

Industry Mentoring in Vocational Education An asset to society

Real life is immensely more complicated than even the best textbooks can relate. Therefore the SUPREME mentoring programme will match a student to a mentor. With the help of socially responsible citizens, students find their way in life, in their studies and in their career.

Research has shown that mentorship:

- ✓ Empowers Adolescents
- ✓ Creates Bridging Social Capital
- ✓ Contributes to the Prevention of School Drop Out
- ✓ Prevents Youth Unemployment

“Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember.
Involve me and I understand.” S. Goodlad

**Contact details SUPREME Mentoring
team Holland**

Email: mpf@fcroc.nl

Website: www.supreme-mentoring.eu

Find out more about the
mentor programme?

Contact the SUPREME Mentoring Team



Mentorship is a personal developmental relationship in which a more experienced and more knowledgeable person (mentor) helps to guide a less experienced and less knowledgeable person (mentee). The mentor has the role of counselor, guide, coach, teacher and sponsor.

- A mentor acts as a role model.
- A mentor is a social responsible citizen



Mentoring is not a one way street. It is not intended to only create positive outcomes for adolescents. The principle of reciprocity applies: a mentor also learns from his mentee.

The key advantage of mentoring for society are:

1. **Empowering Adolescents.** Research results show that mentoring stimulates the intellectual and emotional development of adolescents by increasing their school skills, social skills, self esteem and social networks. Having a mentor helps students to:
 - Build a network
 - Develop their talent
 - Connect to the labour market
 - Develop their self-esteem
 - Empower themselves
 - Obtain a professional identity
 - Integrate into society
 - Make conscious decisions
 - Obtain a perception of the corporate world
 - Feel social responsibility
 - Develop their problem solving abilities
 - Recognize opportunities in the industry and in real life
2. **Bridging Social Capital.** One speaks of Bridging Social Capital when collective or economic benefits are derived from the connections that are made between two different social groups. Mentoring creates tolerance, trust and understanding between the different generations and different social groups. Mutual understanding and respect is

Role models **Mentoring** Networking

created by the sharing of life experiences.

- 3. Helps Prevent School Drop Out.** Mentoring has proven to contribute to the reduction of school drop out in VET. Due to the mentoring relationship, the mentees 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.
- 4. Youth Unemployment.** Mentoring prevents youth unemployment by strengthening the network of adolescents.
- 5. Active Citizenship.** A mentor is not a paid professional but a volunteer. Mentoring stimulates active citizenship. The results show that 35% of the mentors involved in the Dutch mentoring program have never done volunteering before their mentorship. In the Netherlands, mentor projects are pioneers in stimulating volunteer work. Social issues can be (partly) solved with civil commitment instead of over reliance on professionals.



Find out more about the mentor program? Contact our SUPREME mentoring team.

Contact details SUPREME mentoring team Holland

Mentorprogramma Friesland
P.O Box 45
8900 AA Leeuwarden
The Netherlands

T: +31 58 284 2547

E: mpf@fcroc.nl

W: www.supreme-mentoring.eu



www.supreme-mentoring.eu

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