Leadership and Quality Management for VET-Professionals

Description: This course focuses on different leadership and quality management models in vocational education institutes. Various best practice models from the participating countries are being presented and compared, and through the gained knowledge the participants are able to develop new models and overcome challenges in their institutions. By gathering together experts from Germany and bringing them as a group to a foreign country, the seminar offers a great opportunity for networking and knowledge-sharing across national and international borders.

Target audience: Leaders in vocational education

Participating countries: Germany, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, UK (Wales)

Duration: Four one-week seminars in Gothenburg (SWE), Helsinki (FIN), Tallinn (EST), and Cardiff (UK) in Autumn 2010 - Spring 2011

Objectives:
- To analyze best practice models in successful vocational institutes and compare the experiences with the participant’s goals and expectation
- To share and to benchmark best practice models between the participants and the partner countries through presentations held by the participants
- To gain knowledge that can be passed on to colleagues all over Europe
Methodology:

- A preliminary meeting where the participants are prepared for their stay abroad through presentations and discussion. The emphasis lies on information on the target country and their education system.

- The one-week seminar abroad where the participants learn about the practices of the country through presentations, group discussions and school visits. The participants also prepare their own presentations which will be held in the host country.

- A wrap-up meeting where the participants have the possibility to discuss how they have applied the gained information in practice and how the seminar has affected their view on vocational education.

Background:

Output-oriented new steering models with various characteristics are found in the Nordic Countries as well as in Estonia and Wales. In Finland and Sweden there are, for example, quality competitions that are adopted into steering whereas Estonia and Wales focus on entrepreneurial aspects and leadership. What is in common with all partner countries is that they have a system that is based on support and stimulation.

It is important to analyze best practice models in successful vocational institutes as well as to compare and reflect experiences to one’s own goals and expectations. This will eventually lead to changes in e.g. school management, and the development of human resource management and teaching: school management in consistently being complemented by leadership and quality management, and has therefore also an impact on the training in companies and in the chambers.
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