

WBL-PRO Professional Peer Network: The team talks with the professionals – Tamara Rodriguez, Spain

It is our pleasure to present today **Tamara Rodriguez** - coordinator of international projects in HETEL, an association of 20 vocational schools located in the Basque Country, Spain.



Please review below what he has shared with us:

“The main aspects of work-based learning are that, for students, they learn while having a real work experience, developing competences which is not possible to train in the class and making good connections with employers and other colleagues which can help them to get a future job. For companies, they ensure that learners develop exactly the competences they demand, contributing to end with the gap of “demanded competences - qualification of workers”.

There are several challenges related to the work-based learning. For VET teachers and learners, they need to get used to other ways of teaching/learning, the role of teachers changes and is shared with the mentor in the company. Another big challenge is to get companies involved, especially in the case of small and micro enterprises. Another challenge in to ensure that the learning path, the follow up and the evaluation are in line with the requirements of the curriculum.

The possible solutions include having someone in the school responsible of dealing with companies, offering them support to make the follow up of the student, design learning paths together with the company and the learner, make sessions where companies hosting students share their good experiences and how they solved the challenges they had when hosting students with other companies with no experience on this.

During the project <http://www.dualteachingsystem.eu/> we identified 5 main competences that teachers involved in WBL should have: PBL, cooperative learning, relation with companies, assessment based on competences and organization of shared educational programmes. The training they need would be addressed to develop these competences but as these competences require a big change not only in the

methodologies used in VET schools but also in the organization of the teachers and their relation with companies, the support of the management is one of the key parts.

At the regional level, we are involved in the development and provision of VET specialization programmes which have been designed and are provided together with companies, in particular from the automotive and the robotics sector. In the EU level, apart from the DTS project, which was funded by the previous LLP we are also involved now in the IMPROSK project (<https://sites.google.com/a/davincideg.../im-pro-sk-wbl-en/home>), an Erasmus+ KA2 project for exchange of good practices in the implementation of WBL among Germany, Italy, Spain, Romania and Turkey."

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