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Report about the first international summarizing seminar within the Erasmus+ project

ERASMUS+ 2014-1-PL01-KA202-003372 titled „*International Partnership for Improving the Quality of Teaching in Vocational Schools*”

at Daugavpils Tirdzniecības profesionālā vidusskola, Latvia

On the 24th of March, 2017 the seminar has been hold at the Daugavpils Region Culture Centre “Vārpa” in Daugavpils, Latvia.

The three years duration project has been realizing in partnership with School of Economic and General Education no 6 in Lomza, Poland (leader of the project), Vilnius Technology School of Business and Agriculture, Lithuania (partner), Poland, Perfect Project LLC from Bialystok, Poland (partner).

Nowadays, the Internet importance continues to grow within the economy and society as a whole. MOODLE is free, based on a new educational philosophy, the joint action; it is now the world's most common e-learning solution, it meets the European Union and the European Commission education policies.

At the beginning the professor from the Daugavpils University has told about ICT integration possibilities within vocational education.

During the seminar presentation of the four project (Lomza, Daugavpils, Vilnius, Bialystok) results has been shown. The demonstration of project results using MOODLE platform and advantages and effects of the project: students-teachers-partners-entrepreneurs has been presented. Summarizing of work results and the whole done work within Erasmus+ project has been done. The project result is available at the website - **<http://ekonomik-lomza.moodle.org.pl>**

The twenty students from the Daugavpils Trade Vocational Secondary School have participated in Erasmus+ project and actively performed project tasks within the whole period of the project implementation. Gained experience within three innovative courses will be useful for further successful career development.

Students are learners from the 21st century. It means that technology has been developing very rapidly. Students like MOODLE because of freedom (you may use it anywhere and anytime), it is extremely fascinating; using laptops and mobile phones, MOODLE mobile apps also are very interesting for students, it motivates. They may follow their progress; it means see results and grades. Exercises and tests from the platform are very useful and easy in usage.

Benefits using MOODLE for entrepreneurs were deeply discussed:

- Budget economy – unlimited participants ‘number.
- Repetition possibilities – e-learning unlimited concrete time and place.
- Effectiveness – experienced employees can continue working process without breaks.
- Lower costs – possibility to acquire courses at home or using mobile phones.
- Easy supervision of teaching process at the enterprise.

Employers have summarized skills that most needed:

teamwork, communication, patience, accuracy, independence, technical skills, creativity, ability to solve problems, resistance to stress, computer skills and computer programs, knowledge of software; information about work ethnics.

Some of the standards for employers (opinion of the representative from Park Hotel Latgola, Daugavpils) are the following:

- Good communication skills, ability in “selling” yourself, and to be a good conversation companion.
- Knowledge of many foreign languages and practical usage of them.
- To have positive thinking, to be stress resistant, to be responsible.
- Knowing current events outside fulfilment of main duties.

Entrepreneurs came to the conclusion that MOODLE could really help in different areas improvement – ICT, business marketing, language competences, customer service. They will definitively use MOODLE possibilities.

The needs and expectations of entrepreneurs cooperating with Daugavpils Trade Vocational Secondary School and students in the frames of this project were effectively achieved.

There was a panel of questions among participants concerning MOODLE advantages.

Invited guests from Rīgas Distance Secondary School and from National Centre for Education of the Republic of Latvia (Rīga) have shared their opinions concerning MOODLE future development and importance within vocational education.

The next scheduled second international seminar of the project will be in Vilnius, Lithuania - April 7, 2017; the project final conference will take place in Lomza, Poland - June 9, 2017.

Daugavpils, Latvia, 2017