

COR-VET

Career orientation in vocational education and training in Europe

Reflections of Turkish partners

Turkish reflection on the first CORVET workshop in Paderborn Germany

1-3 November 2011

Our project on career orientation started with a kick off meeting in Paderborn with all partners. We were all lucky that we had our meeting in november with a very nice weather. Before the meeting we were all well informed about the Project and future route. The location of the hotel and meeting point were very good and hotel was comfortable.

It was good idea to start the meeting with a dinner outside. In that nice restaurant people found opportunity to know each other. There were lots of good German meals and drinks but we are not sure why, we tasted Italian style. We were happy that Marc and his team were with us that first night, and helped us kindly in every subject.

The second day started with presentation of Marc, who is coordinator of the project. He informed us about future steps of the project and the duties of each partner. He underlined four important topics to achieve our aims in the project and gave information about mobilities and how to complete them. He focused on dissemination and came up with a dissemination strategy. The way of dealing with dissemination issues was very satisfactory for us. Especially the BCSW server will be very useful for each partner and all other stakeholders.

We appreciate that vice president of the University of Paderborn visited the meeting and made a warm and useful welcome with information about the University of Paderborn. He informed us about the capacity and ability of the university and inspired us for better co-operations and more intensive collaboration between practical partners and the university in the future.

In our tour in the university, we saw that the university is young but big enough and will be still growing. Looking at the faces of students and staffs we could understand that everybody is happy to be in this university. The campus was well planned. Anyway if you want to, you can graduate without going outside passing from one building to another.

The lunch in the university was unforgettable for us. It was very surprising to find such cheap and well qualified meals in a university. For only six or seven Euros one can buy a good meal. Furthermore it is possible to find cuisine of different countries.

In the meeting we took a look at the education systems of the involved countries. We saw that the duration of compulsory education is similar and that in every country the students face several options, early or late.

Every country tries to establish a fitting educational system and does its best. But from our point of view the German system is the best and can be seen as a model system. In the German system students select their future first depending upon their abilities and interests. But in the other countries they are selecting their grade first. The core ideas of German VET are impressive and functional. With focus on UK and Italy we could see that local authorities have a bigger role in education but this doesn't take part in Turkey. The German vocational qualifications focus on production/ industrie and services, but in UK they focus more on the serving sector.

In all countries the systems try to decrease the rate of unemployment which is a big problem. Germany seems to have the lowest problem.

We also saw that UK and Italy are trying to create a more functional system for the learners.

The formal dinner was in a very nice restaurant. It was very kind that colleagues of Marc were with us. And also with the help of the city guide we learned lots of things about Padenborn and its history.

In the last day we continued the conversation about career orientation in the different countries. We discussed good examples. And at the end we planned and scheduled the work for the next two years which belongs to our Project.