

COR-VET *Career orientation*

in vocational education and training in Europe

Reflections of the German partners
Workshop 4 in Modena, Italy



Italian Reflections on the CORVET workshop in Modena - ITALY

CORVET Project 22nd to 24th April 2013

The fourth workshop of CORVET - Project took place in Modena in early spring. On Monday 22nd April at 3 pm we all met at Iscom Office; all partners were eager to meet each other; the atmosphere was friendly and full of expectation about the first results of the survey based on the questionnaire.

After a brief welcome by the Italian partner Francesca Barbolini, who introduced the program of the workshop, the real conference started.

Marc Beutner, the coordinator of COR-VET project introduced us in the Modena workshop giving an overview about the results of the evaluation of the workshop in London and future works.

The topic of the first afternoon of work was a short presentation on problems and chances of career orientation in the countries involved in the project.

The first slot of presentation started with the Italian partner who gave an overview on the national educational system focusing on career orientation approaches in the different phases of students life, a first step at the end of middle school, quite early, at the age of 13/14 and a second step during the last two years of secondary school age 17/18.

A great emphasis was given to the introduction of a psychologist inside secondary school in charge to supports students in the processes of growth, motivation and choice and of course to help students in career orientation.

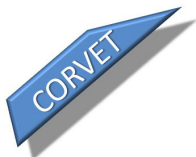
The Uk Partner Raj Pathak from European Learning Network, introduced us problems and chances in career orientation system in Uk. He first underlined that in his country, the main players are "Department of education", "Schools and Governing Bodies" and "Local authorities".

He also gave us an overview on the qualification framework with its 8 levels and the process of curriculum development.

In the final part of his presentation Raj introduced us the best used concept in UK during career interviews.

After Uk presentation, German partner Marc Beutner of Paderborn University, focused on transitional system in his country pointing out the aspects of career orientation at the beginning of their work experience. Marc underlined the difference between vocational orientation in comprehensive school and in the transition system at vocational school. A point stressed by Marc which is common to Italian reality is that often teachers in vocational schools do not have a real idea of the business situation and opportunities of the world of work.

He also pointed out the difficulties in identifying steps of individual support in the transitional system; 4 or 5 steps which can be identified are: individual self discovery, discovery of possibilities, individual opportunities and realization.



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Despite difficulties, individual support is a big opportunity to make Career orientation the more possible effective.

Approximately at 5 pm ended the first afternoon of work . After a brief passage to the Hotel the whole group was ready for the guided tour of the city center.

The appointment was at 5.15 in front of the Ducal Palace, now houses the Military Academy. The visit developed among the streets of the city center pointing out the most important monuments and places of the Modenese history like: the Jewish ghetto, the town hall and the cathedral.

The day ended with a pleasant dinner in a typical Trattoria.

The day after, 23th April, at 9 o'clock all partners met at ISCOM office.

Turkish Partner Ali Erdem from the Kirşehir Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü opened the second day of work with a long presentation describing the changes in Turkish educational system. The main change is represented by the 4+4+4 system, which means that students must attend 12 years of education between the ages of 6 and 18. In turkey direct experience is fundamental for learners who attend technical and vocational education, for this reason, internship and workplacements are considered of big importance.

Career orientation is strictly influenced by families and in the choice of the future career not only skills and interest of learners are important, but also the idea of job. This kind of difficulty is due to a cultural approach which needs a few years to be changed.

After all partners presentation, Marc and Rasmus of the Ingenious knowledge presented us the first results of COR-VET survey.

First date to underline is that gender structure is equal. Both teachers and learners involved in the survey underlined that transition from school to work is an important factor.

Learners pointed out the need to find out information on future job opportunities offered by the labour market.

In all countries participants answered that combination of practical and theoretical experiences are important.

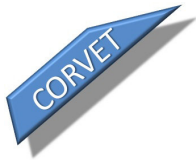
The most surprisingly result is that teachers and learners have the same needs and demands; they both need the same help in working on discovery the strength and working on weakness.

After the presentation of the results, learners and teachers started to work in 2 different slots.

The topic was discussing differences and similarities in the cor-vet countries and how the data can be used to find a common approach at a European level and which are the benefits of a common approach on career orientation.

Early in the afternoon, after a light lunch, the group had the possibility to visit 2 vocational institute; one in Modena and one in Maranello.

In both institute we met the headmasters who showed us their schools having a special look at the laboratories available for the students.



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It has been a good opportunity to have a direct and clear impression of Italian vocational education.

The third day started with a brilliant discussion on the reflection suggested by the previous 2 days of work.

Learners introduced their point of view on the importance of a common approach in career orientation.

To summarize the points of views put forward in the previous days, Marc took core elements from all approaches in the different partner countries in agreement with teachers and learners way of thinking:

- Modern didactical structure
- Individualisation / personalisation
- Advice and guidance

Starting from the survey results and the discussion among partners, the project coordinator provided others elements to reflect on waiting for the final step of Cor-Vet.

Integration of work experience, improve distant support like for example on-line counseling, implement the cooperation of the different part of the educational system are only some of the elements to work on in order to build a European common approach on Career orientation.

The workshop ended with a brief discussion on the importance of the dissemination of COR-VET survey results.

Before leaving, Marc gave us some suggestions about the future final meeting in Germany in June.

The 24 of April at 1 pm, with an amazing photo of the whole group, ended the forth Cor-Vet workshop in Italy.