

## **Experiences of Zespół Szkół Odzieżowych from Poznań, Poland.**

International project - "Transfer of QUALITY GUIDELINES" - co-funded by European Union within the "LEONARDO DA VINCI – Innovation Transfer" framework is reaching its finish line at the end of September 2013. Over two-year-long participation in it allows Zespół Szkół Odzieżowych from Poznań, Poland for recapitulation and drawing some final conclusions. This period of time was for the school an excellent opportunity to look closer at the quality of management in the organization. It also gave us remarkable chance to share our so far knowledge on the subject with interested parties. The aim of the project was to popularize QUALITY GUIDELINES and to exchange experiences concerning management with other educational organizations, plus to check QUALITY GUIDELINES and accompanying Compendium in practice.

Workshops organized by our school created a wonderful occasion to propagate the content of the GUIDELINES. The first one was co-organized with partners from ZSiPKZ from Zielona Góra and representatives of RKW Berlin – project coordinators. The event took place on 26th Oct. 2012. We invited directors from schools in Poznań and presented them own experiences collected in our strive to improve quality of management - the crowning effect of which was gaining ISO 29 990:2010 norm certificate. We introduced QUALITY GUIDELINES and asked listeners to give their opinions about the content of the third edition. Thanks to participation of RKW Berlin representatives - Ms Katarzyny Łój and Mr Thomas Rau - we could conduct a thorough analysis of gathered remarks and the conclusions we drew were coined into better performance during the second workshop in Zielona Góra, that took place on 23rd Nov. 2012.

On 1st Mar. 2013, together with ZSiPKZ, we organized a conference for teachers from various regions of Poland, participating at the same time in All Poland Competition for Young Tailors and Designers "Small Loop" in our school. We had this special opportunity to show school's activities to representatives of various vocational schools from all over Poland. Gathered partakers were genuinely interested in QUALITY GUIDELINES ideas. Many of them asked detailed questions about the procedures of the norm implementation. We were pleased to hear positive opinions about good organizational work around the contest and the conference. We succeeded greatly thanks to the practical usage of QUALITY GUIDELINES as well as experiences collected while preparing and conducting previous workshops. Smooth course of the contest proved successful cooperation of all members of the staff of the school and effective communication. Such an important endeavour did not interrupt ongoing didactical process in the school due to proper management of school resources (rooms, equipment etc.) and good classes organization.

We do not limit ourselves only to borders of Poland while performing our project activities. We transmitted content of QUALITY GUIDELINES to befriended school in Georgia, western Europe. Even soon in September this year school delegation of students accompanied by Ms Joanna Turkiewicz is going to Kutaisi, where during a conference she will present benefits of QUALITY GUIDELINES incorporation into a managerial works. We hope this way we can make educational organizations in Georgia interested in ISO 29 990: 2010 quality norm.

Such richness of activities connected with QUALITY GUIDELINES encouraged us to create a multimedia presentation showing school's experiences from participation in the previous and present Leonardo project. We introduced it to the school staff during our work meeting on 30th Aug.2013. It was especially valid to new teachers and teachers from junior secondary division Nr1, which has become part of our school only last year.

Participation in Leonardo QuaG project let us elevate our own consciousness of the need of non-stop quality aspiration in the field of education. We have observed that realization of project tasks intensifies staff engagement in life long improvement of own work and better understanding of necessity to improve the level of educational services. It is of uttermost importance in current demographical situation in Poland and all the time more competitive educational market. ZSO's participation in the project was also an occasion to cooperate with partners from other countries and learn their experiences in QUALITY GUIDELINES application in management. Moreover, we were aware we could collaborate within a frame of European Union to work out unified standard for educational organization management with respect to national specifics.

During project's life all participating partners did their best to analyze and give remarks so that improved version of QUALITY GUIDELINES and examined Compendium could be published in their fourth edition. For our school the time spend on editing these texts resulted in even better understanding of the meaning of quality management and the sense of continual work on improving it. Project participation gave us a chance to better processes, taking place, and engagement of the staff in them. We are especially proud that our remarks found place in fourth improved edition of QUALITY GUIDELINES and Compendium and that they will help improve quality of vocational education and training in Europe.

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