Coaching skills for teachers to foster Entrepreneurship

Innovative entrepreneurship is vital to both enterprises and countries that need to transform new ideas rapidly into commercial success in order to maintain growth, competitiveness and jobs. Small businesses account for 99% of Europe’s companies and approximately two-thirds of employment.

The overall objectives of this project are to increase the skills and competences of teachers and trainers involved in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation amongst their students; teachers also have to learn how to deal with the changing global marketplace and to ‘think outside the box’.

Coaching skills are a useful method of engagement and retention and excellent professional development for the teachers and trainers.

What is this project all about?

This Leonardo Transfer of Innovation Project started in October 2010 and will run for 2 years. There are six partners (vocational and educational organisations from UK, Spain, Germany, Finland and Hungary and also EfVET, a pan-European network of institutions) and two social partners who are business associations (UK and Spain). Switzerland have also joined as a silent partner.

Two courses will be created; course 1 is the entre-coach teacher course, where 12 entre-coach teachers will be taught coaching, innovation and entrepreneurial skills (the train-the-trainer course); course 2 will be delivered as a pilot in 4 countries, creating 40 entre-coaches, who will have better knowledge of the skills needed in fostering future entrepreneurs and will also be able to transfer these skills within their organisation, with the aim to coach existing or new business people and budding entrepreneurs.

Two former projects are being transferred: ‘Guiding from School to Work’ and ‘MINT – Innovation Management’.

PORVOO WORKS @ PORVOO CAMPUS March 2011

The ‘Porvoo Works’ event, which was organized for the first time this spring gathered over 450 participants at Porvoo’s new Campus in various workshops.

This event that unites young people and working life was arranged by a student group of 23 people from HAAGA-HELIA and Laurea Universities of Applied Sciences along with about 70 representatives from the world of work.

A two-hour long professional adventure was held for the high school second-graders, during which time the students got acquainted with various professions, got to peek into the secret world of titles and develop their job search skills. Porvoo Campus students took part in the entrepreneurial adventure in which 13 entrepreneurs in the area offered entrepreneurial stories and tastings.

The Wellbeing-day was spent in different workshops where participants could zumba, experience a moment of quiet serenity, dance and laugh. At the Café Square, Campus staff and students could enjoy a relaxing massage in Hermion’s Päivi.
Lipponen’s caring hands, and delicious and healthy smoothies made according to nutrition expert Olli Llander’s recipes. Campus staff and students also practiced their first aid skills with the guidance of the Finnish Red Cross.

Porvoo Works in numbers:
- 300 adventurers from Linnankosken lukio and Borgå Gymnasium
- 50 participants in the wellness workshops
- 105 entrepreneurial adventurers
- 70 working life representatives
- 300 learning style tests
- 600 cups of coffee
- 900 portions of soft ice
- 100 berry smoothies

Profile of our Spanish Partner

Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierri

Txoria in the Basque Language means bird. The College is located in the Valley of Txorierri, Bizkaia, about 15 kms from the Centre of Bilbao – the regional capital. The Centre was founded in 1979; there are 350 full time students Vocational Training Courses and 50, 16-17 year olds studying for their school leavers bachelor certificate.

P.I. Txorierri is a Cooperative offering various vocational courses and was the first private training centre in the Basque Country to receive the Golden Q Certification for Quality management.

Internationalisation and Mobility

P.I.T. has taken on quite an international focus in the past few years. As part of the HETEL Association which is an association of 22 private training centres in the Basque Country, Txorierri is able to promote the mobility of a large number of the students. Around 10 % of second year VET students go on overseas work placements each year with Erasmus and Leonardo scholarships.

Entrepreneurship

The Basque Department of Education together with other stakeholders such as the regional government and savings banks have been supporting and promoting entrepreneurship in VET in the region for the last 10 years. The aim is to support the social and economic development of the Basque Country by “kindling” entrepreneurial spirit in VET students and helping them develop their ideas. In Txorierri Entrepreneurship is stimulated in various ways:

Urratsbat Project: Urratsbat in Basque literally means seed or hotbed. All final year students receive a talk on entrepreneurship. They work on a pre-project with their tutor and the external consultant (Gaztempresa) that helps the entrepreneur make viability plans. The school becomes a business incubator and offers the college facilities and technical resources where possible or necessary.

EJE project: EJE in Spanish means axis and stands for Empresa Joven Europea, Youth European Company. VET students create and manage a company that has a commercial relationship with similar companies in other schools.

Worklan: Worklan (Txorierri’s Social Partner in the Entrecoach Project) is an association comprising 5 Vocational Training Centres in the Greater Bilbao area which promotes the creation of cooperative companies among students and former students. Belén Varela, the Association Manager, gives regular talks in Txorierri to inform about and promote the option of self employment. The association also accompanies entrepreneurs in sourcing technical support and financing, making viability plans, finding premises etc.

Entrepreneurial Day: The School organises an event to promote entrepreneurship among students. There are different activities such as talks by former students who became entrepreneurs, games, quizzes and awards for the best business ideas.

New compulsory Modules in all VET courses:
- Empresa e Iniciativa Empresarial (Entrepreneurship) - all the students have a 60-hour module, working on practical projects using the EJE methodology.
- FOL: Training and Counselling for work - 8 hours of the module are devoted to work on entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Institutional Self Employment Courses: Each year Txorierri hosts a course by the Basque Govt. and part European funded, for 12 persons who wish to set up a business, covering the major areas of business competences.

www.entre-coach.eu
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