



COR-VET
Career orientation
in vocational education and training in Europe
Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 3 in London, UK

**German Reflections on the third CORVET workshop
in London, UK
CORVET Project 29th to 31st of October 2012**

The third workshop in London, UK took place from October 29th to October 31st 2012.

Arriving in London was a bit challenging due to the fact that it took a lot of time to come from the airport to Whitechapel in London. Therefore we were right on time to start the workshop when we arrived at Idea Store.

On the arrival day, the 29th of October, the workshop was opened by Rajesh Pathak and Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner from University of Paderborn. After an introduction into the structure of the workshop and the main aims and topics as well as a short information about the evaluation results of the Turkish workshop, we started with the long presentation on the new COR-VET concept of the Career Orientation Approach in United Kingdom and British didactical material for Career Orientation. Rajesh Pathak was able to clarify the main aspects in the field of UKs career orientation approach.

First of all, the overall information on the UK Education system was given: from nursery school to universities. Then Rajesh Pathak described the Career Orientation in UK in detail.

Though officially duty to deliver career education was removed according to the 2011 Education Bill, schools still try to aim at it. There is no statutory programme of study for career education, therefore, schools are free to decide on what can be included in it. However, concerning the Career Education and Guidance (CEG) in schools, can be stated that a good careers programme has to:

- fit to the needs of individual pupils,
- include experiences of the world of work and



COR-VET
Career orientation
in vocational education and training in Europe
Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 3 in London, UK

- provide information about opportunities in learning and work.

Among other things, Rajesh Pathak introduced results of a survey which indicate that 42% of young people in UK find it easy to get information about career orientation. So, it shows that, although certain measures are being taken in the field of Career Orientation, there is still a room for improvement in this area.

After this long presentation the Italian partners presented their ways of dealing with the problems about the Career Orientation. Main result was, that in Italy Career Orientation only exists in a few aspects and is not a general approach. Therefore the Italian partners presented interesting facts about projects which had the focus on Career Orientation and tried to integrate it into the Italian general and vocational education system.

The Italian partners stated that norms regulating career orientation in school system are often not supported by adequate funds, this leads to the fact that it is very difficult, even impossible to implement them. As a consequence, the matter "Career Orientation" is left to the parents and motivated teachers and organizations. Therefore, different projects are created, one of them is "ATI-CAMPER". It focuses on counselling in places where people use to meet, e. g. in parks. Main activity is counselling for singles and groups and balance of skills. Another interesting project worth mentioning is "The Molinella", called like the central place where young people meet. The goal of this project is to go there and promote integration to second generation migrants which are not completely integrated into Italian school system. Also discussions are held there, after which individual meetings can take place with discussions of concrete career situations.

The work ended with summarizing aspects and information about the evening.



COR-VET
Career orientation
in vocational education and training in Europe
Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 3 in London, UK

That evening we discussed main project topics as well during the social dinner and were guided by an author through East London. He focused his talks at historical vocational places on the vocations of London inhabitants and especially women in former times. It was very interesting to realise parallels and similarities as well as huge differences to the vocational situation of today in UK and the partner countries.

The second day, the 30th of October, started at Idea Store with two slots: one for the core project partners and one for the learners.

In the slot for the core project partners the COR-VET Questionnaire was discussed very intensively. We went through every question and item of the questionnaire which was already provided to the partners before the UK meeting. Due to this fact everybody knew it already and we could focus on improving it by clarifying and adding items related to the needs of the educational systems of the partner countries and the two target groups, learners and teachers. We also discussed the organisation of the implementation of the questionnaire as well as the handling of this online-tool, which was designed by the university of Paderborn and Ingenious Knowledge. The moderators of the discussion were Rasmus Pechuel and Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner. Every partner country was able to contribute in this discussion with very helpful information.

Meanwhile the learners discussed in the second slot the question, how necessary vocational training and education for young people might be and if a common European Approach might be needed. They created a power-point presentation with problems and advantages of a common European Approach and suggested phases for a possible common career orientation approach. They were also able to describe the target groups of such an approach – learners, teachers and educational experts. They also discussed their lessons learned.



COR-VET
Career orientation
in vocational education and training in Europe
Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 3 in London, UK

After lunch we went by bus to Barking and Dagenham College, a huge school with several vocational fields. After an introduction we split in half. Whilst on half heard a talk on Career Orientation at the College and ways to provide the students with guidance and necessary information on basis of the matrix and the curricula, the other half went through a very interesting and informative College tour which offered first hand insights in the teaching work and the learning resources. After that the splitted halves changed their focus, so that everybody experienced both parts. Julie Maling, one of the staff members at the Barking and Dagenham College and Head of Opportunities Support, gave us very interesting insights how the BDC support their students and shared good practice with us. Among other things she informed us about the matrix Standard as a unique quality standard to assess and measure their advice and support services, which ultimately supports individuals in their choice of career. After a final discussion we left Barking and Dagenham College in the evening and went back to Westfield.

The third day, the 31st of October, started with two short presentations.

The first one was about the latest changes in the Turkish educational system which were very fresh and were established just a month ago and their consequences for Career Orientation. Due to the changes there was no time to discuss didactical approaches in detail here. But this will be done in the next workshop in Italy next year.

The second presentation focussed new developments in the field of Career Orientation in Germany and emphasised the didactical embedding of practical phases in enterprises which can be found in all partner countries. Therefore, Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner showed the importance of mentoring and feedback during practical phases of learners in enterprises and the possibility to use modern technologies and e-learning approaches of web 2.0 to guide the learners, for examples via blogs, wikis or social networks while they are experiencing the practical work in enterprises. This enables the teacher to be quite nearer at the process while the learners are not in



COR-VET
Career orientation
in vocational education and training in Europe
Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 3 in London, UK

school and give direct feedback and individual tasks as well as personalised help for the learners.

The day ended with some discussions about the dissemination and valorisation strategy of COR-VET and the discussion of a broad publication possibility in Germany in the journal “Kölner Zeitschrift für Wirtschaft und Pädagogik”. All partners decided to intensify their dissemination activities. In addition to that, the partners focussed on the Italian workshop next year and the tasks which have to be done until this meeting. For example, the translation and the implementation of the COR-VET Questionnaire because of big focus of the Italian workshop will be the results of this study and the meaning of them for a common European approach of Career Orientation.