



Economic Educational
Territorial-Structure

Newsflash

December 2010

ET-struct

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... connecting educational-training systems to regional economies for regional stability and growth ...

ET-struct will run until the end of 2012. 17 partner institutions from CENTRAL EUROPE regions in Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and the Ukraine plan to improve the future working prospects of regional workforces. On 10th November 2010 the idea of ET-struct, first results of partner work within the starting phase of the project and next planned steps were presented to an interested audience in the Vienna House in Brussels.



The project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF.



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News from the project partner regions

Vienna / Austria

In the past six months the two ET-struct project partners in the Vienna region – the European Office of the Vienna Board of Education and the Vienna Business Agency – carried out an extensive regional research survey. Based on existing studies and online questionnaires, the survey focussed on the skills and competences that are needed for a successful vocational life as well as on the current and predicable economic situation of the Vienna region. The Vienna survey will be matched with other regional surveys carried out in the ET-struct region environment and compiled in a transnational “ET-Inventory”.

The Viennese survey showed that the region is enjoying an economic upturn.

The growing sectors are: IT-multimedia, construction, health and trade.

The survey also detected that the dynamic Viennese labour market needs and will need individuals with social skills and intercultural competence.

For the successful conclusion of our regional survey the ET-struct project team participated in scientific conferences, such as the Austrian Conference on Vocational Education and Training Research in July 2010 in Steyr and the Prague Summer Conference on IP & Innovation in September 2010.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Germany



Ministry of Economics, Labour and Tourism Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the least populated federal state in Germany. The population will drop further in the next years. The decrease of the live births, the selective out-migration of especially young people and the increase of life-span result in an especially heavy demographic change and the connected ageing of the population. The current demographic development has profound effects on both the vocational and job market. The local businesses are missing qualified skilled workers.

Both regional project partners, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and the Training and Education Centre of Trade and Industry, analysed in a first step within ET-struct the professional skills required by the labour market in the region. The following questions arise: Under the given circumstances, how can the increasing need for personnel, especially specialists and executive staff, be met in the future, which potentials have to be opened up and what have to be the contributions of politics, education and economy in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern?

Given this situation ET-struct offers the chance, in exchange with the European project partners, to set the course for the local development and it will queue into the actions already started by the Federal State Government.

Hranice / Czech Republic

The Presentation of the Secondary Schools in the Region was the most important event in Olomoucky region during the second period (July - December 2010), organised by Project Partner 5 - The City of Hranice and Project Partner 6 - The Secondary Technical School in Hranice. The presentation of the secondary schools and their curricula for the school year 2011/2012 was held on 2nd November 2010 and was followed with the presentation of the *ET-struct* project and a discussion on "how to allure the students to study in the technical fields".

The project partners in cooperation with the Labour Office Hranice arranged a special and untraditional meeting of the educative consultants of the primary schools and directors of the firms in Olomoucky region on 1st December 2010. The meeting was held in the residence of the company SSI Schäfer, one of the target institutions of *ET-struct*.



Finally The Secondary Technical School Hranice organised every Thursday and Friday in November and December 2010 project days called "The wood is our friend". These days were aimed at attracting primary schools in the region, and of course, *ET-struct* project was presented there, too. The following discussion was intended to exchange information about interest of the students in technical branches and students' possibilities to assert themselves on the labour market.

Lower Silesian / Poland

The first regional workshops took place in the Lower Silesian Center for Vocational Information and Teacher Training in Wałbrzych on 12th of July 2010. The aim was to present methodology of researches and presentation of assumptions and priorities in the project *ET-struct*. The workshops were addressed to local authorities, business and education representatives. Among the participants there was Zbigniew Szczygieł – member of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship management. During this meeting Project Partner 9 presented ideas of how to make changes in the system of education functioning, provide proper information flow on the needs of labour market between schools/universities and business representatives to enable adjustment of education specializations for needs of local labour market.

Project Partner Expert, Marek Gawroń, carried out a regional survey on education and how it respects needs of local labour market. It turned out that ca. 40% of graduates remain unemployed, for a number of reasons – further education, courses, training or unemployment. A large number of graduates fails to satisfy their education expectation - 15% expressed the opinion that if given a second chance, they would choose different school. Project Partner 9 as first partner in the project prepared report from the researches.

South-East Slovenia

In the second half of 2010 the two partners from South-East Slovenia have compiled the Regional Survey which showed that for the future regional development and growth education needs to be further adapted to the region's demands. Throughout the regional analysis, the partners contacted various stakeholders and target groups and collected around 180 questionnaires over training / education demand and offer.

It became evident that the region's vision to become a knowledge based society can only be pursued by stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation as well as encouraging and promoting the lifelong learning as the key to sustainable development. In this sense education needs to pay more attention to the development of general and soft skills such as creativity, multicultural communication, responsible and critical thinking, relational skills etc.

The next major step of *ET-struct* in SE Slovenia will be to present the results to the regional companies, education institutions and policy makers and discuss possible learning modules development within the Regional Workshop in February 2011.

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Modena / Italy

On 25 and 26 November 2010 an ET-struct project meeting was held in Modena with experts from the 17 European project partners from 7 different regions in Central Europe. The meeting took place in the headquarters of CNA Modena and Modena Formazione. The participants discussed the results of the surveys in the partner regions: the professional needs of companies and analysed the training needs and needed skills for new jobs. In a second step they structured the contents of a training plan to be implemented in all partner regions. ET-struct will develop and test a "platform" in the next months to train workers in different regional contexts.



Veneto / Italy

By means of the ET-struct project, the Veneto system of education and work started an important process of analysis of the gap between the educational offer and the professional skills required by the labour market. The Veneto Region, which has already made other similar studies, strongly believes in this opportunity. In this period of deep employment crisis it is strategic to think the best way to use the results of the analysis to create appropriate training policies. The public meeting which took place in Venice and the regional research on training needs were the most important activities of this first year of work. Entrepreneurial organisations, trade unions, universities, the ministry of education, business schools, training organisations, and institutions representing the social economy participated at the public meeting of the 23 July 2010. These institutions made an assessment of current initiatives and they found out that the educational sector should correspond better to changes and needs of the business activities. The research confirms this need in Veneto.

Despite the decrease of people in employment, it is still difficult to find someone with suitable professional skills. In general, the training activity should be more focused on cross skills educational methods to give people the knowledge to solve real problems. The comparison with the other countries experiences is helpful for this purpose.

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Concept, text and content:	Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin – ET-struct Partner 3 and regional project partners
Design and layout:	Frank Ackermann

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