

Final Report



Leonardo da Vinci Program

Project N°: **2009-0115-LEO-14**

"Striving for European Excellence – SEE"

July 18th -24th, 2010

Sending Organisation: Järva County Vocational Training Center

Receiving Organisation: wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft mbH



Education and Culture

Between July 18th -24th, 2010 wisamar educational institute hosted four teachers sent by the Järva County Vocational Training Center, Estonia:



Kaja Vessart
Hele Kingissepp
Külli Marrandi
Villu Marrandi

The key aims of this VETPRO project titled "Striving for European Excellence" (SEE), were to improve vocational education delivery by teachers of several fields of study while deepening the skills and abilities of these specialists in their respective spheres, and to stimulate constant employee development.

The programme therefore had the objectives to have an exchange about vocational training with German colleagues, to get an insight in the German dual system of vocational education with its close corporation between school and enterprises and to see different methods and approaches in vocational and further education.

On Sunday 18th July, 2010, the group arrived at the Berlin airport and was transferred to their place of accommodation in Leipzig.

The next day the group was introduced into the programme and left for the first study visit. At the farm Dittert near Oschatz they were introduced to the working methods of the farm with 440 hectares of land, where different types of grain are being cultivated. This included a visit of facilities of the farm as well as a tour around the fields where wheat, bareley, corn, rapeseed and other types of grain are grown. The group had the opportunity to discuss the impact that aspects such as different types of soil, fertilizer, climate, the food industry, EU-support to farmers and the education of the workers have on the economic operation of a modern agricultural enterprise. As the farm Dittert is employing apprentices who are being trained as farmers the group was able to share its experience as vocational teachers with the farmers.



In the afternoon the group used the chance for a guided walk through the city centre of Leipzig. They got an overview of the main sights of the city such as the market place with

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the old City Hall, the Opera House, the new University complex as well as the churches St. Nikolai and St. Thomas.



On Tuesday, 20th July the group was welcomed at the Biogut Rittmeyer in the village Kreuma near Leipzig. The teachers visited Mr. Rittmeyer's full grain organic bakery and learnt about the procedures of bio-certification of food products. They got an overview over the facilities of the farm and the rooms that are rented out to tourists interested in organic farming and production of food.

The same day the group visited the nursery Bienert and Hänsel GbR in Taucha near Leipzig to get acquainted with organic methods of vegetable cultivation.



On Wednesday, 21st July a study visit to the Vocational Educational Centre of Wurzen took place, where the group was welcomed by the principal of the school Mr. Harnisch. The



participants had the chance to get an insight into the dual system of vocational education in Germany and discussed and compared it with the situation in Estonia. Aspects such as financing of vocational schools, working conditions of the teachers and study programmes and exams were of special interest. In the future there might be a student exchange between the two schools. In the afternoon of the same day the group went to see the medieval castle Gndstein, as a part of the cultural programme of the stay in Leipzig.

At the apiary Beer near Leipzig the teacher group got to know the enterprise and working methods of a traditional apiary. They learnt about the german legal regulations concerning the production of honey.

The last day of the study programme was dedicated to equestrian production and management. Therefore the group of teachers visited the estate Wolfshain where Mr. Bethke showed them the facilities and explained the activities of the estate. On the estate Mr. Bethke is running a riding school and a guest house which allows him to host groups of children for holiday camps. In the afternoon the group had the chance to get to know the work of the Association for Horseriding and Horseraces in Leipzig. The group was able to visit the facilities of the hippodrome and the task of the association to conserve these historic facilities and the tradition of horse racing in Leipzig.



Afterwards, in the common final meeting the programme was summarized and evaluated. Finally, the certificates were handed out. The last Saturday the group spent on their own in

Leipzig visiting new places. On Sunday 25th July the group was transferred to Berlin to travel back to Estonia.

Summary:

In the framework of this Leonardo da Vinci programme, all participants got interesting information about vocational training and professional practise in the field of agriculture in Germany. They learned about the dual system, the role of the companies and vocational schools as well as their interaction and cooperation. They had an exchange of experience and gave their German colleagues also an insight into the Estonian system so that the discussions were interesting for both sides. The program was developed right according to the topic of the project and the interest of the group so that a gainful stay was guaranteed. They could make contacts also for future cooperation. Besides, the participants could deepen their intercultural competences by meeting German colleagues, and got impressions about the city and surrounding of Leipzig as well as about the German capital Berlin.

The participants were highly motivated and it was a pleasure hosting such a friendly and interested group. We wish them all the best for their future career and are sure that the knowledge and contacts they got during the stay will support them in their work in Estonia.



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Leipzig, 23th July 2010


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Eszter Csépe

Wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft mbH