



*COR-VET*  
*Career orientation*  
*in vocational education and training in*  
*Europe*

Reflections of the German partners  
Workshop 5 in Paderborn, DE

**German Reflections on the fifth COR-VET workshop  
in Paderborn, DE  
CORVET Project 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013**

From April 18<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the fifth and final workshop of COR-VET project took place in Paderborn, Germany and was organised by the Coordinator Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner and his team from the University of Paderborn (UPB).

The final workshop was divided into three days and started on 18<sup>th</sup> of June in the early afternoon after all partners arrived in the 'Technologie Park' where the offices and the meeting rooms of the UPB team are located. After UPB welcomed all partners and offered them a short refresher, Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner opened the workshop by introducing and presenting the agenda and the structure of the final COR-VET workshop in Germany. In a second step he gave a short overview on the evaluation results of the fourth COR-VET workshop that took place in Modena, Italy on April 2013. Besides he pointed out that the evaluation results could be seen as very positive, they could constitute the basis for the common approach and for the questionnaire results. Focussing the whole project the evaluations were very satisfying and helpful.

Due to the fact that several new learners and staff members from the partner institutions participated at the final COR-VET workshop Prof. Beutner gave an insight in COR-VET project consisting of an overview of the core ideas, the previous processes, the general structure and (intermediate) data of the COR-VET project as well as information about the idea of a common European career orientation approach. The common European approach should be based on the identified similarities and differences of career orientation processes in each partner country as well as on the successful discussions that took place during the COR-VET project duration. As agreed with all partners in Italy the common European approach should feature the following main characteristics:

- core elements,
- implementation characteristics and
- didactical integration.

All partners discussed the new elements which were integrated into the common European approach according to the information gained in the last working phase. The first workshop day ended at 5 pm. After the first workshop day everybody had the



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chance to explore Paderborn on their own. In the evening the German team organised a social dinner in a typical German beer garden in the heart of the traditional city center of Paderborn. The whole COR-VET group met at 7.30 pm at the beer garden and enjoyed the evening and had further discussions about the educational differences in the partner countries and interesting comments on the importance of a more European point of view in the field of career orientation. Also it could be made clear that the difference between career orientation and vocational orientation is not as big as it was seen at the beginning of the project. Therefore the evening ended with an agreement about focusing future challenges in this field also in this strong COR-VET partnership.

The second day of the workshop started at 9 am with a short welcome. Afterwards Rasmus Pechuel from Ingenious Knowledge presented the final results of the COR-VET-Survey. The data grew since the last meeting in Italy and the main results were underpinned. At first he gave general information like the distribution of gender, the total number of teachers and students and some other general socio demographic information. In the second part he presented information about transition process. The transition process focusses the steps from the educational system into the labour market and / or an apprenticeship. These details of the steps can differ between partner countries due to the fact that all countries have educational systems which are taking the special national situation under account (for some more detailed information see the presentation). He finally informed about helpful points which occurred in the survey like the function of teachers, learning methods in schools etc. Helpful point that means that the learners as well as the teachers pointed out where help is needed, not only help for the learners but also help for the teachers. In this context all partners highlighted the possibility of the survey to make visible the individual needs of the target group. After presenting the core findings of the COR-VET survey an active working phase began and for this reason partners and learners were divided in two parts, one for the learners and one for the core partners.

Part one consisted of the COR-VET core partners from each partner country and discussed and presented the benefits of the COR-VET project for their country. All agreed that COR-VET has brought many benefits, like (a) being aware of the problems in the field of career orientation, (b) focusing methods and organizational possibilities to foster learners in career orientation, (c) designing a common European approach, (d) getting useful data for future work on basis of the survey data, (e) getting insights in the different educational systems, (f) discuss different approaches in the field of coaching and career orientation and (g) get impressions about cultural differences and similarities in Europe. After that the partners shared ideas for a follow-up project which will use the results of COR-VET by the COR-VET Partners. All partners strongly agreed in the intention to continue the common cooperation, because everyone perceived the



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atmosphere as very friendly and the cooperation as intensive and fruitful. Following discussion points were lined out:

- The new Erasmus for all Program
- Ideas for something like a Transfer of Innovation project
- Ideas for something like a Development of Innovation project
- Vocational and career orientation as a topic

Also a topic list was created and the integration of needed elearning aspects was discussed. Also a first organisational plan was created to spread the work on the follow-up project between the partners. Also the need of additional partners could be seen in the discussion. Therefore all partners will start looking for institutions in various countries which fits to the project needs.

The second group, which was working meanwhile, consisted of the learners. The learners started a discussion by focusing the following questions:

- What can we learn from each other? – Discussion of the different educational systems by the learners.
- What are the benefits of working together?
- What can we learn from other systems?

After finishing the discussions in each group the learners presented their results to the group of the core COR-VET partners. The learners came to the conclusion that by working in a team they will achieve more creativity leading to more ideas and better results. This results in different opportunities and perspectives to improve the different systems. The phrase “two heads are better than one” underlines the importance and advantages of working together. Thus, more ideas and a better knowledge about the labor market in the European countries arise. Looking at things from the perspective of others can increase the probability of finding solutions for the problems in other countries and how to handle them. The learners explained that every country can learn something from the other system and therefore it is important to keep on working together.

After this presentation all partners were invited to have a lunch in the restaurant of the ‘Technologie Park’ in Paderborn. After lunchtime the UPB-team prepared a visit to Heinz-Nixdorf-Forum in Paderborn – the world largest computer science museum. There the partner could get information about the vocational requirements in Europe and especially in the region of Paderborn, where WINCOR-NIXDORF is still one of the biggest employers.



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The Italian Partners had to leave Germany very early on Thursday morning according to the travel arrangements and the flight situation. Therefore the rest of the COR-VET team had to say goodbye to the Italian team after the museum visit. In the evening a smaller group of COR-VET team met in the city center of Paderborn for a social dinner and for enjoying the evening and reviewing the common experiences since the beginning of the project. Here was a second opportunity to discuss about future challenges and the follow-up project.

The last workshop day started at 9 am with some final discussions on the project results. After that Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner summed up publication strategies, material exchanges via BSCW server and ideas about a strong partnership and a following project on the basis and fundamental findings of COR-VET project.

In a second part Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner prepared all partners for the last project phase by giving information about the final project activities and details about writing the final report.

Before the fifth workshop finally closed with a cordial goodbye a workshop evaluation and a feedback phase occurred. The Italian partners already participated in the evaluation the day before.

All partners summed up that COR-VET was a big success and created helpful results. They also emphasized that the work in COR-VET was extremely interesting and the partnership was very strong and helpful.