A good and successful tradition twice every second year is enacting Leonardo da Vinci quality award contest Wings named after the outstanding Italian artist, researcher and craftsman Leonardo da Vinci. Captivated by the idea of flying da Vinci has thoroughly studied flying of birds and has made various drawings, as well as used as bases for creating his flying appliances. For our contest we have borrowed the wing motive from Leonardo da Vinci. We wish that it will serve as inspiration for potential project promoters and participants and as certification that every adventuresome and implausible idea can be implemented.

Participation in Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects has enabled students and teachers of vocational educational 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.

"Knowledges, which are created by experience – a mother of credibility -, are infertile and contain a lot of mistakes".

/Leonardo da Vinci/

The contestants of the “Wings 2008” quality award were the mobility projects and project participants approved in 2005 – 20064. The nominated mobility projects encompassed various fields – education, social work, food industry, tourism, hotels and catering, architecture and carpentry. During 2005 and 2006 more than 2 million EUR are used in Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects. 205 mobility projects are implemented and 896 participants from Latvia vocational schools, organisations and various institutions have taken part.

The Leonardo da Vinci project quality award “Wings 2008” was granted to:

- P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College, project „Improvement of practical skills and competencies of the social care students of the continuous care of the old and disabled in Germany“;
- Architecture Promotion Fund, projects „Working placements of young architects in architectural bureaus of Europe II and III“;
- Skrunda Vocational School, project „Improvement of students’ professional skills and capacities in Slovenia“;
- society “ Children and Youth Trust Phone”, project „Children ‘s hotline as a constituent of child rights protection”.

Already second year a contest “A Success Story of a Beneficiary” was organised. This time 19 success stories received an assessment. Congratulations to the prize winners:

- Nadezda Vasiljeva (Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication, project „German training company as a new concept of vocational training–management learning“);
- Raimonda Miezite (Latvija Multiple Sclerosis Association of Latvia, project “Experience exchange of managers of disabled persons’ support groups”);
- Janis Mezinieks (Jaunaglona Vocational School, project “Enhancement of Professional Capacities and Personal Competencies in Qualification Placement in The Netherlands”);
- Baiba Liepina (Rīgas Food Processing School, projects „Improvement of proficiency of cooks in the EU countries“).

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 Dilâne
Head of the Leonardo da Vinci National Agency
It is acknowledged at Valmiera Food Processing School that the participants are the best project result disseminators. The project reports of the participants are positive. They point out the professional achievements, rising of self-assurance, communication skills and joy of becoming acquainted with traditions and social life of foreign countries. It should be mentioned that this project has also enabled the popularity of the school and the attractiveness of vocational education because this year a breaking record of students has applied.

Valmiera Food Processing School submitted this project to give their students new experience in catering service and to make our school more attractive among future students. In the project fifteen second and third year students took part. The placement took place at Pori College in Finland during the period of April 17 until May 7, 2006.

The project has favorably affected the cooperation of the partner organizations and stimulated a start of new projects. Valmiera Food Processing School from Pori College has adopted a model to develop a new teaching programme. The placement is valuable in the aspect of the personal development of the participants.

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Valmiera Food Processing School implemented a placement project to ensure the students have an opportunity to obtain an experience in meat processing and trade, as well as to make the school more attractive among future students. Within a frame of the project 15 second and third year students in the period of October 10 until November 1, 2005 visited at partner organization – Pori College in Finland.

During the placement the participants of the project received new knowledge in these sectors, improved their English, received certificates and Europass Mobility. Furthermore, the Pori College included the placement in study plans of the students according the curricula.

After return from Finland on a special conference the project participants gave a presentation on the gained experienced to their schoolmates, as well as informed teachers during methodological meetings. The project has substantially enhanced cooperation with partners and established new way of cooperation and new projects.

SUCCESS STORIES: MEAT PROCESSING AND TRADE SKILLS IN FINLAND

PROMOTER: Valmiera Food Processing School
ADDRESS: Ausekļa iela 25b, Valmiera, LV-4201
CONTACTPERSON: Mārīte Grīnberga
E-MAIL: vprv.spurins@inbox.lv
TEL.: +371 64207540
FAX: +371 64207534
DURATION: 3 weeks
PARTICIPANTS: 15
PARTNERCOUNTRY: Finland

QUALITY ASPECT:
After return from Finland on a special conference the project participants gave a presentation on the gained experienced to their schoolmates, as well as informed teachers during methodological meetings. The project has substantially enhanced cooperation with partners and established new way of cooperation and new projects.

SUCCESS STORIES: PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS OF SMILTENE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT ENTERPRISES

PROMOTER: “Salo Baltic International” Ltd.
ADDRESS: Sadovnīkova iela 39, Riga, LV-1003
CONTACTPERSON: Guntra Cirule
E-MAIL: info@salo-baltic.lv
TEL.: +371 67358670
FAX: +371 67358677
DURATION: 8 weeks
PARTICIPANTS: 30
PARTNERCOUNTRY: Germany

QUALITY ASPECT:
The first Leonardo da Vinci mobility project by “Salo International Baltic” Ltd. was submitted in 2005. As it was successful and students appreciated having placements abroad, “Salo International Baltic” Ltd. made a decision to continue cooperation with Latvian vocational schools and to give young people a possibility to have placements in Germany. In this project 30 students from Smiltene Vocational School took part. The participants were mostly from rural area, low income, incomplete and large families. The two months placement was organised in two flows, 15 students in each and took place in Germany, Schwerin.

The receiving partner, an education institution with a long-term experience in organizing placements for German students, provided placements at hotels and catering enterprises. As 90% of the students were for the first time abroad, a special attention was paid towards project management and monitoring.

The main benefits from the project are skills and know-how the students have achieved in their profession. They worked with modern equipment, improved German knowledge, made new friends and got acquainted with German culture. Besides, the project helped to improve work of the sending institution and to plan more precisely next projects.

The sending organisation has approved the receiving partner and placement institutions that Latvians are good workers – hardworking, reliable, diligent and have responsibility. The placement enhanced competitiveness, improved and supplemented professional knowledge of the students. The high appreciation of the receiving organization and project mentor raised self-confidence of the participants.

SUCCESS STORIES: SUCCESS STORIES: PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS OF SMILTENE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AT ENTERPRISES
The project provided opportunity nine young architects from Latvia to practice their profession for three months in various architectural bureaus.

The project organisers succeeded to find and involve such architectural bureaus, which are ready to engage inexperienced young people for a relatively long period and to ensure them a significant work experience. The participants had a chance to get involved in wholesome process of architecture, e.g. supervision of construction and work with clients, interior discussions and meetings with clients.

All-in-all it is clear that the project has given a professional experience impact to the young architects. Further the beneficiaries from the project are not even the project participants, but the architect bureaus in Latvia as well, where these architects will work after their return.

During the implementation of the project positive references are received regarding the professionalism of Latvian architects, their communication skills and personal attitude towards work and social life in international environment.

Each participant’s task was to publish an article in portal www.a4d.lv. The published information gave an opportunity to inform and motivate other young architects to apply for participation in similar projects.

Ten second, third and fourth year students from Skrunda Vocational School four weeks took placement in Slovenia. The objective was to learn national cuisine and preparation, serving, traditions and to summarize recipes.

During the placement the participants boosted their professional qualification and obtained an invaluable experience. A month-long placement was sufficient period of time to learn and evaluate differences between catering industries and their work organization, to hand over the knowledge at the school and partner organizations in Latvia. As well as it was a good working start after finishing school.

Local entrepreneurs with whom the school has cooperation highly appreciate the obtained experience of the participants. Wherewith the winners from this placement are not only the participants, but also the school, neighbouring enterprises and society.

At the end of the mobility project, Skrunda Vocational School did not bring changes in schools training plans but the acquired technologies of the Slovenian national cuisine were integrated into the lessons of practical training. All-in-all it is clear that the project has given a professional experience impact to the young architects. Further the beneficiaries from the project are not even the project participants, but the architect bureaus in Latvia as well, where these architects will work after their return.

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Eight students from Jans Rozentāls Art Secondary School in three flows had a placement in three different European countries (Germany, Belgium and Finland). The objective of the placement was to discover and to compare various technical aids and methods applicable for art and multimedia training in the cooperating countries.

The students have gained valuable personal experience, but the project has received continuation – the students of the receiving partner schools have visited Latvia and have gained an experience here. In general such cooperation is estimated as of great value for both parts. Janis Rozentāls Art Secondary School has obtained sound international cooperation partners who have positively appraised the professionalism of the Latvian school.

The results of the project are summarized and recorded in photos and electronically which are used during training process. New skills are obtained in graphics, multimedia, visual figurative art specialty; acquired new silk screen printing, copperplate printing and aquatint. During a project an important finding has been found that in the art education more attention should be paid to practical creative work and placement period, the period should be prolonged twice. Each student from Jans Rozentāls Art Secondary School as well as other persons can read the project results on school web page: www.jrrmv.lv

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One of the tasks of the participants was to publish their experience in the portal of architects and students - www.a4d.lv. It is an excellent manner how to inform and motivate other young architects to apply for participation in similar projects. It is noticeable that more young architects are involved in next projects after having got acquainted with the stories of experience.

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Three nascent Latvian architects had an opportunity six months to acquire new experience at high level Dutch architectural bureaus. The impact of the project to be mentioned is the established contact, valuable work and life experience which will allow the young architects to be competitive in the labour market in Latvia and the European Union. One of the tasks of the participants was to publish their experience in the portal of architects and students - www.a4d.lv. It is an excellent manner how to inform and motivate other young architects to apply for participation in similar projects. It is noticeable that more young architects are involved in next projects after having got acquainted with the stories of experience.

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The project gave an opportunity for four students from the P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College to accomplish a part of the stipulated training placement of the social care study in Germany. During the placement they studied the social care system of the elderly and disabled in Germany, as well as obtained qualitative and progressive placement experience in continuous care. The project partner was Sozialpflegeschulen Heimerer GmbH, Döbeln. During the placement the only communication language was German, therefore it constitutedively improved knowledge of the German of the students. However, the most important is the professional impact – very wide and thorough knowledge is obtained in long-term social care of elderly and people with special needs. Besides the placement the events undertaken gave an understanding of German culture, their social life, traditions.

Students from all placement locations received excellent recommendations as well as Europass Mobility documents. After their return in Latvia, the project participants gave a presentation to other students and trainers, as well as created an information stand "Placement in Poland". All project participants obtained a certificate from their employers and Europass Mobility document, which will be useful when looking for job in Latvia or in other European countries.

SUCCESS STORIES:

IMPROVEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF VOCATIONAL STUDENTS SPECIALIZED IN CONSTRUCTION IN POLAND

PROMOTER:
P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College

ADDRESS: Vidus prospekts 36/38, Bolderāja, Jūrmala, LV-2010

CONTACT PERSON: Ina Vīksniņa

E-MAIL: sadarbiba@psk.lv

TEL.: +371 67754928

FAX: +371 67752507

DURATION: 13 weeks

PARTICIPANTS: 4

PARTNER COUNTRY: Poland

QUALITY ASPECT: The objective of the project was to increase competitiveness of the students in the labour market, skills and competences in their profession, develop know-how to integrate in unfamiliar environment, improve foreign language knowledge, develop intercultural communication and responsibility. Twelve students from different educational programmes took part in the project: workers of finishing works, assemblers of sanitary-engineering devices, bricklayers, electricians and carpenters. Three weeks in various places of Bolesław, a city in Poland, students supplemented already in Latvia obtained knowledge and skills. Electricians obtained new skills to install cable in trench; bricklayers learned new technologies to level floor with concrete; plumbers worked with new methods to install heating pipes; workers of finishing works improved their knowledge about construction materials, carpenters learned to lay wooden constructions on church roofs. During leisure time various cultural, sport and relax events were organized. Bolesław TV even made a separate broadcast about the placement of Latvian students. After their return in Latvia, the project participants gave a presentation to other students and trainers, as well as created an information stand "Placement in Poland". All project participants obtained a certificate from their employers and Europass Mobility document, which will be useful when looking for job in Latvia or in other European countries.

SUCCESS STORIES:

IMPROVEMENT OF PRACTICAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES OF THE SOCIAL CARE STUDENTS OF THE CONTINUOUS CARE OF THE OLD AND DISABLED IN GERMANY

PROMOTER: P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College

ADDRESS: Vidus prospekts 36/38, Bolderāja, Jūrmala, LV-2010

CONTACT PERSON: Ina Vīksniņa

E-MAIL: sadarbiba@psk.lv

TEL.: +371 67754928

FAX: +371 67752507

DURATION: 13 weeks

PARTICIPANTS: 4

PARTNER COUNTRY: Germany

QUALITY ASPECT: The project gave an opportunity for four students from P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College to accomplish a part of the stipulated training placement of the social care study in Germany. During the placement they studied social care system of the elderly and disabled in Germany, as well as obtained qualitative and progressive placement experience in continuous care. The project partner was Sozialpflegeschulen Heimerer GmbH, Döbeln. During the placement the only communication language was German, therefore it constitutedively improved knowledge of the German of the students. However, the most important is the professional impact – very wide and thorough knowledge is obtained in long-term social care of elderly and people with special needs. Besides the placement the events undertaken gave an understanding of German culture, their social life, traditions.

Students from all placement locations received excellent recommendations as well as Europass Mobility documents. After their return in Latvia, the students disseminated information about the placement among the management of the college, social care department and student self-government. The results of project are used during their practical work at social care institutions – methods, ways and technologies. Fact that the German manager of the placement has expressed the students an invitation to work in their institution, approves a success of the project.

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PARTICIPANTS: 4

PARTNER COUNTRY: Germany

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Besides the planned activities, the participants of the project attended also other institutions with whom *IB Bildungzentrum* is cooperating, including the Chamber of Industry and Trade. While being in Germany, the participants significantly improved their knowledge of German. They received certificates from the receiving organization and *Europass Mobility*. These documents are attached to the CV’s of the trainers and the management of the school take them in mind during assessment of the employees.

After the project in Latvia at Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication a seminar about the project was organised where the participants told about their experience and results. As a tool of dissemination a special picture album of the project is created.

During the project it was planned to acquire new vocational education conception. Hence three trainers from Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication went to Germany, *IB Bildungzentrum*, in Dresden, to inquire about management. They gained knowledge of various departments: commerce, accounting and finance, PR, communication department, procurement, sales and deliver, marketing and planning department.

Based on the obtained knowledge during the exchange of experience, the participants of the projects developed a programme of a training company to be implemented in Latgale. A training company is a new model for Latvian vocational schools, therefore a methodological exchange of experience is of high value.

**SUCCESS STORIES:**

**CHILDREN’S HOTLINE AS A CONSTITUENT OF CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION**

**PROMOTER:** Society "Children and Youth Trust Phone"

**ADDRESS:** Kungu iela 34, Riga, LV-1050

**CONTACT PERSON:** Mārtiņš Valters

**E-MAIL:** martinsw@bernutalrunis.lv

**TEL.** + 371 6784790

**FAX.** + 371 6784790

**DURATION:** 2 weeks

**PARTICIPANTS:** 4

**PARTNER COUNTRIES:** The Czech Republic, Greece

The project is implemented with an aim to gain an experience about Children Trust Telephone movement in the Czech Republic and Greece. The selection of the participants was done inside the association. The employees involved in the development of the strategy of the society and it implementation and who are capable to communicate in English were selected. At the end of August 2007 four participants joined the two weeks exchange of experience project.

„Children and Youth Trust Phone“ is a member of the international organisation Children Helpline International. The implemented project allowed obtaining useful findings. It has stimulated to perfect and rearrange the work of the organisation, e.g. to focus more on preventive work at schools and families instead of giving help to children at crises. The society has created its own training centre an two training programmes. As the implementation of the project was relatively short and intense time, the programme was well planned in order to obtain the most interesting and important experience and knowledge.

The involvement of the Czech and Greek partners is highly estimated. Their constructive and precise work planning allowed the project participants to stay gratified, although in general a two week project of exchange of experience was heavy both physically and psychologically.

Presently the association is planning to have an exchange of experience to Norway, Bulgaria and Cyprus in order to improve work.

**SUCCESS STORIES:**

**GERMAN TRAINING COMPANY AS A NEW CONCEPT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING – MANAGEMENT LEARNING**

**PROMOTER:** Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication

**ADDRESS:** Strādnieku iela 16, Daugavpils, LV-5400

**CONTACT PERSON:** Lubova Deļmuhamedova

**E-MAIL:** lts@ltsts.lv

**TEL.** + 371 65436893

**FAX.** + 371 65436893

**DURATION:** 3 weeks

**PARTICIPANTS:** 3

**PARTNER COUNTRY:** Germany

Besides the planned activities, the participants of the project attended also other institutions with whom *IB Bildungzentrum* is cooperating, including the Chamber of Industry and Trade. While being in Germany, the participants significantly improved their knowledge of German. They received certificates from the receiving organisation and *Europass Mobility*. These documents are attached to the CV’s of the trainers and the management of the school take them in mind during assessment of the employees.

After the project in Latvia at Latgale Technical School of Transport and Communication a seminar about the project was organised where the participants told about their experience and results. As a tool of dissemination a special picture album of the project is created.
The project objective was development of a new module of care of the disabled persons and improvement of qualification of the currently working specialists. Therefore two teachers from P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College went to Sozialpflegeschulen Heimerer GmbH, Döbeln – a long term partner of P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College since 2001.

During the exchange of experience the representatives from Latvia obtained new and significant knowledge and skills in care of the disabled, especially by attending lessons of Basal stimulation. They visited various institutions of social care and rehabilitation to get an idea how social care works in Germany and how are the needs of the clients guaranteed. The acquisition is double: theoretical (system quality, planning of lectures, bazal communication) and practical (creative workshops, clinical days, autogenous training).

After the return the participants of the project presented the project experience and facilities to the management of the college, academic personnel and cooperation institutions. Currently the gained knowledge is used during practical training of social care and social rehabilitation students. Learning course „Care o for the Disabled“ and „The Disabled social rehabilitation“ are supplemented with the experience and practical classes studied in Germany which contribute the development of these disciples.

SUCCESS STORIES: FURTHER EDUCATION MODULE FOR CARE OF THE DISABLED

PROMOTER: P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College

ADDRESS: Vidus prospekts 36/38, Bulduri, Jūrmala, LV-2010

CONTACTPERSON: Aiga Grauduma

E-MAIL: st-skola@apollo.lv

TEL.: + 371 67752507

FAX: + 371 67752507

DURATION: 4 weeks

PARTICIPANTS: 2

PARTNERCOUNTRY: Germany

QUALITY ASPECT:

The project objective was development of a new module of care of the disabled persons and improvement of qualification of the currently working specialists. Therefore two teachers from P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College went to Sozialpflegeschulen Heimerer GmbH, Döbeln – a long term partner of P. Stradiņš Health and Social Care College since 2001.

During the exchange of experience the representatives from Latvia obtained new and significant knowledge and skills in care of the disabled, especially by attending lessons of Basal stimulation. They visited various institutions of social care and rehabilitation to get an idea how social care works in Germany and how are the needs of the clients guaranteed. The acquisition is double: theoretical (system quality, planning of lectures, bazal communication) and practical (creative workshops, clinical days, autogenous training).

After the return the participants of the project presented the project experience and facilities to the management of the college, academic personnel and cooperation institutions. Currently the gained knowledge is used during practical training of social care and social rehabilitation students. Learning course „Care o for the Disabled“ and „The Disabled social rehabilitation“ are supplemented with the experience and practical classes studied in Germany which contribute the development of these disciples.