

Sharing of good practice in vocational education and training

Seeking to encourage Lithuanian vocational education and training (VET) providers to share their good practice and to promote VET, Qualifications and VET Development Centre (*Kvalifikacijų ir profesinio mokymo plėtros centras*) has initiated a competition of good practice. The winners of the competition were announced during the conference “Vocational Education and Training: the Future and the Success” on December 1, 2011.

In 2011 a competition was organised for the second time and it attracted 60 applications. VET providers were invited to propose their good practice examples under such topics as qualification of vocational teachers, training methods and tools, foreign languages learning in VET, internationalisation of VET, cooperation with other VET institutions, creativity in VET.

Šiauliai VET Centre (*Šiaulių profesinio rengimo centras*) was announced as the winner of year 2011 contest for the initiative of promoting VET and improving VET image. The idea of the initiative of Šiauliai VET Centre is to involve community of the school in achieving country records in such categories as the longest and heaviest cake (length - 86,34 m.; weight - 211,7 kg), autumn tree (weight - 219 kg, height - 178 cm) and the largest Easter bunny (weight - 310 kg, height - 213 cm). In order to compete for these records, VET teachers assist students in finding solutions to accomplish task and social partners are addressed in sponsoring the initiative. The records and school are widely publicised by the media.

Other initiatives which were awarded diplomas were: Weaving lesson with the folk master (Telšiai Regional VET Centre), Christmas charity action (Vilnius Vocational School of Builders), Skills learning in real work environment (Vilnius Žirmūnai Labour Market Training Centre) and Application of content management system Joomla in VET (Kupiškis Technological and Business School). Special prizes were awarded for teachers who have presented the most original and picturesque good practice examples.

The winners were announced during the conference “Vocational Education and Training: the Future and the Success” on December 1, 2011. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants. One part of the conference was dedicated for the future VET policy directions. Director for Vocational Education and Training of Ministry of Education and Science, Mr Romualdas Pusvaskis, presented The Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European Cooperation in VET which defines common objectives for 2020 and an action plan for the coming years in VET area. The Bruges Communiqué’s short term deliverables by 2014 were discussed together with the Lithuanian VET developments and remaining challenges. Possibilities of the Lifelong Learning Programme for VET providers and the most recent call for proposals were presented to the audience and the latest results of the Eurobarometer survey “Attitudes towards vocational education and training” were debated. The second part of the conference offered the presentation on expectations towards VET graduates from employers’ point of view and the practical workshop on ways to promote creativity in vocational education and training.

Source: *ReferNet Lithuania*