

## **Agreements between the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science and employers for constructive and effective dialogue**

With the aim of involving associated employers structures into the planning, implementation and review of developments in vocational education and training (VET), in 2014 the Ministry of Education and Science signed collaboration agreements with the following associations representing employers: Lithuanian Hotel and Restaurant Association, Lietuvos Aviacija and Infobalt. The Ministry of Education and Science has plans to sign a further 5 collaboration contracts in the near future. As part of the collaboration agreements the associations have undertaken to work closely in solving issues linked to the legal framework of VET, VET provision organisation, work-based learning including apprenticeship, and to provide the ministry with information on the demand for specialists and employment possibilities for VET graduates.

The agreement signed with the association of Lithuanian aviation companies “Lietuvos Aviacija” provides for collaboration in training of aircraft mechanics. The Ministry and the association will cooperate in training these specialists in VET institutions and the students will be offered practical placement in the respective companies. It is also planned to organise VET in the form of apprenticeship. The aircraft mechanics training will be concentrated in Vilnius and Kaunas.

The Ministry and Infobalt, which unites information and communication technologies companies, science and education institutions, have agreed to collaborate in training of IT specialists that are now particularly popular and needed in the market. The employers will also contribute to improving the infrastructure and environment of the VET institutions, namely Kaunas Communication School and Vilnius VET Centre of Technology and Business.

In addition, collaboration agreements have been signed with the two progressive companies - GetJar Networks Ltd and a seed capital fund Nextury Ventures. GetJar Networks Ltd and Nextury Ventures will directly contribute to the training of information technology specialists in VET schools. Both companies intend to become stakeholders of Kaunas Communication School to be renamed to Kaunas Information Technology School. It is expected that the school offer three new information technology training programmes.

*Source: ReferNet Lithuania*