

Starting point of the LIFE project -
discovering the needs from different perspectives

How to match the needs of the students, schools and companies

1. The “clients” of the school are the students

Our students are the starting point of everything. What will they need in their future? How can we link the interests of everyone in Europe.?

As a starting point of our project we used Kwik Survey, which showed that most students feel very well trained in the fields of

- doing team work
- working independently
- solving problems

The majority of students also believe that they have had good training in

- giving professional presentations
- learning business English

However, the inquiry revealed that there are several challenges of the labour market that most students do not feel well prepared for, such as

- doing job interviews
- gaining insight into companies
- knowledge about marketing and economics

2. The “managers” of the schools are the teachers

Secondary schools have been preparing the students for university. **In a globalised world** the needs of our students have changed completely. How can the European curricula adapt to the new needs?

All the partner schools have already tried to adapt to future needs of their students by **integrating the world of work into the curriculum**. This has been done more or

less intensively. As an example, it can be said that Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Germany have intensified topics such as “living and working in a globalised world” into their curriculum by paying special attention to elements such as writing letters of application and practicing job interviews with peer evaluation. To sum up, the focus has already been put on the students future on the global job market.

3. The companies as the future employers

What do companies expect from their future employees in the different countries according to our research?

In Portugal

- motivation, ambition, entrepreneurial spirit
- willingness to learn the rules of the company, autonomy, commitment and organizing skills.
- critical thinking

In Belgium

- motivation and talent
- needed skills:
 - communication with costumers and colleagues and creative skills
 - ambition to achieve an international career: the willingness to learn, perform and contribute to the company's success
 - a focus on globalisation and passion for the product.

In Germany

- communication skills
- self-awareness (of one'e strengths and weaknesses)
- empathy and ability to work in a team
- openness to criticism and analytical competence

- curiosity and self-discipline / self-control
- ability to handle conflict situations
- assertiveness and reliability

In Italy

- goodwill
- being ready to do any job
- honesty
- willingness to listen and to improve oneself.
- a positive approach and attitude to work

3. LIFE as a European approach

- Our **curricula** have to be adapted to our students' and future employees' needs more intensively and more professionally. We have to teach more topics that are related to business etc. We need education that gives them the chance to specify more or try out as much as they can.
 - Business English should be part of our curriculum as it is an essential part in working life and has to be trained in advance.
- We need more and more **intense contacts** with companies to offer different branches and aspects to our students.
- Therefore, we need more need more **training in job fields** and an We need more and more intense contacts with companies to offer different branches and aspects to our students. Companies have various opportunities to support students – not only in choosing a job, but also in training them in certain skills. Nowadays lots of companies start their application process with

assessment centres. We need to make our students fit for that and have to offer them some training.

- We would like to **offer discussions/ talks to company owners** or employees in order to make students aware of chances as well as difficulties. Regular meetings could open their eyes as well as those of the people involved from the companies for the individual needs of the others. We hope to be able to establish new partnerships in all of the countries.

We have to involve more **methods of professional working life**. Students need to learn project management and working in groups without being monitored by a teacher all the time. They have to be trained in entrepreneurship.

We have to start making our students aware of the fact that we live in a **united Europe** where they have **unlimited opportunities**. They have to adapt an international perspective when thinking of jobs and their future companies: We should start to open their eyes to this by comparing our country with others and the chances there.

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