

MEETING MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE DAYS - 2014

PED 2014

Participants:

MARKIEZAAT COLLEGE	NL	Peter Timmerman	Teacher
		René van Haften	Teacher
		Bart de Weert	Student
		Rens Monden	Student
TEC	DK	Noree Ismael	Teacher
		Mads F. Larsen	Student
		Sebastian E. Nielsen	Student
XABEC	ES	Antonio Mir	Teacher
		Pablo Luis Sáez	Teacher
		Vicente Taberner	Staff
		José V. García	Student
		Sergio Cruz	Student
		José V. Calatayud	Student

Place: Köln

Date: 18 – 20 March 2.014

Summary of the topics of the Program

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Workshop 1: “Excellence for tackling the new challenges in Europe”
3. Workshop 2: “Generic skills for excellence in the labour market”
4. Round Table 1: “New competences in close collaboration with local enterprises
5. Workshop 3: “Taking advantage of international mobility”
6. Film – forum: “Les Misérables”
7. Workshop 4: Entrepreneur presentation of the Company “Elektrohaus-Günter”
8. Cultural visit to the city centre
9. Football match
10. Workshop 5: Working for doing proposals
11. Round Table 2: Changes required in Vocational Education
12. Closing Ceremony

1. OPENING CEREMONY

Antonio Mir gave a short presentation about the importance of this Conference. We are the pioneers! He expresses his gratefulness on behalf of the InnMAIn Executive Board to the three participant schools that have made possible to organize this activity.

He also thanked the residence **Schweidt** for their kindness of letting us to have the workshops in the residence.

2. WORKSHOP 1: “Excellence for tackling the new challenges in Europe”

Professor Timmermann made a short presentation about the topic using a Power-Point presentation.

After that the participants grouped by countries discussed about the SWOT analysis for the countries that are part of the European Union. Their conclusions were the following:

	THE NETHERLANDS	DENMARK	SPAIN
STRENGTHS <i>What could your country offer to Europe?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge - Water technology - Agriculture machinery - Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A link between Scandinavia and the rest of Europe - Knowledge and experiment - Safety and security for the labour market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism - Labour force - Courage, tackle problems without surrendering
WEAKNESSES <i>What are the challenges in your country at the moment?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To beat the recession - How to give jobs to our educated people - To solve the problem to find the workers for our low-educated jobs (hand-maid) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The movement of the labour force - Political issue and refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create new industries - To improve our language skills in English - Ni-Ni = Youth that don't study and don't work. Change this mind - To reduce our civil servants
OPPORTUNITIES <i>What roles can Europe play tackling those challenges?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other countries can give us the people/workers to do our low- educated jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To integrate the labour or marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To offer employment to the youth
THREATS <i>What threats can the role of Europe cause in your country?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration: from people within Europe to work in other countries - No integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare - The economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we enter in the EU we had to close many industries and reduce agriculture production; now we would like to increase both of them but there are restrictions from Europe

Some matters were discussed after the presentation of the conclusions:

1. There is a complementarity between the European countries: for example, The Netherlands needs technicians, and in Spain there is high youth unemployment.
2. Immigration is an important issue: in some countries there are problems of integration, problems of rejection, and also security problems. Second generation of immigrants can be a problem.

The teachers highlighted three points of this workshop:

1. The importance of getting the knowledge of the people attending the presentation.
2. The importance of learning about what is happening in each country.
3. The importance of knowing what the challenges in each country are.

3. WORKSHOP 2: “Generic skills for excellence in the labour market”

This workshop was presented in two presentations:

- The first one was conducted by the following students: Mads F. Larsen, Sergio Cruz and José Vicente García.
- The second one was conducted by Bart de Weert.

After the presentations the participants discussed about different points related with the contents of the presentations.

- It is very important to give formation to the company trainers.
- Because of the economical crisis, in Denmark now the Government don't pay to the Companies for having students.
- It would be good if we could organize a Network of Companies within InnMain, and have a database with information for preparing International Internships.
- Dual system is different to Internships. Sometimes in Internships, the Company doesn't take advantage of the knowledge of the student. So it is important that the Company knows which is teaching at schools, and what the possibilities for taking advantage of the students are.
- The Companies have the knowledge. It is more the way of thinking with the mentality of the Company.
- Innovation means: what would you do different next time?
- It is very important for the student to be objective: to make a self evaluation.

The teachers highlighted two points of this workshop:

1. The importance of the students working as a team.
2. The second presentation was interesting for getting knowledge from the point of view of somebody that is working at present time.

4. ROUND TABLE 1: “New competences in close collaboration with local enterprises

It was expected somebody from one German Chamber of Commerce for coming to this activity, but finally nobody could come. So this Round Table was merged with the previous one.

5. WORKSHOP 3: “Taking advantage of international mobility”

This workshop was conducted by the following students: José Vicente Calatayud, Sebastian Esp Nielsen and Rens Monden.

After the presentations the participants discussed about different points related with the contents of the presentation.

- International mobility open minds
- International mobility makes the people more flexible
- International mobility makes the people more mature
- Time for the mobility: it depends on the person and the objectives
 - o Three weeks
 - o Three months (in this case it is important to know very well which the job to do is. The students must participate in the selection process.

The teachers highlighted two points of this workshop:

1. The importance of the work done in the TOI Project ToP-MoSt that must be continued for promoting mobility of high quality standards.
2. The importance of the social skills and habits that the students obtain when they go abroad.

6. FILM – FORUM: “Les Misérables”

Before dinner the participants watched the film “Les Misérables”, based in the novel of Victor Hugo.

After dinner, under the direction of Professor Pablo Luis Sáez the participants discussed about the problems showed in the film and the attitude of the characters.

The main question was if we can see some similarities in our society nowadays, and what can be our attitude to tackle those social challenges if we want to maintain the social balance between the countries of Europe.

There is a big concern: the number of rich people increase, and also the number of poor people

VET schools can promote social activities. For example, at present time:

- a) Markiezaat College is promoting buildings in Africa
- b) TEC is giving computers to social institutions
- c) Xabec: on Saturdays the students go to make repairs and amendments in houses of poor people and flats ruled by social institutions

But it is clear that what everybody can do is to do his job very well, with spirit of serving the people, the families in our society: in this way we all participate in constructing a better world to live.

It is important to learn through mistakes. Corrections are necessary for improving in any aspect of our lives. The ideal situation is to know exactly the tasks we must do, the way of doing things, but many times this is not possible. Education in VET has to be competences oriented.

Taking this into account, the process for corrections has to be: ask the student why you have done this in this way? And thinking about the process, the student by himself can discover his mistakes.

Students and teachers: we can learn from each other.

7. WORKSHOP 4: Entrepreneur presentation of the Company “Elektrohaus-Günter”

Ms. Nicole Fandrich, from the ZWH, Zentralstelle für die Weiterbildung im Handwerk e. V., introduced to Mr. Günter, who gave us a presentation about the importance of the Dual System of Vocational Training.

Mr. Günter gave a passionate presentation and transmitted to the participants a positive spirit of innovation and excellence. He highlighted the importance of soft skills, specially responsibility, loyalty to the Company and good manners in social behaviour.

To have innovative spirit is always thinking in how to improve the task we do.

8. CULTURAL VISIT to the city centre

The participants could visit the Cathedral, one of the highest in the world. Some brave participants went up the highest point of one of the towers.

Tour Agentur from Köln offered a Cultural Visit to the city centre focused in apprenticeship: “Living and working in the middle ages, the old trades and crafts”.

9. FOOTBALL MATCH

Some of the residents in the Schweidt Residence made the German Team which was the opponent of the InnMain team. Well... better not to give many details of the play. When the score was 12-1 for the Germans somebody said: “One more goal. The team who makes the next goal will be the winner”. And Professor René was the hero who made the last goal. So the final score was 12-2 for the Germans, but... InnMain won the football match!

10. WORKSHOP 5: Working for doing proposals

The participants split in two groups: teachers and students.

THE STUDENTS. They spent the whole time telling to one another about their educational systems and discussing about the proposals to be presented in the round table 2.

TEACHERS. They talked about the organization of the activity, what was good, what can be changed, and discussed about how to improve the activity for the next year. These are the main points:

1. It is important firstly to introduce each school, a personal presentation of the students, and to know what they are doing.
2. Also it would be interesting a brief presentation of each country (what is happening in this moment in each country) and its educational system
3. The first day was very dense: too much information. It would be better to balance the workshops along the three days: two workshops each day
4. And take a breathing before starting the workshops

5. To be more focused in one main topic, with minor subjects
6. To prepare the meeting we could give some information in advance: prepare some questions in a questionnaire
7. About the student's presentations, depending on the subject, could be:
 - a. Prepared by the students together (via email / Skype)
 - b. Prepared by countries
8. To have a knowledge centre. We could use Dropbox, or another platform, for them to exchange ideas. To have a kind of database.
9. Maybe it would be good to have the student's presentation on the second day: then they know themselves better and there are more confidence
10. It is Important the cultural part: football, visits, concerts...
11. It would be great to organize a barbecue the last day
12. Three days is OK
13. The name of the activity: for the moment is OK...
14. Open words, open questions (not yes/no)
15. It is important to give time for socialization. Take advantage in free time
16. It would be nice if we could visit a school

And about the Workshops:

- A presentation is different to a Workshop: it is better to organize workshops.
- It is a good idea to make the presentations to get the knowledge of the people attending the meeting

11. ROUND TABLE 2: Changes required in Vocational Education

The students made a presentation about the conclusions they reached in the previous workshop.

DUAL SYSTEMS

- In Denmark the students are in school for ten weeks and after this they go to a company to learn the practical skills.
- The students don't want to change this cause they say it's important that you can focus on your school all the time or on your company you're working at.
- In the Netherlands the system means 4 days a week in a company and 1 day in a week to school.
- The students in Holland are used to this and for them it's difficult to switch between school and company, the reason they will chose the dual system is to already go to work
- The students say that you're going to use the Dutch system in Spain for the dual program and they prefer this system because you can already work and earn money and also get an education.

PROBLEMS

- In Denmark there is only one system of education. The students think there are people who would like the Dutch system of education.
- In Denmark you have the practical centre for students who can't find a company to work at, but the practical centre is a simulation so the students think it's not realistic enough.

- They want the practical centre, the “simulated centre” to be a real company.
- In Holland, projects are mostly the same every year, and technology in Companies are changing very quickly.
- The students in Spain choose the dual system so they can earn money, this is a wrong motivation.
- They need to think more about their education, cause it's your future.
- Only 3 of the 20 students in José's class have a company to work at.
- The mentality of students is bad cause their parents spoil them to much
- Too many people don't pass their exams because they don't go.
- The Government have some laws about this problem, but they don't use them to punish the students.

SOLUTIONS

- Denmark think a lot of people will benefit if there are two education systems like in Holland or Spain so they have a choice and maybe are more motivated to study.
- In Holland we have to think about our program. We need to look if there is a possibility to take some extra classes to pass the theoretical tests instead of doing a whole year again.
- In Spain the children are too spoiled. That's a reason that the mentality is bad. The parents need to be stricter about this and send their children to school.
- The Government needs to listen to the people and do everything to keep students in school until they have a degree; it's too easy for students to quit school.
- They have to offer possibilities to the best students with high education to keep them in the country so they can help to climb out of the recession.

INTERNSHIPS

- The students of Denmark told us they didn't know it's a possibility to go abroad for internships.
- It's necessary to look at the level of English and try to get an equal level to make it much easier to communicate.
- Schools needs to set up a database of different Things:
 1. Culture
 2. Life
 3. School
 4. Companies
 5. Places to stay
 6. Religion
 7. Language of the country
- Maybe set up some guidelines to start you're internships
- In the first days of your internship getting some kind of guidelines. It is important the previous information the student can get before going to the Company.

12. CLOSING CEREMONY

Professors Peter Timmerman, Noree Ismael and Antonio Mir said a few final words. They highlighted the importance of this kind of activities, and expressed their wish for the next year to repeat it. “We always take advantage when we attend a InnMain activity”, said Peter. They also expressed their gratitude to Xabec for the organization.

Antonio Mir, as a representative of the InnMain Executive Board gave to all the participants a certificate of attendance. The schools exchanged some presents for the participants.

Finally the Spanish group sang a typical Spanish song, and Antonio Mir dedicated to all the participants the song "You've got a friend".

