



EU.EM.NET: European systematic approach for employers' engagement to anticipate skills requirements

and support quality assurance (QA) in VET

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EU.EM.NET Employers Forum Report

WP7

Country: Slovakia

Partner: P1 RDA and P9 SZK

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Section 1: Organisation

1.1 Selection of the invited

Please describe briefly how you selected the invited persons. Please describe briefly also how did you approach the invited persons.

The invited persons are employers' associations representatives - contacts and colleagues of RDA and SZK, who work together on projects related to the issues of support to SMEs, entrepreneurship and social dialogue. They were approached by phone and they were invited to the RDA premises for a meeting and discussion. Employers' associations represented were: Slovak Chamber of Crafts, Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Employers' Associations of the Slovak Republic.

1.2 Type of event, venue, logistics, duration

Type of event (workshop, meeting, other – please specify): meeting

Venue: RDA Senec-Pezinok

Date: 29.10.2015

Duration: 1 hour

Description: *Please describe briefly how did you choose the type of the event and why.*

The meeting format is in line with the Employers Forum idea – allowing employers representatives to discuss openly and in informal, but professional way about the issues that concern them and on the same time reflect on how the EU.EM.NET results and especially the Core Methodology and Quality Indicators could help to solve the identified challenges. The venue of the RDA was convenient to all the participants and provided good environment for this type of event.

Section 2: Content

2.1. Course of action

The course of action was very simple, the project aims and objectives were introduced by RDA representatives, then deliverables and experiences of the other partners in the EU.EM.NET network were presented and then followed open discussion. Participants presented their opinion on the situation regarding skills anticipation in Slovakia and a lot was discussed about the activities currently going on in Slovakia. Participating employers' associations representatives work together on various national projects aiming at the improvement of the unsatisfactorily situation in the VET sector in Slovakia, so there was a lot of references to other work done by them within the topic. Exchange of ideas was very well informed and new approaches and motivations were raised.

2.2 EU.EM.NET products/deliverables presented

Since the Employers Forum meeting in Slovakia was held at the very end of the project, all the deliverables were at the disposal. Paper version of the Final Package, Country Testing Report Slovakia, Testing Synthesis Report along with promotional materials were distributed to the participants. The new „Pre-workshop questionnaire on indicators for employer's engagement“ was not filled this time, but the questions were discussed. The discussion was very much in line with the pre-workshop questionnaires that were used during the Slovak Testing Workshop in March 2015. Even though not all the participants of the Employers Forum participated also to the Testing Workshop, they found the answers collected in March (also presented to them) very much in line with their opinions.

2.3 Feedback of the participants

The Testing Workshop in Slovakia raised the most feedback along with the experiences of the partners of the network that were presented to the Employers Forum participants through the deliverables (Testing Synthesis Report and the Final Package – especially the Guidelines for Methodology Application/Case Studies). These were the most practical and comprehensible points for the participants that attracted the most attention. It was interesting for the participants to see what is the situation in other countries and how others are coping with it. Partners acknowledged that there are also different issues solved in other countries and think that the situation for example in Austria is much better (for example Austrian model for VET is now being adapted for Slovak needs and introduced on national level), or at least different. They agreed that the attractiveness (or its lack) of VET, not just in T&H sector, is a common issue. Participants appreciated the efforts of the EU.EM.NET project, since they see it as an impulse for the increased communication about various type of stakeholders. However, there is currently more projects with similar overall aims and objectives of improvement of the provided VET with the active participation of employers. The projects on national level – such as Development of the National Qualifications Framework, National System of Occupations, Development of Secondary Vocational Education, they all try to engage employers in solving the issue and there are already structures in place, where they are also actively present. The introduction of the dual system should help the situation in VET in Slovakia on the system level, since it implies direct involvement of employers in the training process. Nevertheless, the system is only at the very beginning and the communication

between individual VET providers and local employers (SMEs) is a field, where the Core Methodology could help improving the situation and enhance the cooperation on the spot. The involvement of SMEs is considered an issue of itself. This could be the field where the Core Methodology could find its use.

2.4 Partner's (organiser's) experience

Informal and professional meeting like this was very useful for the organisers also in terms of further exploitation and sustainability of the project results. The insight and feedback gained through the Employers Forum will be taken into account in the future.

Section 3: Summary for dissemination purposes

EU.EM.NET Employers Forum meeting was held in RDA

Within the project EU.EM.NET aimed at employers engagement to anticipate skills requirements and support quality assurance in VET, one of the final events within the official implementation period of the project was held. At the premises of RDA, a meeting with employers representatives was co-organised by project partners RDA and SZK, as an opportunity to get their feedback on the situation and also their insight in order to ensure exploitation and sustainability of the network's results.

The employers representatives were introduced to the project deliverables and within an informal and Professional discussion their feedback was gained. The Testing Workshop in Slovakia raised the most feedback along with the experiences of the partners of the network that were presented to the Employers Forum participants through the deliverables (Testing Synthesis Report and the Final Package – especially the Guidelines for Methodology Application/Case Studies). These were the most practical and comprehensible points for the participants that attracted the most attention. It was interesting for the participants to see what is the situation in other countries and how others are coping with it.

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