Modules

Anerkennung von Modulen in der vorberuflichen Bildung

- Support / Duration
- Project objectives
- Results

Support / Duration

Support program:		
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Das Projekt

Summary

The project focuses on modularization in prevocational education and training. Modules are self-contained units in respect of content and time. They might be linked one to another to compose a bundle of skills and qualifications. The concept of modularization is suitable especially for disadvantaged young people, since they are able to achieve a certificated qualification in a limited amount of time.

The comparably small units appear manageable and relatively easy to master and are therefore suitable to motivate those who are tired of school. The concept is appropriate to contribute to the young people's personal stabilization and can lay the foundation for later steps in terms of qualification in the sense of lifelong learning.

The initial position is very miscellaneous in the different countries of the European Union. While modularization in prevocational training has been practiced in some countries for many years, others are just starting or have not started yet. Those countries working with modularization are welcomed to share their experiences in the discussion.

Modularization becomes increasingly a topic in vocational training. Accordingly there is a great need for transparency. The project aims at meeting those needs, therefore the responsible national institutions are expected to adopt the developed standards and assure valorization. It is therefore important to include those institutions that are concerned with certification and accreditation in vocational and prevocational training.

Objectives

The project deals with problems like the lack of transparency in prevocational training, the broad spectrum and varying quality of training courses and modules as well as the diversity of accreditation measures. It is therefore the main aim of the project to get to a higher degree of transparency in the work with modules. This concerns standards for the development of modules as well as benchmarks meant to allow transparency and comparability of qualifications and competencies gained in the courses. Common criteria for modules in prevocational training are going to be identified in international cooperation in the sense of mutual learning and with the help of institutions concerned with the development, implementation, certification and accreditation of training courses. These criteria are going to be the basis for a system allowing common quality standards for modules in prevocational

training.

The specific goals are:

· To gain a common understanding about concept and aim of modularized prevocational training;

· To identify the cultural and system specific requirements for the work with modules and their certification;

· To agree on a common catalogue of criteria for the design, selection and evaluation of modules;

· To work out a system to record the young people's skills and competences

· To agree on the contents of certificates;

· To develop a system that allows design, selection and evaluation of modules according to common procedures and is still flexible enough to be adjusted to cultural and system specific needs.

· To put the system to test with respect to concept, design and workability;

· Formative evaluation trough out the whole process;

· To create a final product;

To introduce the product to its users.

Former Projects	The results of the former project "Re-integration" is taken into account for the development of the final product of the current project. "Re-integration" was focused on self-evaluation of training courses for disadvantaged young people. Intensive research has been conducted in all partner countries with the result, that learning environments and learning contexts are of great importance for a successful integration of these young people. As a final result an interactive tool was developed, that allows self-evaluation of training courses. The tool was named burned on CD-Rom and is easily adjustable to different situations. It will serve as an example for the development of the new product.
Results and Products	In the course of the project "Modules" a mutual comprehension of concept and goals of modularization in prevocational training will be achieved in order to attain comparability. A system that allows to record the qualifications and competences gained by disadvantaged young people will be developed at the same time.

As a final result a tool will be developed that provides transparency of modules in prevocational training. This tool will contain a common catalogue of criteria for implementing and certifying modules on three different levels:

· The political level (decision makers and planners),

· The implementing level (practitioners) and

· The individual level (disadvantaged young people).

At the same time the criteria will be differentiated in various dimensions, taking different competencies (social, personal, professional skills) into account.

The tool will be tested by experts in all participating countries and evaluated jointly by the partners with regard to concept and content. The final version of the tool is going to be translated in all partner languages and burned on CD-ROMs. Another media for dissemination will be the Internet.

Despite of common goals and problems serious differences in respect to culture, educational system and implementing institutions do exist. It is therefore important that the interactive tool can be modified to a certain extent to take these differences into account. To meet these needs the tool will be designed in a way that allows the addition, elimination or variation of individual criteria. On this basis an interactive tool will be developed, that can be modified according to cultural and system specific needs. The tool allows not only transparency of the skills and competencies gained in the courses but makes visible the environments and conditions in which they were achieved as well.

The interactive tool will consist of about 200 power point slides and will be adaptable to the user's specific needs. It will be translated in all partner languages and promoted by relevant institutions in prevocational training. The tool will be put into the Internet and can be down loaded charge free.

The users of the product are primarily those institutions that are concerned with the accreditation, certification and development of qualification measures. Other user groups are trainers and pedagogues working with disadvantaged young people as well as ministries of education.

Partnership	Institutions from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom are included in the partnership. Whereas most partners are working on the project as pointed out before, Denmark's part is the evaluation and quality management of the project. There is one main partner in each country that is usually an educational institute of a university or private educational institute.

The main partner is building up a national network including other partners in the project using sub-contracts. There should be one partner implementing training courses and working with disadvantaged young people as well as an institution concerned with certification and accreditation of modules in each country. The purpose of this satellite system is to keep the number of main partners down and to include different kinds of institutions at the same time. As experts the satellite partners will be included in the process. There will be several national meetings of the satellite partners in the course of the project.

In Germany the main partner is biat. Biat stands for "Institute for Vocational Education and Training, including Work Research related to Technology" and is an institute at the University of Flensburg, which deals with teaching and research in this field. In teaching it aims at MA degrees for teachers in vocational schools and other VET professionals.

There are a number of satellite partners in Germany: IHK (Industrie- und Handelskammer) is the chamber of commerce in Flensburg. ZWH (Zentralstelle für die Weiterbildung im Handwerk) is connected to the German chamber of trade and is playing a crucial role in developing, promoting and certifying modules in prevocational training. DGB (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) is an umbrella organization of unions in Germany. These institutions will play a major role in the dissemination of the product.

Other satellite partners are working with disadvantaged young people. These are the Vocational School in Kappeln, the JAW (Jugendaufbauwerk) in Süderbrarup and the JAW in Niebüll. These institutions offer prevocational training courses and work with modules. One of their tasks will be to test the tool.

Results

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