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Leonardo da Vinci programme project

DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMS FOR VOCATIONAL TEACHER QUALIFICATION IMPROVEMENT

LT/06/B/F/PP-171009

POLITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VOCATIONAL TEACHERS' EDUCATION

Improvement of vocational teachers' education has always been one of the most important priorities in the European strategies and policies of Vocational education and training (VET). Communiqué of the European Ministers for vocational education and training, the European social partners and the European Commission, declared in Bordeaux on 26 November 2008 stresses, that the enhancement of the competence of teachers and trainers together with the attractiveness of their jobs and status in the national political priorities is closely related to the quality improvement of VET. This document invites to increase investment in the initial and continuing training of the VET teachers, trainers, tutors and guidance officers as a mean to promote the excellence and quality of VET systems. Development of VET in the proposed priority areas for future action (implementing the tools and schemes for promoting cooperation in the field of VET at national and European level, heightening the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training systems, improving the links between VET and the labour market, strengthening European cooperation arrangements) very much depends on the competence and continuing education of vocational teachers'. It is to be mentioned that the following general recommendations have to be interpreted against the national background. For example, some general recommendations are already fulfilled in some European countries. Furthermore, the importance of the recommendations varies among the countries.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

For the development of institutional organization of the continuing education and training of VET teachers:

- to enable and enhance existing institutions of the VET system, teachers training institutions, Universities and different professional organizations on the national and regional levels to take part in the organization of the education and training for VET teachers;
- to address the continuing education and training measures to the teaching staff involved in the very wide range of activities and having various responsibilities in the VET institutions: management of VET institutions, teaching, tutorship, mentorship, etc.;
- to establish and develop coherent and comprehensive legal framework stating the rights and obligations of the institutions and VET teachers in the organization and provision of the continuing education and training of VET teachers;
- to create constant networks of cooperation between the institutions involved in the continuing education and training of VET teachers.

For the quality improvement in the continuing education and training of VET teachers:

- to establish standards for the continuing education and training of VET teachers;
- to create mechanisms for the improvement of learning outcomes based curriculum of continuing education and training of VET teachers;

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- to strengthen the integration of the teaching practice in the processes of the continuing education and training of VET teachers;
- to ensure high quality counseling and expert support for VET teachers during their continuing education and training process;
- to expand the possibilities of the flexible choice of the forms and ways of continuing education of VET teachers (including recognition of non-formal and informal learning achievements of VET teachers) referring to the existing differences of the workload and work organization options in the VET institutions.

For the preparation of tutors of continuing vocational education and training of VET teachers:

- to ensure the legal and institutional possibilities for the provision of the qualifications of tutors of continuing vocational education and training of VET teachers;
- to establish a system of selection and training of tutors of continuing vocational education and training of VET teachers.

For funding of the continuing vocational education and training of VET teachers:

- to foresee the constant mechanisms of the state funding of the continuing vocational education and training of VET teachers.
- to establish the effective co-funding mechanisms integrating the funding from the state budget with the co-financing from the EU structural financial support funds and business sectors.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Further there will be presented the recommendations for the development of continuing education and training of VET teachers which are specific for the each project partner-country:

Italy

- To promote and enhance the regional governments and other stakeholders to cooperate with the Universities in the continuing education and training of VET teachers.
- To increase the interest of VET teachers in the continuing education and training by considering it as a compulsory activity related with career ladders of VET teachers.
- To organize the introductory training session of the policy makers and mentors involved in the continuing education and training of VET teachers presenting the project outcomes.

Finland

- To improve the quality of the teaching practice in continuing education and training of VET teachers.
- To develop teaching practice as a part of whole VET teacher study process and to place teaching practices in a relevant phase in the process.

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- To develop counseling during teaching practice and during the whole study process Ar sie nesidubliuoja su General recom?
- To improve co-operation between tutors, students and mentors (at schools)

Germany

- To strengthen the integration of practical elements (e.g. school placements) into the education at the university
- To institutionalize and intensify the cooperation between the university and the *Studienseminar* (the institution responsible for the introduction to teaching practice).

Lithuania

- To introduce the system of the assessment of the non-formally and informally acquired knowledge, skills and abilities for the VET teachers.
- To ensure the development of the professional knowledge, skills and abilities of the VET teachers.
- To involve wider range of stakeholders (employers organizations, trade unions, professional associations, graduates, etc.) in the continuing education and training of VET teachers.

Romania

- To introduce in the teachers' training curriculum (level II) disciplines which ensure development of the competences needed for the exercising of VET teacher functions.
- To develop abilities and skills related with tutor's qualification description of those professors within departments of teacher training at the universities who teach specialty didactics (called methodologists).
- To introduce and to use the concept of "tutors" referring to the professional category presently named "methodologists" in order to highlight the fact that tutors display superior competencies necessary to exercising their specific roles in preparing the future VET teachers.
- To organize post-university courses for methodologists in order for them to obtain the qualification of "tutors for VET".
- To participate in a common action of accessing structural funds in order to provide the financing necessary for the financial support of the proposed post-university programs.