

## WBL-PRO Professional Peer Network: The team talks with the professionals – Galina Petrova, Sofia, Bulgaria

Today we very happy to present to you **Galina Petrova** - Projects Manager at RAABE Bulgaria Ltd. - an organization that offers more than 40 information products and more than 250 training topics to teachers and principals of educational institutions; accountants in public and business sector; managers of companies and enterprises. Galina is a GCDF career counsellor and trainer since 2006 and has already gained more than 10 years experience in the career practice in addition to more than 25 years experience as a teacher, during 17 of which she has also been vice principal of an electrical engineering and electronics vocational school.



### Please find below what she has shared with us:

"The main advantages of the work-based learning are among all the possibility to get deeply into the essence of a certain profession, to be able to assess own knowledge and skills in real working environment, to make the link with real practice and competences implementation, to structure and direct own efforts, to improve vocational education and training quality, to work in team and learn how to practically solve problems and negotiate.

The main challenges that work-based learning implementation faces are the non-compliance of the school curricula with the real work/production processes, insufficient theoretical knowledge, lack of skills for implementing the already acquired knowledge, ignorance about machines, technologies, processes due to the out-of-date equipment at schools, lack of team work skills and taking responsibility for own results, lack of skills to learn through work, etc.

These challenges can be overcome through different activities that for example for the trainees can be acquiring preliminary information about the workplace and the work safety requirements, dedication of a certain period to introducing to the workplace, working together with a mentor, motivation, awareness about own possibilities and transferable skills, result orientation related to both work and learning.

The mentors and other work-based learning professionals also face challenges and they can be overcome through better acquaintance with the curricula and programs for certain specialty/profession, mutual work with teachers and trainers in the process of WBL curricula for the given workplace, improving communication skills and skills to motivate planning and organizational skills, readiness to monitor and provide feedback, to assess both the process and the results, etc.

The most important knowledge and skills for a WBL professional are communication skills and skills to motivate, excellent team work, ability to provide feedback, plan and organize activities, patience, tolerance and empathy, specialized knowledge about the given profession and the educational legislation.

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