, Final Report, final reports of participants, certificates and other documents on achievements were materials assessed.

Assessment results were followed by selection of ten best quality projects. All projects were placements projects: eight for apprentices and students of secondary vocational schools, one placement project for university students and one placement project for the job seekers. The assessment results,
summary of reports of evaluators and the short descriptions of selected projects were presented through the publication „Quality Award 2001“. The promoters of selected projects received the certificates during the conference „Exploitation of results of the Leonardo da Vinci programme in the Czech Republic“ which was held in April 2004 in Prague. More than 200 persons incl. representatives of 17 National Agencies of the Leonardo da Vinci programme participated in this conference.

The last round of the mobility projects assessment was focused on the 2002 mobility projects. The results of this round are presented by this brochure. Assessment methodology was again simplified in the sense of lower number of criteria. Three main criteria used in the mobility projects assessment at European level were used in this round: results and contributions, project management and context of the project. All 83 projects were assessed, however the National Agency carried out a pre-selection. 63 projects advanced to assessment by team of external experts. Each project was assessed by two evaluators. The experts who were involved in the previous round participated in assessment and the team was enlarged by two experts representing the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Ministry of Industry and Trade.

On the basis of results of the assessment procedure ten best quality mobility projects were selected: eight placements projects and two exchanges projects. The placements projects were focused on all target groups: apprentices and students of secondary vocational schools, university students, graduates, employees and job seekers.

The assessment results, summary of reports of evaluators, list of selected projects and the short descriptions of selected projects are presented through this publication.
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3. Summary of reports of the mobility projects evaluators

3.1 Mobility projects benefits

The evaluators stressed more benefits of the mobility projects either for the direct beneficiaries and for the promoters, their partners and for the development of vocational education and training in general in their reports.

Benefits for the beneficiaries

All evaluators agreed with the positive benefits for the beneficiaries both within the placements projects for students, graduates and young employees and within the exchange projects for people responsible for development of vocational education and training. As to the placements projects they mentioned that these projects contribute to improvement of vocational and language competences of participants as well as to the general development of their personality.

The placements project participants develop their vocational skills through their practical training in the foreign work environment, learning new technologies, devices and other equipment, organization of work and work conditions within the foreign firms. During the placement they perform the work activities both within the enterprises and within the specialised teaching rooms of vocational schools.

Improvement of vocational skills concern not only vocational aspects of a specific branch but also so called key competencies. The participants of the mobility projects have the opportunity to improve these competencies through their work as members of a transnational team. They must communicate and solve the tasks either independently or in co-operation with other team members. One evaluator expressed this fact as follows: The students acquire – thank to the mobility projects – new practical vocational skills, learn new work environment, acquire useful work attitudes, new work techniques. They boost their responsibility and independence. They also develop other key competencies, e.g. ability to work within a team, use the information technologies and/or communication skills.

Improvement of language skills is another benefit of the mobility projects. Already the language and cultural preparation of participants carried out before departure is important, however the most significant improvement of foreign language skills occur during the stay in different cultural and language environment. The practical training in foreign language environment leads to improvement of language skills both in the general sense and regarding the foreign language terminology in the specific branch.

One evaluator wrote: The mobility projects participants informed through their reports on improvement of their language competencies after overcoming of initial problems. In spite of the fact that they faced to problems in communication in some cases the majority of participants was able to manage usual communication situations at the work place. Feeling of the communication handicap is undoubtedly a motivation aspect. The participants often appreciated that they unlearned to be afraid to communicate in foreign language.

The placement abroad is also occasion to compare different cultures in the field of social integration in the work environment. The participants appreciate helpfulness and interest of people from hosting organisations and their willingness.

The placements for students and graduates contribute unambiguously to better chances for integration in the labour market. The placements enable young people to gain experience exploitable in their work and other career. Just a long-term impact of skills and experience acquired through mobility project underlined several evaluators in their reports. One of them wrote: The independence of participants, ability to look after himself/herself in the foreign environment, psychical resistance, general self-confidence and self-assurance were strengthened. Also these skills increase significantly the competitiveness of participants of mobility projects at the labour market.

Mostly individuals with excellent study results and good language skills (compared to other applicants) were selected mostly for the participation in the mobility projects, i.e. people who have
better chance to be successful at the labour market in general, however the placement abroad their chance still enlarged. The evaluators appreciated that some project were designed for better employability of disadvantaged young people, especially for apprentices who are graduates of special schools. Their participation in placements abroad is more important for their self-confidence and employability than participation of „normal“ students. Also benefits of the mobility projects are more considerable.

In some cases the mobility projects offer placements in relevant sectors with good chance for employment mostly for young job seekers who undergone training for job seekers. Experience gained through the placement increases not only attractiveness at the domestic labour market but also their ability of self-employment.

Also certificates received in the end of placement abroad influence positively employability of their holders because the placement participants can submit them to their potential employers. The opportunity to know chances in professional career through the placement is another positive feature of the mobility projects.

The placements offer a chance to know the joint EU labour market. Some placement participants keep their contacts with foreign partners and work during short-time periods abroad again. It is also known that some participants received an offer to be employed by the receiving organisation or by a daughter company in the Czech Republic after finishing their placement.

Improvement of vocational and foreign language skills concerns also teachers, trainers, HRD managers and other people dealing with vocational training as well as career guidance practitioners who participate in the exchange projects. The teachers have a chance to compare curricula, teaching methodology, training materials, practical training models, equipment of teaching rooms and other work conditions of their colleagues abroad. They also learn the VET systems in the hosting countries.

The human resources managers have a chance to know new methods, work environment, new technologies and other factors influencing continuing vocational training of employees in enterprises in a specific branch or sector. They can also learn models of learning organisations and the systems of on-the-job training in partner countries. The participants of exchange projects receive certificate on their stay abroad which can be recognized as part of their continuing training.

Benefits for promoters and partner organisations
The benefits for organisations whch submit and realise the mobility projects are other benefits identified by the evaluators. They stressed in this context especially positive influence of international co-operation. The promoters create mostly direct partnership without intermediary organisations. It means that the project is ensured and organised by organisation submitting the project proposal. Therefore, improvement of international co-operation concerns also organisations which usually do not co-operate with foreign partners.

The fact that the placements abroad are part of training programme provided by the institution - regardless for lower number of students only and that students are successful there - is a criterion informing on quality of a training organisation or training programme. It contributes to enhancing attractiveness of vocational education and training and the schools raise their awareness through their involvement in mobility projects.

Improvement of skills concerning preparation and management of transnational projects is other important benefit of mobility projects for the staff of organisations submitting proproject proposals. Co-operation launched within mobility projects leads to other types of projects for example Leonardo da Vinci pilot projects and/or other projects as well as to other types of co-operation. Partners gain experience in the field of project management and learn new areas and advantages of participation in the EU programmes.

The evaluators paid much attention to the impact of mobility projects on training process within submitting and partner organisation, on their training strategies and on co-operation of stakeholders
involved in vocational education and training. In many cases the mobility projects were integrated in training strategy of an organisation.

In general, the mobility projects contributed to implementation of new teaching methods in initial vocational education as well as to development and strengthening of key competencies of students through the project teaching, use of new evaluation methods, preparation and realisation of final exams and last but not least improvement of system and methods of further education of teachers.

The teachers participating in the exchange projects within their further education acquire knowledge through comparison of curricula, teaching methods and foreign training materials. They are then able to improve content and forms of teaching of vocational subjects according to their new experience. Their new knowledge influence the work of teachers teams and in many cases the schools update their curricula, the teachers use new outputs developed within the project for example glossaries of vocational terminology etc. The teachers have a chance to learn new methods for evaluation of students, system of examinations, they learn methods and forms of final exams in other EU countries. They use their new knowledge also for improvement of practical final exam. The schools pay more attention to strategy of co-operation with the social partners and learn better mutual communication.

As the evaluators mentioned, the mobility projects contribute to better efficiency of further education of teachers. The teachers and headmasters can exchange not only experience in initial and continuing education and training but also in further education of teachers. The teachers enlarge their qualification and use foreign experience for preparation and implementation of training courses for job seekers.

The evaluators appreciated also another important benefit of the mobility projects to improvement of communication between training organisations and the world of work. The enterprises were involved also in many projects and this involvement helps to develop the reciprocal mobility in the Czech Republic. Mobility projects can influence positively also development of entrepreneurship in a specific sector especially if involvement of social partners will be enlarged. Some projects have good impact on a specific sector or region.

The impact of mobility projects on the vocational education and training system is still limited because the numbers of mobility projects participants reach only low percentage of the total number of trainees. Their impact is recognisable at the local level. The impact at the regional level is evident if information on projects and gained experience will be well disseminated and if the regional authorities and/or bodies will be involved in the projects more often. It is expected that increasing numbers of projects and their participants in next years will strengthen the impact of mobility projects on the VET system especially parallely with the impact of other types of transnational Leonardo da Vinci projects (pilot projects, language competencies projects, transnational network projects and reference material projects). Only mobility projects are not sufficient bearer of necessary changes.

3.2 Barriers of the mobility projects development

The project evaluators dealt also with barriers of the Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects in their reports. They identified several barriers.

- Weak involvement of small and medium sized enterprises in the mobility projects is one such barriers. These enterprises are often hosting organisations however they submit the mobility project proposals very seldom. Outstaying priorities of Czech enterprises especially preference of production and business issues and lack of attention paid to human resources development are important negative aspect. Preparation of a mobility project is too demanding for a small and medium sized enterprise and in case of sending one person only the administrative activities necessary for implementation of the project are not efficient.

- Insufficient language skills are serious barrier concerning all promoters. It is not possible to get over this disadvantage before the departure. The language skills are connected with the territorial structure of the mobility projects which are directed mostly to German speaking countries or to the
United Kingdom. The language barrier exists also at some partner organisations in countries out of the mentioned language areas and it also hinder the development of mobility.

- Both the potential and real promoters especially whose who submit the project proposal for the first time have not enough experience in the work with transnational projects. In majority of organisations submitting the project proposals usually initiative individuals deal with the preparation and management of projects. Only seldom the projects is result of the broader team. Weak foreign language skills of persons preparing and managing the projects are another barrier.

- If the promoters faced to some problems with implementation of the mobility project, the problems were connected with the difficulties concerning identification and selection of appropriate receiving organisations for reciprocal placements of foreign participants in the enterprises of the respective region.

- Only seldom the promoters mentioned barriers concerning formal requirements incl. work licenses. The Czech Republic was not still EU country during the evaluation period. It is possible to expect better situation in this sense in the next period.

- The financial dependence upon the Leonardo da Vinci grant is another barrier of the larger and long-term co-operation. The mobility projects require appropriate financial means but the budgets of vocational schools and other promoting organisations do not provide with enough means for funding of transnational training projects. The promoters of placements projects are not successful in negotiation on co-financing by hosting firms with exception of long-term placements of university students. Some regional authorities currently create programmes for co-financing of projects initiated by the schools, however such programmes were not yet available during the evaluated period.

- The co-operation of relevant stakeholders in a region or sector during preparatory phase of the projects and during dissemination and exploitation of the project results is still weak. Development of the mobility projects could be promoted also by better support of progressive promoters by their founders. Also co-operation with the social partners as potential employers should be improved both during the project preparation and through financial support of projects.

- Co-operation of social partners in region is still insufficient. It is difficult to find enterprises enabling placements of foreign participants so that reciprocal placements and exchanges and development of transnational co-operation is still limited.

- The placements of university students abroad are not recognised and appraised through credits by many universities even if the situation is improving.

The ability of organisations to prepare and manage the training projects is improving in general. It could be illustrated by the fact that there were no stipulations concerning administrative difficulty of the mobility projects implementation. All promoters appreciated approach and support of the National Agency of the Leonardo da Vinci programme both during the preparatory phase of the project and during project evaluation.

3.3 Suggestions how to enhance impact of the mobility projects

The evaluators concluded their reports by several suggestions how to enhance impact of the mobility projects. They presented following recommendations:

- to support the mobility projects with as higher as possible number of partner organisations with focus on organisations of various types;
- to aim at preparation of larger mobility projects in which more schools with similar training programmes or other schools in regions would be involved;
- to enforce ensuring of placements abroad as one of standard indicators for evaluation of training organisations within the VET system;
- to try to recognize exchanges as appreciated activity within further education of teachers and their career regulations;
- to develop co-operation of training organisations with the social partners in order to share the projects preparation and realisation incl. financial support;
- to promote the larger impact of mobility projects on a sector or region through larger involvement of education departments of regional authorities, local bodies, employment services, professional associations, chambers etc.;
- to support the projects and programmes more intensively within the long-term strategies of relevant ministries and regions;
- to enlarge activities concerning dissemination of information on projects and their experience incl. seminars focused on this issues and preparation of new projects;
- to consider doing an analysis of placements impact on improvement of employability of the placements participants;
- to reinforce the project aimed at disadvantaged target groups.

The evaluators expressed their views also on the methodology of mobility project assessment and on the selection of the best quality projects. They consider the main features of this methodology appropriate, however they recommend the more detailed ranking scale enabling more precise quality assessment.
4. Short descriptions of the 2002 mobility projects which received Quality Award

4.1 Practical Placements in Enterprises for Young Francophone Managers

CONTRACTOR:
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FOREIGN PARTNERS:
Intermediary organisation:
Fondation Nationale pour L’Enseignement de la Gestion des Entreprises, Paris, France
IAE de Nice, Nice, France
IAE de Paris, Paris, France
Université Jean Moulin, Lyon 3, France
IAE de Lyon, Lyon - Cedex 08, France

RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS:
Research International, Paris, Cedex 13, France
Société Générale Nice, Nice, France
Bourgrier, Vins du Val de Loire, Saint Georges sur Cher, France
CE Services, Saint Vit, France
Trumpf, Roissy C. D. G. Cedex, France
PSA Peugeot Citroën, Paris, France
Eureval-C3E, Lyon, France
Société Générale, Paris La Défense Cedex, France
SCA Dalkia, Lyon, Cedex 03, France
Carrefour, Paris Cedex 16, France

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 13
PLACEMENT DURATION: 6 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The placements project was focused on improvement of managerial skills of 13 young managers participating a post-graduate course of enterprise management provided by the promoter in co-operation with the consortium of French universities associated in FNEGE Foundation in Paris. Obligatory placement in a French enterprise is part of this course.

The hosting enterprises were searched in co-operation with the French-Czech Chamber of Commerce associating more than 100 French and Czech enterprises and in co-operation with five French partner universities. The three-months placements took place at the firms in the sector of banking, car industry, mechanical engineering, wine production and services (market research, guidance, distribution, heat production). The participants were involved mostly in the marketing and trade projects and in the projects focused on controlling and financial aspects of management. They verified the theoretical knowledge of enterprise management in practice of foreign firms through it.

After their return from the placements the participants elaborated the final report in French. The content of this report concerned directly the placement. The reports were discussed and justified before
the French-Czech expert commission. On the basis of this viva voce and rating obtained after examination passed within the theoretical part of post-graduate study the graduates received the French state diploma Master – DESS CAAE which is recognized internationally.

The main aim of the project was to make integration in the work process for the project participants easier and to support their professional development. Majority of participants found job at the French firms both in the Czech Republic and in France. Through it the project met its specific aim – to contribute to the economic relations between Czech Republic and France by vocational education and training.

Quality aspects: Deep vocational content of placements which are integral part of the post-graduate course. Very good mentoring of French partners. Real start of participants to professional career at French firms. Contribution of vocational education and training to development of economic relations between the Czech Republic and France.

*Project number* CZ/02/A/F/PL/134104
4.2 Information Graphic Systems 2002

CONTRACTOR:
Secondary Vocational School of Technology and Apprenticeship Centre of Technology in Třebíč

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REPRESENTATIVE:
Ing. Miroslav Votinský

CONTACT PERSON:
Mgr Anna Dobiášová

FOREIGN PARTNERS:
Intermediary organisation:
Angermünder Bildungswerk, Angermünde, Germany

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 21
PLACEMENT DURATION: 3 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project enabled three-week placement of students in 3 the rd grade of the branch Mechanical Engineering – Design by Computers within the promoting school and placement for students of the branch Information Technology – Personal Computer within the Secondary Vocational School of Technology and Apprenticeship Centre of Glass Production Glaverbel Czech in Teplice. The practical training was ensured in co-operation with the German training centre Argermünder Bildungswerk. During the first week the participants worked at the hosting organisation and the other two weeks the students were involved in work activities concerning concrete orders for firms.

The participants used modern graphic systems for creation of graphic outputs – documentation, promotion and advertising (Visio, Correl Draw, Adobe Illustrator, Correl PhotoPaint, Adobe PhotoShop, Pascal), they elaborated basic vector objects, designed the text, processed documents, dealt with the NetMeeting programme and co-operated as team within a network connection. Elaboration of reports, creation a common Excel document, preparation and realisation of a videoconference (incl. erection of TV cameras, programme installation, videorecording and signal processing) belonged to the key tasks of participants.

The placement contributed to improvement of vocational and language skills of participants who also enhanced their communication skills, learned to decide independently and to act in the foreign environment. In the end of placement the participants received the certificates drawn by the hosting organisation.

Quality aspects: Very good project preparation, management and evaluation. High professional level of placement (the participants learned the graphical system which they did not know formerly). Exemplary co-operation of two sending Czech schools within the project. Partnership with clearly specified roles. Support by the regional authority incl. financial contribution. Very good dissemination of the project results at sector and regional level.

Project number CZ/02/A/F/PL/134113
4.3 *Agro-gastroteam II to Europe*

**CONTRACTOR:**
Apprenticeship Centre in Horky nad Jizerou

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**REPRESENTATIVE:**
Ing. Vratislav Morava

**CONTACT PERSON:**
Ing. Vratislav Morava

**FOREIGN PARTNERS:**
Intermediary organisation:
Marktgemeinde Furth, Furth, Austria

**RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS:**
Restaurant Schikh, Klein Wien, Austria
Konditorei Hagmann, Krems, Austria
Weinbauschule, Krems, Austria
Stiftsrestaurant Göttweig, Furth bei Göttweig, Austria
Hotel FIS, Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic
Weingut Franz Löffler, Furth bei Göttweig, Austria
Stadtgasthaus Z. g. Hirschen, Krems, Austria
Weingut Dr. Unger, Furth, Austria
Winzerhof Ramoser, Furth bei Veinfläcke, Austria

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 49

**PLACEMENT DURATION:** 3 weeks

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
44 apprentices of branch Confectioner, Cook-Waiter, Services and Farmer participated in the project *Agro-gastroteam II to Europe* in Austria and the Slovak Republic. The practical training was organised in co-operation of eleven partner organisations out of which two were at the Czech side (promoting school Apprenticeship Centre in Horky nad Jizerou and partner school Apprenticeship Centre in Prague – Čakovice) and eight Austrian firms and one Slovak partner organisation (Hotel FIS in Štrbské Pleso) at the foreign partners side.

The apprentices worked in shifts according to their vocation. The confectioners learned the technology procedures used for production and distribution in confectioneries. The cooks and waiters learned the Austrian and Slovak National cooking. The apprentices trained in branches Services and Farmer worked at farms.

Also the disadvantaged apprentices participated in the placement – those with worse training results, problematic behaviour, from lower situated social groups. The similar Slovak language enabled participants to manage the demanding situations and stimulated the interest of participants in placements in other countries. The participants received a certificate on the placements with data on duration, place and content.

Project contributed to development of educational strategy of schools, to enlargement of co-operation between schools, social partners and employers of graduates. During the placement in Austria the materials on the development of rural areas were obtained which are useful for the Countryside Reconstruction School hosted by the Apprenticeship Centre in Horky nad Jizerou (this school trains...
the chairmen of the parish councils and entrepreneurs), for the Winter School, for private farmers and for Economic and Agrarian Chambers.

*Quality aspects:* Selection of participants from lower socially positioned groups – influence on better employment, support of social integration, motivation strengthening, updating of curricula. Inspirative choice of Slovakia as receiving country in respect with the language skills of participants. Project management by the team composed of statutory representatives of partner organisations. Preparation of more modules regarding different initial prerequisites of participants (live teaching methods, short scenes, model situations, glossaries with phonetic pronunciation). Reflections of the project results in curricula. Elaboration of methodological handbook how to prepare the projects. Support of regional development.

*Project number*  
CZ/02/A/F/PL/134138
4.4 Harmonisation of Labour Force Quality in the Czech Republic and EU Standards in the Tertiary Sector

CONTRACTOR:
Employment Service in Semily

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REPRESENTATIVE:
Mgr. Jan Rychlik

CONTACT PERSON:
Mgr. Radek Pastyřík

FOREIGN PARTNERS:
Intermediary organisation:
Stedenband, Driebergen, the Netherlands

RECEIVING ORGANISATION:
Stichting Stedenband, Driebergen, the Netherlands

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 8
PLACEMENT DURATION: 12 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The aim of the project was to acquire practical skills in the tertiary sector and to harmonise the quality of the Czech labour force with the standard EU quality through it. Employment Service sent 8 young unemployed people (cooks, waitresses, maintenance men, health visitors, flowers arrangers) for three-month placement to the Netherlands. Placement was ensured in cooperation with Employment Service in Utrecht, City of Driebergen and foundation supporting cooperation between cities of Stedenband Driebergen – Rijseburg – Semily.

The young job seekers worked in various organisations according to their profession – in restaurants, hotels, community care centres and flower shops. The work activities corresponded with their vocation. The cooks prepared the meals in the kitchen independently, the waitresses served the meals, prepared the Swedish tables, arranged and cleaned the dining rooms. The health visitor was involved in the work with mentally handicapped people, the flowers arranger developed her skills by clearing and arranging of flowers and also participated in the purchase of flowers on the stock exchange.

In the end of placement all participants received the certificate on placement issued by the receiving organisation. It is also used as official document on placement and acquired skills.

Acquainting with standard requirements of employers in EU meant important benefit for the placement participants. They had opportunity to compare approach of employers in the Netherlands and in the Czech Republic. The project also influenced positively the cooperation between City of Semily, City of Drieberg and Employment Service in Semily. The project showed good professional level of young people.

Quality aspects: Exemplary organisation of placement supervision by four mentors and communication of the promoter with the leading mentor. Enlarging of cooperation between cities. Intention to enlarge the partnership by other relevant stakeholders in the field of training of job seekers. Creation of guidelines how to exploit the European programmes. Support of regional development in the sector of services.
4.5 Exchange of Teachers in the Field of Nursing and Health Care Sector in Transnational Context of European Integration

CONTRACTOR:
Higher Vocational School of Health Care in Prague 5

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REPRESENTATIVE:
Mgr. Jitka Němcová

CONTACT PERSON:
Ing. Lenka Henebergová

FOREIGN PARTNERS:
RSAS Age Care - Royal Surgical Aid Society Age Care, London, United Kingdom
ROC Twente Plus, Almelo, the Netherlands
Schule für allgemeine Gesundheits- und Krankenpflege, Wien, Austria

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10

PLACEMENT DURATION: 2 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Experience exchange of teachers from the Higher Secondary School of Health Care was organised in co-operation with three partner organisations: RSAS Age Care – Royal Surgical Aid Society Age Care from the United Kingdom, Schule für Allgemeine Gesundheits- und Krankenpflege from Austria and ROC Twente Plus from the Netherlands. The partners prepared the agenda of two-week exchange for 10 teachers. The exchange took place not only in the premises of partner organisations but also in other organisations in the sector of health care and education.

The project was based on the need to change and improve the educational system of health care staff, to establish contacts for international co-operation, to provide the teachers of nursing and obstetrics with new information and experience in their branch.

The main aim of the project was to obtain necessary information and experience concerning modern school strategy (curricula, modular teaching system, content of specific subjects, lifelong learning, relations to the labour market, current textbooks used for education and training of health care staff), searching new partners for transnational projects, improvement of professional knowledge of teachers (nursing in the EU countries, multicultural nursing, nursing process in the well functioning environment, new teaching methods) and to present the high quality of education of the Czech professionals in the health care sector abroad.

The participants received the certificate with the agenda of exchange from the promoting organisation.

Quality aspects: Equal opportunity in access to education for full-time and part-time students as well as for socially lower situated students. Impact on the strategy of the school, curricula, modular teaching, content of teaching subjects, model of practical training of students, mentoring of theses, idea of school as a centre for continuing training of nurses. Intention to elaborate materials for individual clinic branches, preparation of the Leonardo da Vinci pilot project.
4.6 Student Placements INCO Czech 2002-2004

CONTRACTOR:  
University of West Bohemia in Plzeň

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REPRESENTATIVE:  
Doc. Ing. Josef Průša, CSc.

CONTACT PERSON:  
Pavlína Bínová

FOREIGN NAD CZECH PARTNERS:  
Intermediary organisations:  
ADERA, Pessac Cedex, France  
Institute of Entrepreneurship in Ostrava, Czech Republic  
University of Economics in Prague Czech Republic  
Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic  
Koor/Best, Karlsruhe, Germany  
Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic  
Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno Czech Republic  
APS, Graz, Austria  
Limousin Technologie, Limoges Cedex, France  
EU Hochschulbüro, Hannover, Germany

RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS:  
Institut für Automation und Kommunikation e. V., Barleben, Germany  
Joachim Hesse + Partner GmbH, Berlin, Germany  
Akustikkompetentzentrum m. b. H, Graz, Austria  
Selles Chemist, East Yorkshire, France  
Pharmacie du Mirail, Toulouse, France  
Farmacia El Cristo, Tenerife, Spain  
Architekten PMP-Probst Meyer Partner GbR, München, Germany  
Mirovni Institut, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Angelis und partner, Berlin, Germany  
Tir Groupe, Puteaux Cedex, France  
Mota-Engil Engenharia e Construcoes, Porto, Portugal  
Klinika Sanarius, Jelgava, Latvia  
RWE Umwelt A. G., Viersen, Germany  
Ingenieurbüro für Datatechnik, Oberwiesenthal, Germany  
Netzwerk-Architekten Part G, Darmstadt, Germany  
PHS S. A. Huta Kratowice, , Poland  
Berliner Energieagentur GmbH, Berlin, Germany  
Siemens SGP Vekkehrtechnik GmbH, Graz, Austria  
Estereofoto, GeoEngenharia, SA, Lisbon, Portugal  
Association Pitou-Charentes Europe, Futuroscope Chasseneuil Cedex, France  
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Montpellier Cedex 1, France  
FIDUCIAL, Monte FOrmoso, Coimbra, Portugal  
Euro-Holding Sp. zo. o., Katowice, Poland  
Pink Connect Ltd., Chipping Norton Oxfordshire, United Kingdom  
Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven, Germany  
Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze, Wisła, Poland  
Instituto Hispanico de Murcia and Salamanca, Murcia, Spain
Mika Bratislava, s. r.o., Stupava, Slovak Republic
GfB Treuhand Gesellschaft für Betriebswirtschaft Wien, Steuerberatungs- und Wirtschaftsprüfungs, Austria
Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
IC TEAM Management and Consulting, Bautzen, Germany
SEDOA, St. Veneta, Malta
Kreis Aachen, Der Landrat: Amt für Kinder-, Jugend- und Familienberatung, Aachen, Germany
Martin Mulligan UK Ltd., St. Helens, United Kingdom
Dublin Healthy Cities Limited, Dublin 7, Ireland
National Physical laboratory, Middlesex, United Kingdom
Kolfer Sp. z o. o., Warszawa, Poland
Peter H. M. Rott, Marktredwitz, Germany
MSPB Bagatelle, Talence, France
Fondazione Mantova Capitale Europea dello Spettacolo, Mantova, Italy
Corys T. E. S. S., Grenoble Cedex 1, France
BAWAG, Wien, Austria
Societas Archaeologica Upsaliensis, Uppsala, Sweden
Best Value Sourcing Ltd., London, United Kingdom
Joanneum Research, Institut für Informationssysteme & Informationsmanagement, Graz, Austria
ZF Passau GmbH, Passau, Germany
Förderverein Ökologische Steuerreform e. V., München, Germany
Inligua en Normandie, Petit, France
Bundesverband Deutscher Unternehmer in der Tschechischen Republik e.V., Chemnitz, Germany
Robert Lizar Solicitors, Manchester, United Kingdom
Lamilux GmbH, Rehau, Germany
XaarJet AB, Jarfalla, Sweden
Valeo Materiaux de Friction, Limoges, France
Robin Burman and Co., Manchester, United Kingdom
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, United Kingdom
Conseil Etude Environnement, Cussac, France
Cherry GmbH, Auerbach, Germany
Rewag und Co. KG, Regensburg, Germany
Kooperativa Kummerc Gust, San Pawl, Valletta, Malta
Astor Sofitel Demeure Hotels, Paris, France
Amphenol-Tuchel Electronics GmbH, Heilbronn, Germany
Seniorenwohnheim Neumargareten, Wien, Austria
Institut de Biologie Structurale, Grenoble Cedex 1, France
Centre de Biologie et de Gestion des Populations, Montferrier sur Lez Cedex, France
Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona, Verona, Italy
BINOS Technologies GmbH, Springe, Germany
RA Dr. Kometer Dr. Pechtl, Innsbruck, Austria
Siebenbürgisches Institut, Neckar, Germany
Ministerium der Justiz, Saarbrücken, Germany
Rehau Ag and Co., Rehau, Germany
Städtisches Krankenhaus Martha Maria Halle-Dölau, Halle an der Saale, Germany
ORACLE, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Eurogroup - Vacances, Chambery Cedex, France
Ingenieurbüro für Datentechnik, Oberwiesenthal, Germany
Rechtsanwalte Elsner und Kol., Bayreuth, Germany
Nordmetall GmbH, Chemnitz, Germany
Konstruktionsbüro Dostal, Edenstetten, Germany
Etude Cheuvreux, Paris, France
NEUSTART, Innsbruck, Austria
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 90
PLACEMENT DURATION: 24 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Placement project was focused on the students of University of West Bohemia and students from other five co-operating sending universities (Czech Technical University in Prague, University of Economics in Prague, Institute of Entrepreneurship in Ostrava, Masaryk University in Brno and Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno) who had a chance to improve their practical skills in their branch through placement abroad. The specific aim of the project was to support creation of conditions for integration of placements abroad in the study programmes of as many branches as possible and valuing of long-term practices abroad by credits.

90 students from 21 branches worked in firms and other organisations in Germany (30 students), France (10), United Kingdom (7) and Austria (6) as well as in Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Malta, Spain, Italy, Ireland and Latvia. The placements duration ranged from 3 months to 1 year, average duration was 5 months. Mostly small and medium sized enterprises in sectors of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics, construction, energy, recycling, car industry, research, banking, trade, tourism, hotel services, entertainment activities, services, pharmacy, health care, social services, communications and public administration.

The participants received certificates from receiving organisation. 33 placements were assessed as integral part of an educational course: the placements abroad are valuated by up to 10 credits at the University of West Bohemia, at University of Economics in Prague they are obligatory section on the CEMS programme, at Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno the long-term practice is obligatory section of the last grade. 57 placements were voluntary section of a recognized educational cycle. The other placements were necessary prerequisite for obtaining materials for elaboration of thesis.

Quality aspects: Large partnership of six sending universities and foreign partners in the framework of internal network for placements Leonet. Remarkably efficient organisation and management of the large scale project (number of participants as well as receiving organisations) with high share of own resources of the partnership. Placements supplementing theoretical experience of participants in the Erasmus programme. Valuable know-how in preparation and realisation of project shared by other sending schools. Integration of practical training in study programmes. Partial reciprocity of placements.

Project number CZ/02/A/F/PL/134149
4.7. **Czech-Dutch Agrarian-Food Specialisation 2002**

**CONTRACTOR:**
Secondary Vocational School and Apprenticeship Centre in Jihlava

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**REPRESENTATIVE:**
Mgr. František Čihal

**CONTACT PERSON:**
Mgr. František Čihal

**FOREIGN PARTNERS:**
Intermediary organisations:
- Staatliche Technikerschule, Staatliche Höhere Landbauschule, Weidenbach, Germany
- Clusius College, Centrale Directie 1824 Alkmaar, Alkmaar, the Netherlands

**RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS:**
- Tobias Mayer, Westheim, Germany
- K. Wezenspyk, Den Burg, the Netherlands
- Andreas Neupert, Selb, Germany
- Sonja Gotzfried, Salgen, Germany
- Thomas Trummer, Hahnbach, Germany
- Fanz Helmle, Oettingen im Ries, Germany
- Wolf Bernhard, Ippesheim, Germany
- Henri Willig - Cheesfactory, Katwoude, the Netherlands
- VOF de Vadel, Den Burg, the Netherlands
- Lagosse Chocolaterie, Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands
- Farm Hogenes, Noordbeemster, the Netherlands
- B. Berkhout, Hoogwoud, the Netherlands

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 14

**PLACEMENT DURATION:** 7 weeks

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
14 students in 3rd grade of the branches Food Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture participated in the placements project. The practical training was ensured by the intermediary organisation Clusius College Alkmar within the Dutch enterprises and firms focused on milk and cheese processing. In Germany it was ensured by Staatliche Technikerschule Triesdorf within the German farms dealing with dairy farming, pig breeding and growing of cereals, fodder crops and root crops. Dairy Moravia Lacto in Jihlava, Brewery and Soda Works in Jihlava, firm Ježek in Jihlava and food laboratory of the State Veterinary Institute in Jihlava were the social partners of the project.

Placement in the Food Analysis branch put stress on observing food procedures, quality monitoring and assessment of raw materials. Production issue – production of cheeses and chocolate – was ensured at work place with small or middle production capacity using traditional technologies. Placement concerning entrepreneurship in agriculture was focused on themes connected with agrarian primary production within specialised farms or farms traditionally oriented on production of vegetable and animal products. The participants received the certificate which belongs to output documents of the Secondary Vocational School and Apprenticeship Centre in Jihlava.
The opportunity to compare acquired vocational knowledge and skills with the procedures and methods of foreign partners was the main placement benefit for the participants. The students also tested their language skills, independence, orientation in foreign environment and ability of decision-making.

*Quality aspects:* Very good preparatory phase of the project, innovative language preparation (short-term stay with Dutch students in the Czech Republic and in the Netherlands). Close links between placement content and curricula. Certificate received in the end of placement as enclosure of Final Qualification Certificate. Excellent partner co-operation with the family farms, small enterprises and partner schools. Exemplary involvement of the promoting school, local authorities (City of Jihlava) and enterprises from Jihlava during the project implementation.

*Project number*  
CZ/02/A/F/PL/134153
4.8 Vocational Practical Placement HOORN 2003

CONTRACTOR:
Secondary and Higher Vocational School of Health Care in Příbram

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REPRESENTATIVE:
PhDr. Josef Brodníček

CONTACT PERSON:
Bc. Jana Hlinovská

RECEIVING ORGANISATION:
Verpleeghuis Linden-Dael, Hoorn, the Netherlands
Verpleeghuis Hogehop, Hoorn, the Netherlands

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10

PLACEMENT DURATION: 6 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
10 students of full-time and part-time study at the Secondary and Higher Vocational School of Health Care in Příbram (branch General Nursing) participated in the six-week placement project in the Netherlands. Partner school Horizont College in Hoorn was intermediary organisation of the project. This school organised placements of students in the establishments for seniors and patients with demention Verpleeghuis Lindendael and Hogehop. City of Příbram and Central Bohemia Region were the other project partners.

The students had a chance to learn functioning and management of specific establishemtns of social services, they learned to use the documentation on nursing and carried out the activities concerning care of patients of these establishments. They tested their knowledge and skills acquired during their study and acquired new knowledge in the field of care of patients with the Alzheimer disease and patients in terminal period of an incurable disease. The participants learned to use the standard and specific techniques of nursing. They also acquired skills in the field of information systems usual in the EU countries.

All ten students received the certificate signed by the Director of the receiving organisation from the Dutch partner. Placement was also certified by the registration in the documents „Student’s Record Book“ and „Index of Vocation“. The part-time students who are members of Czech Association of Nurses obtained credits for the placement abroad.

Quality aspects: Equal opportunity in access to education for full-time and part-time students. Positive results of the project (orientation in the documentation of nursing, use of nursing methodology, standard and specific techniques for quality assurance of nursing in the EU, skills in the field of nursing management, nursing information systems, professional terminology). Final Reports of students. Opportunity to draft the proposal of the pilot project concerning nursing research and education.

Project number CZ/02/A/F/PL/134155
4.9  Project Teaching in the Area of Electrical Engineering

**CONTRACTOR:**
Integrated Secondary School of Energy in Chomutov

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**REPRESENTATIVE:**
Mgr. Jan Mareš

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Mgr. Jan Mareš

**RECEIVING ORGANISATION:**
Fredericia-Middelfart Teknise Skole, Fredericia, Denmark

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 12

**PLACEMENT DURATION:** 1 week

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
Within the project three-week exchange in the field of sciences and vocational subjects was organised for 12 teachers who deal with the preparation of young people for future job and with further training in the sector of electrical engineering. Besides teachers also representatives of Apprenticeship Centre of Energy and Electrical Engineering in Plzeň, Integrated Secondary School in Sokolnice and representatives of social partners from the Czech Employers Union in Energy Sector and Association of Training in Sector of Energy and Electrical Engineering.

The agenda of exchange was designed in co-operation with the partner training organisation Fredericia Middelfart Tekniske Skole and focused on innovation and enhancing value of education, on system of project teaching in the branch of electrical engineering and respective subjects used at the Danish schools – its strengths and weaknesses, roles of teacher and students, communication system between teacher and student, system of assessment, preparatory activities for teaching and resources.

The participants received the certificates in English issued by the receiving organisation Fredericia Middelfart Tekniske Skole. Certificate presents basic information on the duration and place of exchange as well as the short description of activities. The partner organisation expressed its interest in the exchange project within the pilot project „Transnational certification of completing the standardised training programme in electrical engineering focusing on electricity generation and distribution“.

**Quality aspects:** Links between exchange and strategy of promoting school and co-operation with the social partners. Usefulness of results for teachers and practical training instructors (experience in project teaching, teaching in the form of thematic clusters, methods used for assessment of participants), exploitation of results for improvement of curricula and modernisation of classrooms equipment and training materials.

*Project number*  CZ/02/A/F/EX/134158
4.10 TEMPO

CONTRACTOR:
Labour Pool, Consortium of Legal Entities in Ostrava

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REPRESENTATIVE:
Mgr. Zdeněk Karásek

CONTACT PERSON:
PhDr. Eva Micková

RECEIVING ORGANISATION:
BOST Adviesgroep BV, Waddinxveen, the Netherlands
Fontys University of Professional Education, Eindhoven, the Netherlands
FACET BV, Zeist, the Netherlands
Activa Groep, Enschede, the Netherlands
Nehem International, Nieuwegein, the Netherlands

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 5

PLACEMENT DURATION: 9 weeks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project was organised for 5 graduates of secondary schools and universities from Ostrava and Karviná region who underwent practical training within the consortium Labour Pool testing implementation of a new tool for support of pro-active employment policy – so called „temporary work“ for the Czech labour market. The placements were realised in co-operation with the Dutch organisation Nehem International in Nieuwegein which placed the participants in five firms involved in international project for Central Europe.

After introductory training concerning familiarization with the hosting firms the participants underwent the two-month practical training. Thematic focus of placements: co-operation within the project dealing with the work safety and environment for the Czech Republic (consulting firm Bost), Czech market analysis and marketing study (Facet b. v.), co-operation within project for the Czech Republic – training courses for disadvantaged groups (Aktiva Groep), work with databases and websites (Fontys University) and involvement in preparation of a project dealing with the labour market for the Slovak Republic (Nehem Int.).

The participants also collected information on implementation of the „temporary work“ method in the Netherlands, on „uitzenbureau“ agencies the role of which is not only the role of intermediary organisation in the job seeking process but they also recruit the selected job seekers and lend them to their clients – firms. These firms can employ them later if they met their requirements. The participants acquired valuable practical skills and experience which helped them to find job after return. One participant co-operates with the hosting firm also after her return to the Czech Republic.

Quality aspects: Specific agenda combining training and practice with initial work experience for the region with high percentage of unemployed graduates. Involvement of participants in evaluation of utility of various employment forms in the Netherlands. Exemplary permanent evaluation and validation. Very good dissemination covering the Employment Services and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

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