

Unit 3: Application

4 Internationalisation in VET

Internationalisation in vocational education and training

Transcript:

What does internationalisation of vocational education and training mean and why is it important?

Vocational education and training prepares young persons for the world of work and this world of work has changed rapidly the past decades. Globalisation is leading to a constantly growing internationalisation at work.

Companies operate globally and cooperate across borders but also changes in society brought on by migration and technological changes influence the working life, enforcing communication and interaction between people with different cultural backgrounds.

Vocational education and training has to contribute considerably to preparing prospective qualified personnel for globalisation.

This includes foreign language skills, intercultural competences and also other key competences like team work, a certain independence and the ability to act autonomously in the occupational field, to make decisions and take over responsibility.

Engaging in transnational mobility contributes to developing these competences.

But there is more needed than taking part in European and international projects. Having a clear strategy on internationalization will support and give direction to international

activities, and will be of added value for the whole organisation, its learners and staff as well as the regional labour market.

Your Internationalisation Strategy also plays a great role in the application process for a mobility project. When applying for an Erasmus+ accreditation you are asked to attach strategic documents.

They are not mandatory but give useful context to explain your objectives in the programme, especially if you plan to apply for larger amounts of financial support or a large number of participants.

An internationalisation strategy is the most relevant type of document that you can include.

Developing such a strategy is a challenging task. The guide “Strength from International Cooperation” from the Finnish National Board of Education has developed a strategy model that will help you in designing your European Development Plan or Internationalisation Strategy.

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It asks for mission, core skills and values with questions like:

- How is EU-and international cooperation present in the mission?
- What are the internationalisation core skills/competences of your organisation?

How are the core values of your organisation reflected in the EU-and international cooperation, or if not at all, how could they be?

The Operating environment is illuminated with questions about

- Changes in the operating environment
- Future profession and skills demands
- National and EU-strategies

It asks for the vision:

- What kind of a VET-organisation would you want to be 2020 or 2030? – How can you be more qualitative? More competitive? Possibly also more international, and what does that really mean?

Strategic Goals should be addressed with questions like:

- How is EU-and international cooperation reflected in the strategic goals of the institution?
- What are your central operational areas that need development?

What long term goals (whole strategy period, normally 3-4 years) should be set for the EU and international cooperation, so that the organisational vision can be reached?

All this at the end should lead to an Action plan:

- What are your short term goals and are there possible milestones during the year? With short term goals we speak about a period of around 1 year.
- What are the concrete actions in short term, which would help in achieving the strategic goals?

Are there any possible alternative actions (if needed)?

Where do you get the resources in terms of staff but also the contacts and partners and the necessary know-how and competences? How is it financed?

Many questions, many possible answers – we recommend you to establish a team at your school or organisation and start with some brainstorming.

To compile an internationalisation strategy certainly is a challenging task but it will help you with all further activities.

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