

## **Sectoral practical training centres being opened in Lithuania**

Since the beginning of 2014, 9 sectoral practical training centres (*sektoriniai praktinio mokymo centrai*, SPTCs) have been officially opened. They are supplied with state-of-the-art technological equipment for training, practical work facilities and laboratories. The SPTCs have been set up in vocational education and training (VET) institutions; presently 12 centres have been officially opened and it is planned that the final number will be 41. The services of the centres will be available not only for students of various VET institutions, but also for general secondary education, university and college students, company employees and other interested persons.

In 2014 SPTCs in the retail and wholesale sector were opened in Vilnius Tourism and Commerce School and Panevėžys Trading and Service Business School. These centres provide learners with the opportunity to learn how to work with all kinds of modern equipment used in the trade and services sectors, including simulation shops for training and an electronic commerce system.

SPTCs in the hotel and restaurant sector have already opened in Kaunas Food Industry and Trade Training Centre and Panevėžys Labour Market Training Centre. A hotel-restaurant in Kaunas old town, which is intended for training purposes, features seven new hotel rooms, premises for service personnel, a training restaurant and kitchen, conference hall and classrooms for theoretical training. Panevėžys centre has a kitchen with the latest equipment, a training bar-restaurant, new cleaning equipment, equipped classrooms for training in cleaning, laundry and drying.

Centres for practical training in the meat, bread baking and confectionary as well as beauty sectors have also been established in Kaunas. SPTC in meat, bread baking and confectionary (Kaunas Food Industry and Trade Training Centre) features modern confectionary and meat training laboratories. In order to foster folk traditions, the following equipment is available in the laboratories for bread and cake production: unique baking equipment for the Polish-Lithuanian traditional tree-like cake *šakotis*, the largest wood-fired oven in Lithuania for training students to bake traditional bread and cakes according to our ancestors' recipes, etc.

In the "Modus" centre for practical training in beauty and related services in the King Mindaugas Vocational Education and Training Centre, hairdressers, beauticians and others in the beauty business, will be trained according to the following 8 curriculum modules: hair cutting, cosmetics, sewing, personal design, clothing care, environmental design, handicrafts and customer service. The centre has classrooms for hair-cutting, cosmetics, manicure, pedicure, body massage, SPA, make-up and permanent make-up, cutting, sewing and handicrafts, appearance style, photography and floral studios.

A new centre for practical training in the transport sector has been opened in two Panevėžys VET institutions (Panevėžys Labour Market Training Centre and Panevėžys VET Centre). The centre covers more than 6 hectares and half of the area is occupied by sites for training in practical driving. It also features 2 slippery artificial tracks, a special slope that is kept watered to imitate damp ice, two water barriers (fountains) up to 2 meters high; there are also facilities for training tractor drivers and training in logistics, etc.

The SPTC in agriculture in-line with modern agriculture and organic farming standards operates in Alanta. The centre has a training farm with sheep and heifers, a reconstructed vegetable storage premises with a modern ventilation system, new premises for smithery, welding, locksmith,

mechanical treatment of metal, a newly built bio-boiler room using agricultural production waste, a new grain warehouse, grain cleansing equipment, a grain drying room and 4 storage towers with an active ventilation system, etc.

In the western Lithuania, in the Klaipėda Dressmaking and Service Business School, a SPTC in textile production has been opened. The centre is intended to train tailors, clothing cutters-constructors and modellers. The centre is equipped with the following modern equipment: sewing machines for thin and thick fabrics, leather and fur, embroidery and pocket sewing machinery, garment finishing equipment, ironing mannequin, press and others.

*Source: ReferNet Lithuania*