



SUPREME is developed by a varied and strong partnership where 4 VETs, EU VET association, SME associations and policy makers work together to increase the cooperation between VETs and the world of work. www.supreme-mentoring.eu

Prevention of Early School dropout: mentoring for youth in Europe

MentorProgramma Friesland is the lead partner in a project of the Leonardo da Vinci 'Transfer of Innovation' fund. The project is called SUPREME, an acronym for **S**uccessful **P**revention of **E**arly drop-outs through **M**entoring. MentorProgramma Friesland collaborates in this ambitious project with organizations from six different countries. In the period of 2012-2014, VET-institutions, along with local and regional European governments and businesses will get to know all about mentoring.

Unqualified school dropouts in vocational education are a big issue in Europe. Mentoring contributes greatly to the prevention of early school dropout. Due to the support of socially and professionally successful citizens and mature students in higher education, young students learn to make conscious choices which will have positive effects on their self-development.

SUPREME

SUPREME explores the possibilities of transferring this mentoring methodology to other countries. MentorProgramma Friesland accomplishes this in collaboration with Inqubator Leeuwarden, VET institutions from Finland, Portugal and Lithuania, the Turkish Ministry of Education, a Business Innovation Centre from Italy and a Belgian network of VET-Institutions. SUPREME develops a practical handbook that describes the mentoring programme and how to run it, how to find and bind world of work mentors and how to implement it in long-term strategy. The central question is: what are the key success factors of a mentoring programme?

In each participating country, some important issues are investigated, such as the facts about early school dropout, mentoring and cultural and economic aspects. This is essential to create mentoring programmes comparable to MentorProgramma Friesland as well as being locally implementable, suiting the individual country's needs.

Mentoring as applied by Supreme

Mentoring is an instrument with a broad variety of implementations in the society. It is a form of coaching and networking and makes an essential contribution to the growth and success of young people. Mentoring provides recognition and acknowledgement. It provides role modelling, stimulus and personal attention to the participants. They achieve their goals faster when they feel supported and encouraged by someone who has travelled a similar path before. Young people make use of the success strategies of the mentor. The strength of mentoring lies in the fact that all parties benefit from it. The mentee gains confidence and has the feeling of not standing alone. The mentor develops skills as a leader, trainer and coach.

Mentoring brings an additional encouragement for participating youth to realise their career ambitions and life aspirations. If students lack a positive role model and personal attention in their existing private network, a mentor can help with dilemmas in the field of personal leadership, education or career. A mentor has the role of counsellor, guide, coach, teacher and sponsor.

These role models are a key factor for success. Due to the mentoring relationship, young people learn to see that study and work belong to real possibilities. They become motivated to continue rather than to give up. They make conscious decisions for their future.

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Supreme Partners

MentorProgramma Friesland Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Mentoring is a globally well-known tool for schools, businesses and organisations to guide people to their success. In the province of Friesland in The Netherlands, mentoring was introduced in 1997 as an extracurricular method of cooperation between education and the business world.

MentorProgramma Friesland provides additional guidance to young people in vocational education, by the support of role models. Partners and educational stakeholders are: VET Friesland College, VET Friese Poort, NHL University of Applied Sciences and Stenden University of Applied Sciences. Besides these main partners, there is cooperation with pre-vocational and general schools, industry, commercial networks, welfare and government in the region. It is a preventative programme that cannot be used as a problem-solving method. The basic principle is that the student has a learning need that can only be answered by an external personal mentor. The programme searches for the best match between supply (learning goal of the student) and demand (unique experience of the mentor).

Inqubator Leeuwarden Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Inqubator Leeuwarden is a place where people can start up their own enterprise. Inqubator Leeuwarden supports start-up entrepreneurs and opens its network for their benefit. All different kinds of people enter: students, women, unemployed people, etc. Focus of Inqubator Leeuwarden is on helping starting companies to firmly establish their business and to help them maximize their growth over a maximum period of four years. To this end, Inqubator Leeuwarden offers own office space and shared office facility in which (student)start-ups can work on their business model can get advice on how they should proceed in the development of their business and follow all kinds of workshops. Inq Lwd has an extensive network of SMEs and is very well connected to banks, venture capitalists, (pre-) seed funds, business angels and the public sector and gives the start-up companies advice on how to obtain these kinds of financial support. Inqubator Leeuwarden coaches start-up companies in areas of sales, marketing, intellectual property, accountancy etc.

Salpaus Further Education Lahti, Finland

Salpaus Further Education arranges vocational and upper-secondary school education and training for comprehensive school leavers and adults together with training, development and related services for businesses and organisations. The number of VET and further training students exceeds 19 000 per annum of whom 4 880 strive for a vocational qualification and more than 200 for an upper-secondary school diploma. One of the objectives defined by the Lahti Educational Consortium is to provide education for the whole generation in the area. Therefore special emphasis is, for example, placed on ways to promote student involvement and increase student success rate. Salpaus is a strong example of the well developed Finnish educational system that is based on openness and internationalisation. Salpaus is a front runner on cooperation with SMEs and other innovative ways to (in the end) get good student results.

ETIC Technical School of Image and Communication

Lisbon, Portugal

ETIC is a professional & technical school providing training in the areas of Image and Communication: Animation; Graphic Design; Equipment Design; Photography; Multimedia and Video/Audio. As a professional school, we provide 3-year courses, fully recognized by the Ministry of Education and corresponding to secondary education. After having successfully accomplished the course, students may choose either to take in a high degree in an University or begin their professional (technical) career. As a technical school, we provide 1 or 2 year courses, recognized by the Ministry of Labour. These courses aim at providing or enlarging technical expertise of students, most of them already working in the chosen area and are required to have accomplished secondary education. Since 2000, ETIC has received as host partner: students, teachers, VET professionals from Denmark, Belgium, Italy, Turkey, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Estonia, Slovenia and Finland in many EU projects.

Kaunas vocational training centre of social services and construction business specialists (KSM)

Kaunas, Lithuania

KSM is a VET institution that qualify skilled workers. It provides quality initial, continuing vocational and general secondary education that satisfies the requirements of up-to-date professional activities and changes of the competitive labor market. The training is provided according to 23 licensed training programs. KSM was founded in 1986. Nowadays KSM has 77 teachers and over 1000 pupils. Most of them in the fields of: decorator; masonry and concrete worker; joiner; building restorer; provider of construction business services; building thermal insulator; furniture maker; social nurse. 300 of the pupils have special needs, they follow studies like: decorator, joiner, weaver, light clothes tailor, cook, foot-wear mender. KSM has experience in LdV, Grundtvig & ESF projects. A previous LdV Partnership involved the "dropping out" thematic "Innovative approaches against dropping out in VET".

Bursa Provincial Directorate of National Education

Bursa, Turkey

Bursa Provincial Directorate of National Education, headed by the Ministry of National Education, is a legal authority which is responsible for the educational issues in the region. All education activities of 21.000 teachers and 530.000 students in 850 educational institutions are within our institution's scope of work. Though special priority is given to schools, our directorate takes an active part in forming education policy while implementing projects for different people involved in education including teachers, adults and adult trainers as well as education providers in general. In addition, with seminars, conferences and in-service training courses, it has gained experience in creating training programme materials in the field of management, self-evaluation, ICT, Total Quality Management, Leadership and Democracy Education. In addition to a Head Director, there are 10 co-directors and a staff of 260 who work in this institution.

FI.L.S.E S.p.A.

Genova, Italy

FI.L.S.E., is a joint-stock company, in which the majority shareholder is the Liguria Regional Government, with minor shares distributed among the four Liguria Provinces and regional capitals, the Liguria Chambers of Commerce, and the Liguria Port Authorities. As operating arm of the Regional Government for the execution of its economic and social policy, FI.L.S.E. coordinates, organizes and manages financial and professional resources in order to support the economic and social development of the Liguria territory. FI.L.S.E. supports the local development of domestic companies and in the meantime FI.L.S.E supports internationalization, promoting the competitiveness of the Liguria production network.

EfVET European Foundation for Vocational Education and training

Brussels, Belgium

EfVET is a unique European-wide professional association which has been created by and for providers of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in all European countries. Its mission is to champion and enrich technical and vocational education and training through transnational co-operation by building a pan-European network of institutions and practitioners. EfVET aims to:

- promote quality and innovation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training throughout Europe;
- develop collaboration, mutual co-operation and sharing of good practice;
- give VET institutes a platform of influence in EU policy.

EfVET has over 200 members in almost all the EU member states and has direct links to other European organisations including EUCIS, EVTA, EUA, Solidar, CSR, Workers Education Association (Europe) and the Youth Forum.