



Job Orientation Training in Businesses and Schools in Romania

EVALUATING ONE'S OWN COMPETENCES AND GETTING TO KNOW THE WORLD OF EMPLOYMENT IN ROMANIA



Jobs in my vicinity: After having conducted their own research, the students enter the results into the terrain map.

The project called *Job Orientation Training in Businesses and Schools (JOBS)* combines two systems: the school system with that of the job market. The programme prepares students in their final year at the classical upper secondary school and those in their first year at votech middle schools to be better able to evaluate their own competences and become acquainted with the real working world. The objective is for the students to thus obtain information on the job opportunities open to them and increase their chances of embarking on the course of professional training that is best suited for them.

Even in Romania, the worldwide trend to study at university is clearly evident. Together with all of the consequences of political and economic transition, this has led to a shortage of highly skilled professionals on the job market. The JOBS project aims to counter this trend. The Romanian Ministry of Education and the International Projects in Education (IPE) Centre at the Zurich University of Teacher Education (PH Zurich) have – together with the support of the University of Bucharest – developed an educational concept meant to serve, at one and the same time, both

the needs of the economy in this newly emerging EU Member State and the life prospects and professional aspirations of the younger generation. In order for the economy to further develop and keep in pace with the European market, Romania requires – other than the indispensable academic community – first and foremost well trained specialized workers and technical experts.

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN ONE'S OWN CAPACITIES AND THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

The innovative JOBS training project integrates the requirements of the job market as a transversal theme within the school subjects taught at primary school. This approach ensures that all pupils establish direct contact with the real job market on their own during their compulsory schooling, and thereby also forge a link between the job market and their formal training. These jointly developed teaching materials combined with an innovative learning approach serve to facilitate gaining a realistic insight into what the job market looks like within the vicinity of the participating schools.

ORGANISING JOB RESEARCH ON ONE'S OWN AND GATHERING INFORMATION

Within the frame of the JOBS course, the students autonomously search for job offers in their vicinity and establish contact with companies. Working in teams of two, they independently plan, conduct and evaluate an active and comprehensive job survey within these companies. As for the companies, they receive information about the JOBS programme in advance so that, little by little, local networks are set up between the world of employment and the school. Regional programme supervisors maintain and expand this business network, periodically extend invitations to those interested, and arrange opportunities for meetings and events.



Reflection and discussion:
Working in the classroom,
students become acquainted
with their own competence
profile.

In addition, the teachers go through a targeted specialized training programme enabling them to advise young students on how to analyse their individual strengths, while honing their own didactic skills and enhancing their knowledge of the needs of the working world.

JOBS AS A CRUCIAL CONNECTOR

Thanks to intensive cooperation with the Ministry of National Education, an expansion of the project is being carefully planned from Brasov to other regions of the country. A parallel research study will demonstrate within the coming years the impact that the programme has had. Even now, teachers have already begun to speak about a change in teaching methods and the growing self-confidence of the students.

JOBS holds forth the potential of pointing out in an exemplary manner not only the link missing throughout all of Europe between the all-too-isolated world of formal compulsory education and the real and rapidly changing world of employment, but also the way in which to reestablish this link. In this way, Switzerland's long-standing efforts to communicate its dual professional-training system is ideally promoted and complemented. Other countries in the region have already voiced their keen interest and are attentively observing how the JOBS programme in Romania evolves.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Website of the Centre for International Projects in Education

www.phzh.ch/ipe

Website of the Ministry of National Education

www.edu.ro/index.php

Website of the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education Development

www.tvet.ro

Website of the University of Bucharest

www.unibuc.ro

Website of the JOBS programme

www.jobsproject.ro

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

THEME

Job orientation training for students in Romanian schools with focus on the demands of the job market

COUNTRY

Romania

PARTNERS

Ministry of National Education (MNE) and the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education Development (NCTVETD)
 University of Bucharest
 Technical College Transilvania
 Gymnasium No. 25

CURRENT SITUATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

European development and Romania's accession to the European Union have changed the job-market outlook for young people. Schools and professional training approaches must also adapt to this new situation. In the future, an increasing number of qualified workers will be required along with the ability to apply their theoretical and practical competences and skills in a number of diverse professional and daily-life situations.

PURPOSE

The project helps young people find their entry into the employment market and to become better acquainted with their own competences. The creation of a network of companies and a targeted information strategy help the doors of prospective employers to open more easily.

ACTIVITIES

The project makes it possible to develop and subsequently utilise an entire range of teaching materials. Teaching staff are specially trained and individually supported, and use an e-learning platform to delve into the themes of job-orientation training and student-focused teaching.

TARGET GROUPS

Students in the final stage of upper secondary school and at the beginning of studies at vo-tech schools are the direct beneficiaries. However, teaching staff at all of the participating schools also profit from a qualified and certified course of specialised training.

COSTS

Overall project costs: CHF 2.35 million;
 Swiss contribution: CHF 2 million

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

International Projects in Education (IPE) Centre at the Zurich University of Teacher Education

DURATION

2012–2016

CONTACT

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SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION
 December 2013

www.contribution-enlargement.admin.ch