



Project information

Project name: Designing and implementing a dual Bachelor's degree study course with integral attainment of a Bachelor's and Master's degree

Abbreviation: Bachelor & Meister

Project ID: 2017-1-DE01-KA203-003531

Programme: Erasmus+, Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

Responsible authority: National Agency at the German Academic Exchange Service / Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)

Project duration: 01.09.2017 – 31.08.2020, 36 months

Project summary

In all EU countries there is a clear, rapidly growing shortage of leading personnel and skilled workers in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that strongly restricts their growth. At the same time vocational education and training (VET) is often perceived as a dead end of professional career and not considered as an equivalent alternative to academic pathway. In many EU countries like Poland, Latvia or Lithuania this development has been observed for decades, and the proportion of young people deciding for vocational training or studies is about 1/3 to 2/3. In individual EU countries, e.g. in Germany, a substantial proportion of young entrepreneurs are attracted to vocational training, in particular to the master craftsman training. However, recent developments show that it has been changing to the detriment of VET.

The master craftsman qualification is classified at the same qualification level of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) as the academic Bachelor's degree. However, this does not have any practical effects so the permeability between VET systems and academic sector is modest. As a rule, competences acquired in the master craftsman training are not recognized for study programs. Moreover, the master craftsman qualification is only limited recognised internationally.

The professionals with master craftsman qualification have practical and theoretical knowledge and skills, and professional experience but they lack competences in business management and leadership to manage a company successfully.

In SMEs, practical experience and professional knowledge are essential to manage a company. Since many university graduates lack these competences, SMEs can only in some cases attract future leaders from this group of graduates. Therefore, relevant competences in professional practice and theory as well as professional knowledge should be an object of study courses.

To improve the current situation the project develops dual Bachelor's study courses that combine two degrees: the academic Bachelor's and the master craftsman qualification, and thus the project goals are to:

- increase relevance and quality as well as improving competencies and knowledge in the parts of the master craftsman training program and in the parts of the Bachelor's degree;
- transfer relevant professional skills and practical experience through the dual study approach;
- contribute to the overcoming shortage of entrepreneurs in SMEs;



- ensure Bologna-compliant study courses with full international recognition;
- contribute to the EU agenda for the modernization of Europe's higher education systems;
- increase the attractiveness of vocational education and training;
- promote permeability by reducing recognition problems.

The direct target groups of the project are young persons qualified for higher education entrance, students, skilled workers and SMEs as training partners. Further beneficiaries are universities/universities of applied sciences/colleges, chambers of crafts, industry and commerce and VET decision makers.

The project is carried out by 6 experienced partners from Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Finland and is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. The timeframe is from September 2017 until end of August 2020, i.e. a duration of three years.

Moreover, 50 chambers and 18 universities/universities of applied sciences/colleges of 13 countries as transfer partners are involved in the work and informed about the project progress.

The project delivers five products that are available for everyone's use:

- blueprint models and concepts for integral dual study courses,
- modules' manual for the study course in construction,
- modules' manual for study course in electrical engineering,
- integral examination regulations for master craftsman training and Bachelor's degree and
- handbook of all project results.