“Wings 2006” is already the second Leonardo da Vinci mobility and pilot project quality award contest organized by Vocational Education Development Agency and Ministry of Education and Science. First it was held in 2004. The programme has been named after the outstanding Italian artist, researcher and craftsman Leonardo da Vinci whereas flight and wings was one of the base lines of Leonardo da Vinci’s research drawings, the beginning of progress of discovery and development of science, which gave the name to the contest.

Participation in Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects has enabled students and teachers of vocational education establishments, professional study programme students, young workers and HR specialists to take part in exchange placement and experience trips to corresponding vocational education establishments and companies of other European countries. The pilot projects have presented teaching syllabus and methodological material for the development of vocational education process both in Latvia and the involved European states.

The contestants of the “Wings 2006” quality award were the mobility projects approved in 2003 – 2004 and the pilot projects approved during the years 2000 – 2004. The nominated mobility projects encompassed various fields – education, social work, pharmaceutical and food industry, communication science, printing technologies, tourism, hotels and catering, carpentry and entrepreneurship.

The Leonardo da Vinci quality award “Wings 2006” was granted to:

- Riga Vocational School No.34
- Skrunda Vocational School
- Joint Stock Company GRINDEKS
- P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College
- Ltd Valmiera Printing House “LAPA”
- Vidzeme University College
- Ltd Information Systems Management Institute
- Ltd Schulte Group
- LLTA “Lauku Ceļotājs”

This year a contest “A Success Story of a Beneficiary” was introduced. 12 success stories were received. The following were acknowledged as the most successful – Livija Mukāne, a teacher of German from Malpils Vocational Secondary school, Juris Hmelņickis, a head of a HPLC laboratory at JSC Grindeks, Zane Zūzāne, a student of Liepaja Pedagogical Academy, Gundega Tora, a student of Riga Vocational School nr. 34, Zane Ikauniece, a student of Skrunda Vocational School, Kristine Rinkeviča, a student of Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication.

We hope that the examples of placement and exchange of experience and pilot projects included in this catalogue will encourage your institution to apply to participate in the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

Dagnija Dilāne
Head of the Leonardo da Vinci National Agency, Latvia
The objectives of the projects foresaw to improve professional and social skills, to enhance exchange of innovative ideas of technologies, to improve English and communication skills, to develop certainty to continue the education with an aim to integrate in the labour market in Europe.

In 2004 two second year and one third year students took placement at Jyvaskyla Social and Health Care Institute, Finland. During three weeks of the training, the students had an opportunity to participate in classes and workshops held at the Finnish school's hairdresser salon serving clients. They mastered new techniques of hair washing and head massage, fusion hair extension technologies, modern haircut techniques, new techniques of winding of hair curlers and use of hair curlers of unusual forms, and haircutting with a razor.

During the first week mentoring visit of the teachers, they got acquainted with living and placement conditions of the students. Besides they learned the new technologies, purchased new instruments and materials to be used during practical lessons at school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOBILITY PROJECTS</th>
<th>VARIETY OF PASTA IN ITALIAN CUISINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLACEMENT:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROMOTER:</td>
<td>Skrunda Vocational School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS:</td>
<td>Skrunda, Kuldīgas rajons, LV - 3326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEL/ FAX:</td>
<td>+371 33 36145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT PERSON:</td>
<td>Anita Sebeža</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-MAIL:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asebeza@inbox.lv">asebeza@inbox.lv</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET GROUP:</td>
<td>Young People in Initial Vocational Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIP:</td>
<td>Umbria Training Centre, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALITY AWARD:</td>
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</tbody>
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The project partner is Umbria Training Centre known for its extensive experience in project implementation. During the project, 10 students learned the history of Italian and, especially, Umbrian cooking, mastered various technologies of pasta making and got an insight into the variety of pasta in Italian cuisine, familiarized themselves with pasta dressings, acquired new skills in pasta making, decorated and learned serving traditions in Italian cuisine.

This placement of 4 weeks provided the students with an insight into the European labour market. The beneficiaries strengthened their English and learned the Italian colloquial language. This placement at Italian catering companies has been an excellent opportunity to improve the students’ practical skills which can be applied afterwards working both in Latvia and the EU countries.
MOBILITY PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT OF TESTING METHODS FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY (HPLC) USING COMPUTERS

PROMOTER: Joint Stock Company “Grindeks”

ADDRESS: Krustpils iela 53, Riga, LV - 1057

TEL/ FAX: +371 70 83 514/ + 371 70 83 505

CONTACT PERSON: Imants Davidsons

E-MAIL: idavidsons@grindeks.lv

TARGET GROUP: Young workers

PARTNERSHIP: Merck KGaA, Germany

QUALITY AWARD: The project has a long-term cooperation between the partners. After the project and because of the obtained practical knowledge Grindeks has purchased three HPLC equipments. They are operated by the project ex-beneficiaries. The skills have been passed to other three colleagues. The new equipment is successfully used in qualitative research of medicine and it has helped to investigate chemical substances.

One of the project benefits is that the HR department of Grindeks has been introduced to personnel training system at Merck KGaA.
The project involves P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College and Sozialpflegeschule Heimerer Döbeln (Germany). The co-operation of the above institutions began in 2001. During the implementation of this project 2 teachers exchanged their experience thus obtaining an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest training methods in the care of disabled and elderly people, attend classes and visit various social care institutions.

The main aim of the project was to master new practical training modules for a specific group of clients with special needs which would enhance the social care education programme, as well as introduce the above modules to the representatives of the Latvian labour market. The teachers exchange project was positively assessed by both project partners and the teachers received respective certificates. Besides, the project positively affected the transition from secondary professional education to college type education.

The project implementation improved the teachers’ qualification in the sphere of social care, professional co-operation and language proficiency.

The project involved teachers who had been working in the Social Care Department at least for 5 years, had a university degree in the respective speciality, as well as work experience with foreign partners.

The experience received was disseminated both among teachers and social care institutions, as well as at various international and local seminars and conferences.
LTD “Valmiera Printing House LAPA” is a printing company having almost a century-long history. The company's core activities comprise printing of books and finishing works which formed the basis for the co-operation with the Finnish printing company Klingendahl Paino OY 2001.

During the project, the beneficiaries two weeks focused on getting acquainted with acquiring and application of the latest printing materials produced in Finland in the technological processes of printing, improving knowledge of the mastered technology. They visited a large printing and publishing exhibition were they got acquainted with the latest equipment. They were able to carry out the intensive work programme only thanks to the active and serious solution of organisational matters prior to the experience exchange trip.

Taking into consideration the information acquired during the experience exchange trip the printing-house purchased fixed assets by increasing its production volume by 10%. Experience acquired shows that the company should continue the purposive modernisation, ensure accurate work organisation where a professional team plays the key role and learn to promote itself and market its products.
The aim of the project was to ensure that students of the Department of Tourism Organisation and Management understand such terms as “sustainable development”, “tourism management”, “role of municipalities in the development of tourism” and connection thereof with international tourism.

The project involved 5 students of the Department of Tourism Organisation and Management of Vidzeme University College, as well as the EU tourism companies, employees of those companies and the staff of the Department of Tourism Organisation and Management who will act as student consultants and placement evaluators.

Based on the theoretical knowledge acquired on tourism policy in the EU countries the students during 13 weeks of placement enjoyed a practical opportunity to learn the management structure of tourism management in a respective country, the role of local municipalities in the context of development of sustainable tourism, as well as the attitude of local communities towards the development of tourism in a respective country comparing it with the situation existing not only in Latvia, but also in the EU and the new EU Member States. During the placement the students had to make a research of the tourism management structure in a respective country. The results of which have been furnished to the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Economics, State Tourism Development Agency, regional tourism associations, as well as other interested parties.

The project is a considerable contribution into the professional development of the students thus enabling them to get well-paid jobs in the future and promoting the compliance with the sustainable tourism development principles, as well as encouraging to participate in solving issues concerning improvement of the Latvian tourism management structure.
## PILOT PROJECTS

### ABILITY INSTEAD OF DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROMOTER:</th>
<th>Ltd Information Systems Management Institute</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS:</td>
<td>Lomonosova iela 1a, Riga, LV 1019</td>
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<td>TEL/ FAX:</td>
<td>+371 42 07811 / +371 42 07229</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTACT PERSON:</td>
<td>Dr.hab.prof. Marga Živitere</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-MAIL:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marga@isma.lv">marga@isma.lv</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIP:</td>
<td>Latvia, Greece, Luxembourg, Great Britain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the EU there are about 65 million persons with special needs (disabilities), however, only 3-5% of them participate in the labour market. One of the major obstacles of employment is the employers’ insufficient awareness and the psychological and practical preparedness to employ such persons. Therefore Ltd ISMA in cooperation with 6 partners in 24 months project draw the attention of the community, media, state and municipal institutions to more effective solutions for social inclusion of people with special needs.

As a result of the project implementation, an Employers’ Handbook for Work with People with Special Needs, as well as a study module for students majoring in business management has been prepared.

In its turn, the specific aim of the project was to supplement the study and qualification programmes of employers and students with a new development module comprising specific information, knowledge and competence necessary for employment of people with special needs, ensuring social and psychological preparedness and promoting the change of attitude.

The project results are available on: [http://and.isma.lv/](http://and.isma.lv/)
There is a shortage in sea-going manpower supply in worldwide. To solve this problem Ltd Schulte Group together with 7 partners from the other EU countries implemented the Leonardo da Vinci project “Re-training and Integration of Ex-officers of the Navy and the Deep Sea Fishing Fleet into the Merchant Marine”.

During the project integrated theoretical and practical learning methods were created which can be used all over the world. These programmes allow issuing certified diplomas. A special attention is focused on practical preparation and English learning. There are several teaching instruments and methodological materials prepared.

The project opened new perspectives for Latvian deep sea fishing and navy ex-officers, who because of the reduction of staff lost their jobs or work in different fields but are willing to return to work in their profession and are ready to work worldwide.

In 2004 the project was nominated for the European Commission Education and Culture general directorate quality award and it was nominated as one of the best pilot projects of the Leonardo da Vinci programme in Europe.

The project results are available on: http://www.marine-knowledge.net/leonardo/
Each year the role of rural tourism is increasing in Latvia and the other European countries. Unfortunately it’s quality is delayed by lack of united quality system. This stimulated Latvia Rural Tourism Association “Lauku Ceļotājs” together with 5 partners from European countries to implement a project. During the project European Rural Tourism association federation “EuroGites” adopted a united rural tourism definition and approved united minimal quality criteria. The project partners worked out a system of rural tourism lodging inspector training and lodging quality assessment, training and methodological materials. The implementers of the project have provided to put to use this quality assessment system in Latvia and other project partnership countries.

The implementation of the project has positively influenced the quality service improvement in rural tourism sector in Latvia. Nowadays each tourism lodging owner on his own may test service compliance eligibility free of charge. Besides during international conferences and seminars possibilities of Latvia rural tourism have been widely promoted.

The project results are available on: http://www.kvalitate.celotajs.lv/
SUCCESS STORIES

BENEFICIARY: Līvija Mukāne
PROJECT PROMOTER: Mālpils Professional School
PROJECT PERIOD: 03.03.2006 – 19.03.2006
PARTNERSHIP: Germany
PROJECT NAME: New Experience in Technical Language Teaching

During the project time I went to Germany where I expected to gain experience in foreign language teaching to adults and organization of Long Life Learning. The project partners had prepared an extensive and interesting programme. I had an opportunity to take part in a seminar on planning professional education, a meeting on work out the project application and visit school partner institutions. Participation in Claude Dornier School meeting for district elementary schools and regional educational politicians was of great value. The meeting dealt with problems also actual in Latvia, for example, early co-operation of general education schools and those of vocational education. During the exchange of experience time I actively communicated with colleagues, so, perfecting my German and especially enriching my professional lexis in the fields of education.

On returning to Latvia I brought back experience, new contacts and useful materials.
SUCCESS STORIES

**BENEFICIARY:** Juris Hmeļņickis

**PROJECT PROMOTER:** Joint Stock Company “Grindeks”

**PROJECT PERIOD:** 01.09.2004 – 31.10.2004

**PARTNERSHIP:** Germany

**PROJECT NAME:** Computerized Development of High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) Testing Methods

I got a nine-week experience at one of the oldest pharmaceutical producers – Merck KGa working in the central analytical department and in the course of the period my main task was to find computerized chromatographical methods to facilitate and accelerate analyst’s work. It mostly takes 2 weeks to complete chromatographical analyses, but with the help of a computer programme it can be done in 2 days.

On the whole the working atmosphere was fantastic and the employees friendly. On weekends I visited several cities like Frankfurt, Cologne and Heidelberg.

On completing the project I took up doctorate studies at Latvian University. The period of the project was a challenge for me to realize whether I can cope with the stress during dedicated studies at the faculty of chemistry. Probably, the mobility project was one of the main factors that made me study chemistry.
SUCCESS STORIES

BENEFICIARY: Zane Zūzāne
PROJECT PROMOTER: Liepaja Pedagogical Academy
PROJECT PERIOD: 09.11.2004 – 29.11.2004
PARTNERSHIP: Norway
PROJECT NAME: Training of Young Specialists for Work in Small and Medium-sized Tourism Companies in Europe

I spent all my placement time working at the restaurant of the hotel “Quality Hotel Wigan”. Alongside the waitress’ responsibilities I was entrusted preparation of conference rooms. Arranging rooms for every weekend wedding parties was a special satisfaction which let me obtain skills in wedding organization and setting banquet tables. I learned to work in a team co-operating with people of different ages. The hotel staff was friendly, kind and responsive. Moreover, the manager was pleased with my work and offered me to keep on working at the hotel after the end of the placement time. During the placement time I greatly improved my English. I had an opportunity to see Great Britain, its culture and meet great people. I am keeping contact with some of them up to this day. I learned to be independent which I consider one of the main benefits of a person.
SUCCESS STORIES

BENEFICIARY: Gundega Tora
PROJECT PROMOTER: Riga Vocational School No. 34
PROJECT PERIOD: 09.11.2004 – 29.11.2004
PARTNERSHIP: Norway
PROJECT NAME: International Hairdressers in Norway

The project enabled me to see Norwegian hairdressers at work and I obtained new methods and skills met in hairdressing. The placement was based in the saloon “Betty Blue” with an exceptional personal interest, jolly and cosy atmosphere. In practice I learned 3 different ways of hair extension, worked independently with various hair dying materials. We also tried out ways of head massage. I also learned several methods of winding hair. Finally I participated in the show working out models in the saloon “Knoll and Tott”. Besides I got a lot of practical tips.

The placement gave me an opportunity not only for professional growth but also to develop communication skills, to improve my English, to get an insight into Norwegian culture, nature, traditions, cuisine and history. Besides I got acquainted with the lifestyles and interest of Norwegian peers. During my stay I enjoyed the Norwegian hospitality and effort to keep up the home traditions and atmosphere. I myself grew more self confident and got back home with a bigger endeavour to study.

I consider that this experience has affected my professional growth and for me it was an excellent chance to extend my outlook getting acquainted with other people and cultures.
Within the frame of the project I had gone to Italy to get a closer insight in the peculiarities of the Italian cuisine. The training was very exciting as I learned a lot not only about the pasta dishes but also about the varieties of spices and cheese. For example, the proper choice of the cheese sort is of utmost importance in preparing Italian pizza. The knowledge and skills obtained there can now be furthered ahead mostly to the teachers of our school cooking speciality.

During my stay there I learned a lot in my profession as well as improved my communication skills. We did daily work in Italian restaurants which made us pick up Italian. We learned to co-operate and work in a team. It was a challenge for me to present my priorities trying to adapt myself to the local culture at the same time keeping my culture background. This has formed me a new perception of life and has stimulated me to work in my profession.
SUCCESS STORIES

Kristīne Rinkeviča
Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication
26.02.2005 – 19.03.2005
Germany

Development of Professional Skills of Young People of Latgale According to the Requirements of the EU Labour Market

I decided to participate in the mobility project to improve my German as well as my professional skills. I wanted to be competitive in the European labour market, obtain experience and share it with my peers.

During the placement I grew more independent, communicable and mature. The opportunity to use German in everyday communication was of great importance which gave a special feeling. The German culture and specific traditions were a pleasant surprise to me.