

Izglītības un zinātnes
ministrija

The role of inter-institutional co-operation to promote work-based learning

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EU Erasmus+ program supported project

National Authorities for Apprenticeships: Implementing Work Based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (WBL-Balt)



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EU Erasmus+ project «National Authorities for Apprenticeships: Implementing Work Based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (WBL-Balt)»

Project duration – December 2014 – November 2016

Project partners

- The Ministry of Education and Science (LV)
- Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LV)
- The Ministry of Education and Science (LT)
- Foundation Innove (EE)

Affiliated partners

- Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre (LT)
- National Education centre (LV)
- Free trade Union Association (LV)



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Work-based learning (WBL) – a high level VET priority in Latvia

Policy context VS Actual labour market demand

Latvian VET policy context

- Education Policy Guidelines 2014 – 2020 – LV context

European VET policy context

- Riga Conclusions – WBL as one of the medium- term deliverables

Actual labour market demand

- Skilled flexible labour force needed
- How to achieve the optimal result with **effective co-operation and reasonable/adequate input from the involved stakeholders?**





Ministry of
Education and Science
Republic of Latvia

Initial activities in WBL in Latvia - retrospectively

- **Since 2012/2013** there have been ongoing discussions at various levels between Latvia and various co-operation partners (including international) on the implementation of the WBL in the Latvian vocational education and training (VET) system
- **In 2013 the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) invited 6 VET institutions to consider participation in WBL pilot project;**
- In academic year **2013/2014 and 2014/2015 academic years limited number of VET institutions** took part in the implementation of the **WBL pilot project**
- The results of the implementation of the WBL pilot project has **served as a basis for further WBL developments in Latvia**



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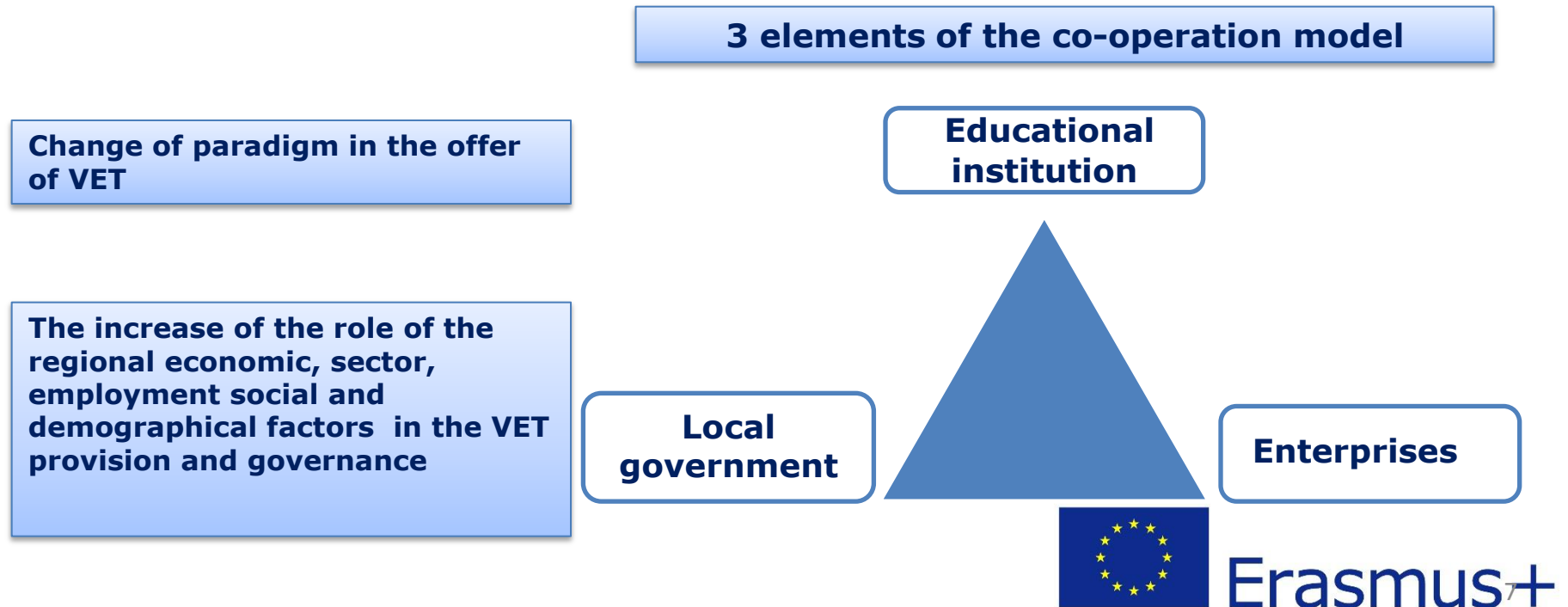
How to proceed?
Which partners to involve?



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WBL: Co-operation

- The legal basis for the implementation of WBL is **tri-lateral agreement (contract)** between the VET institution, the learner (student) and the particular enterprise offering the practical training
- The VET institutions in co-operation with enterprises develop **general selection criteria** and the tri-lateral agreement.
- The task of the enterprise is to develop the **specific selection criteria** for the applicants



Involvement of various stakeholders

An important challenge – how to coordinate the interests of various ministries and other stakeholders?

Ministries of Education, Employment, Economy, Finances, Agriculture and other.

Social Partners – Employers' Confederation of Latvia, Free Trade Union Association

Professional Associations and organisations

Sector expert Councils (SECs)

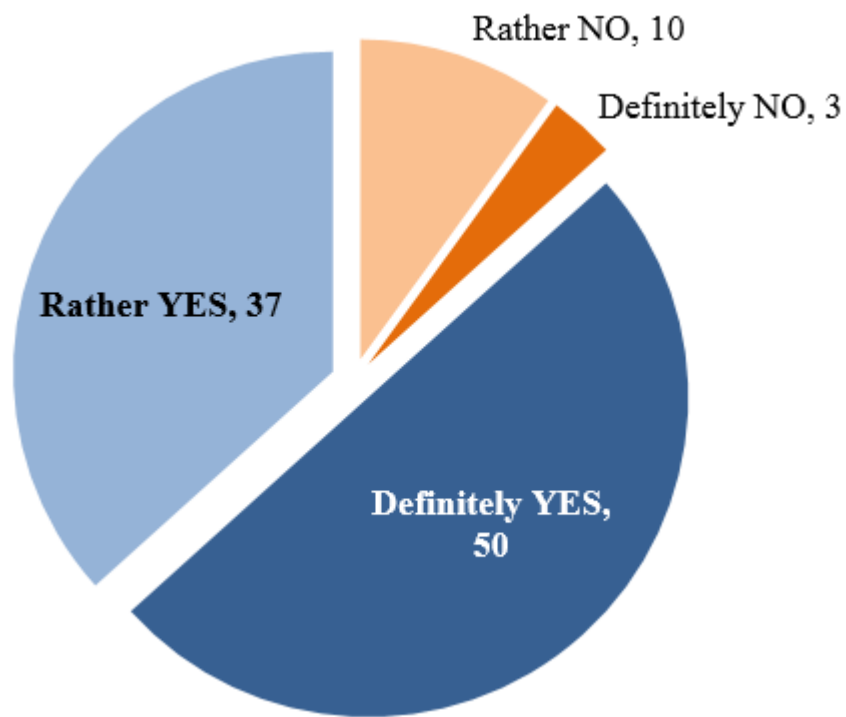
How to take employers on board?



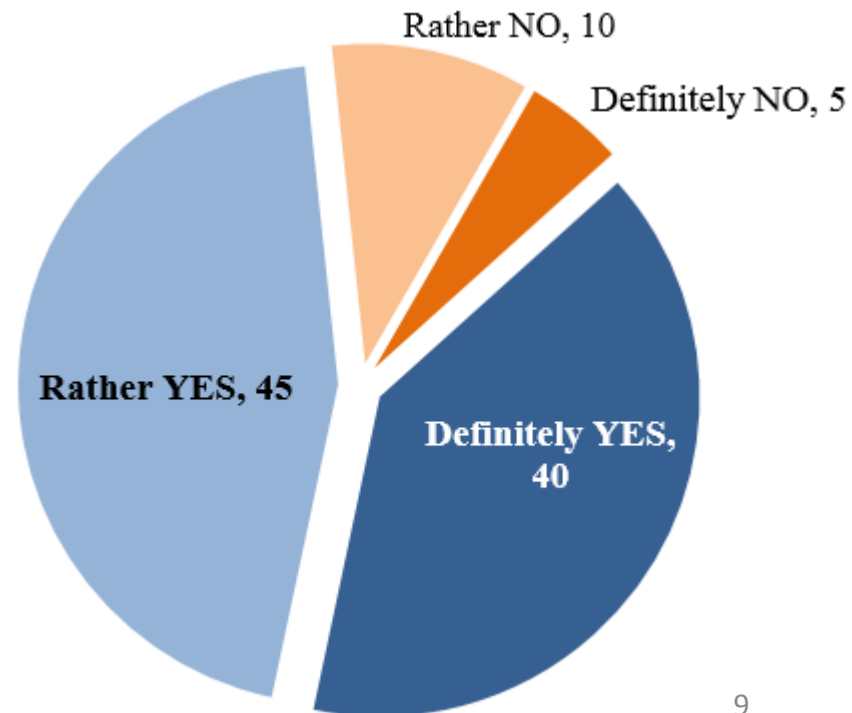
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There is interest in WBL for 2015/2016

Companies:



VET institutions:



The role of Sector Expert Councils (SECs) and VET institutions' Convents

The Amendments of May 2015 to the VET Law determine the role of SECs and VET Convents

The 12 SECs (established in 2011) include: 141 employers' and sector associations' representatives; 49 trade union representatives; 57 state representatives; 41 professional organisation representatives, independent experts, VET institutions' representatives

Key functions of SECs:

- Participate in the development of occupational standards
- Support the development of VET program and examination content
- Support to WBL implementation
- Opinion on VET student enrolment
- Support in carrier guidance

VET institutions' Convents – response for effective training of labour force at regional and local level

Raising the overall VET prestige in the society

By:

- Improved infrastructure and equipment
- Modern VET content and learning process
- Links to actual labour market situation and developments
- Competent teachers and trainers
- Good jobs after finishing the school

Education and work environments need to be closely linked

**ALL THIS REQUIRES GOOD COOPERATION
AMONG VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS**

Learning environment



Before

After

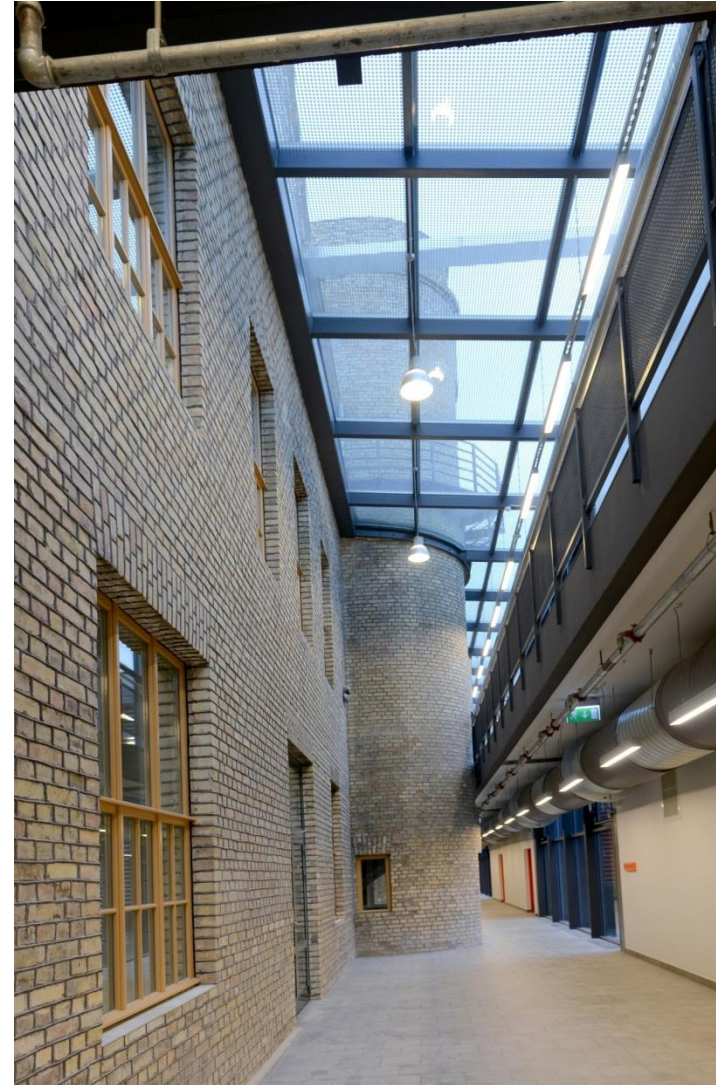


Learning environment

Before



After



Learning environment



Before



After



Learning environment



Before



After

Learning environment



Before



After

Regional seminars in Latvia – for awareness raising and promotion of WBL, **including the legal framework**

Date	Venue	Number of participants
18.02.2016.	Ogre	34
19.02.2016.	Daugavpils	33
25.02.2016.	Valmiera	96
04.03.2016.	Rīga	135
11.03.2016.	Ventspils	33
Total		331

- Participants – employers, representatives of educational institutions and other stakeholders
- More than 95% of the participants evaluated seminars as relevant, useful, with a well-presented meaningful content



Photos



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Photo



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Policy and legal framework for WBL in Latvia

- Information note (report) by the Ministry of Education and Science on the implementation of the WBL in the Latvian VET system has been accepted in the Cabinet of Ministers 12 August, 2014
- Education Policy Guidelines 2014 - 2020
- **In 2015** – Amendments to the VET Law – stipulating WBL as a VET program implementation form and the new role of Sector Expert Councils (SECs) in VET developments, including WBL; the VET institutions' Conventions
- **In 2016** – development of a set of draft Regulations by the Cabinet of Ministers in relation to:
 - the implementation of WBL (**group of 6 experts supported by WBL Balt project**)
 - the role and tasks of SECs
 - Improved sector qualifications' framework
 - support from ESF for WBL and quality practice (placements) at enterprises

Policy and legal framework developed in close co-operation with other ministries, the social partners, employers, and in consultation with other stakeholders – VET institutions, local governments, professional organisations and associations





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Key development phases and key challenges

- The piloting phase 2013 – 2015 allowed to identify the optimal approaches for WBL in the Latvian school-based VET system
- Piloting phase finished; currently – development of legal framework on WBL – in co-operation with sector ministries, social partners, employers and other stakeholders
- Support from the European Social Fund of the planning period 2014 – 2020
- Co-operation agreements on VET with the Switzerland, Germany

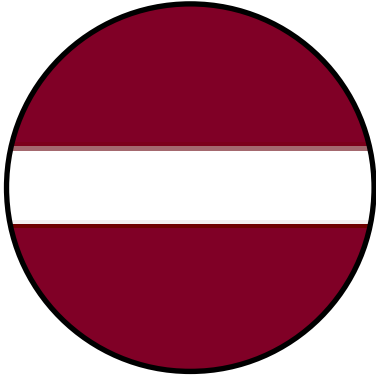
Key challenges:

- motivation for entrepreneurs, training of company trainers, involvement of small enterprises, quality assurance
- training of trainers at schools and enterprises



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Project activities – on the national level



A **study** on WBL pilot projects

Proposals for WBL legal framework

Dialogue

(5 thematic round tables,
5 regional seminars)

Awareness raising campaign

Final Conference



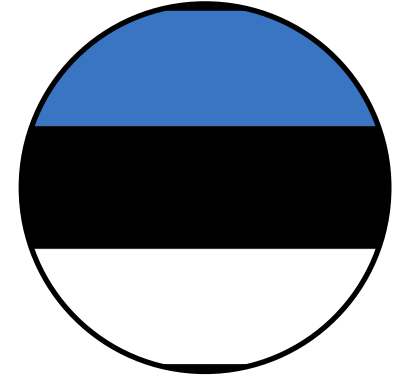
Background **report**

Action Plan for WBL development

Dialogue leading to partnerships – **6 round tables**

Awareness raising campaign

Conference



Background **report**


Proposals for improvement

3 study visits (for employer representatives) **to countries with longer WBL experience, dissemination of results**

Conference

Peer learning

Project activities – on the Baltic level



Enhanced cooperation and peer learning between the 3 Baltic States in implementing VET reforms and supporting WBL development.

**Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning – Declaration of Intent signed in Riga
22 June, 2015**



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Thank you for attention!

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