



LEONARDO QUALITY PROJECTS

QUALITY AWARDS FOR MOBILITY PROJECTS 2005 - 2006



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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FOREWORD

The Leonardo da Vinci programme links policy to practice in the field of vocational education and training (VET). Projects range from those giving individuals the chance to improve their competences, knowledge and skills through a period abroad, to Europe-wide co-operation between training organisations.

The recognition of the importance of mobility projects within the Leonardo da Vinci programme is growing and funding dedicated to support this action has been increased substantially during the last few years. Since the beginning of the programme in 1995 approximately 2500 Icelanders have received Leonardo grants for training placements and exchanges in Europe. The yearly number of beneficiaries is 200-250 per year in recent years.

Discussion about the importance of quality in mobility has also been growing during the last years. Projects that include linguistic and cultural preparations, that have clear objectives and content of the placements, monitoring, tutoring and validation of the competences acquired during the placements are given preference. These are some of the quality criteria used when selecting mobility projects for the quality awards.

A group of experts was chosen to organise the National Quality Awards. The committee comprised staff from the Lifelong Learning National Agency, from the Ministry of Education and Culture and from both the education and working life sectors. The committee worked according to procedures that have been elaborated in co-operation with twelve European National Agencies. The assessment criteria were related to the following aspects:

- Innovation
- Project management
- Results and benefits
- Mobility within the institutional context

AWARDS WILL BE MADE FOR TWO CATEGORIES OF MOBILITY PROJECTS:

- People undergoing initial vocational training and people on the labour market
- Teachers, trainers and human resource managers

This is the third time the National Quality Awards are made in Iceland and they are made from projects from the years 2005 – 2006. Fifty four projects eligible for participation were assessed in the pre-assessment phase. Nine projects that received the highest scores were assessed again by an 5-person panel of judges. Information about the projects can be found in this brochure. The organisers of this awards hope that they will serve to encourage project managers to continue their good work and contribute to the growth and success of the Leonardo Programme in Iceland.

FIRE FIGHTERS INSTRUCTORS IN REALISTIC FIRE TRAINING

Project Number	EX-ISL-05-A-406
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Target Group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
Partners	The Swedish Rescue Services Agency College - Sweden



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project, twenty fire fighter instructors from fire brigades all around Iceland participated in a one week tailor-made training program in a specialized training college in Sweden. The aim of the project was to enhance the participants' knowledge of different fire-fighting systems and provide additional information on how to plan, organize and train fire fighters. After completing the training successfully, the participants were accredited as qualified instructors. Many of the instructors work as senior fire fighters in small communities in the countryside and are responsible for training fire fighters in their fire brigades. A very positive side effect of this project is that it strengthens the co-operation of the fire offices countrywide.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for management, results and benefits. The project management was excellent in every aspect starting with a two day preparatory seminar in Reykjavik before the participants undertook their training. Results and benefits of this project were also very good. The goals were very clear, all objectives were met and new and important professional skills were acquired. Since this training is not available in Iceland the project was of utmost importance. After finishing it the beneficiaries have new skills in fire rescuing that they will teach their colleagues. The general public being the ultimate beneficiaries through added safety, knowledge and understanding of fire hazards.

VOASK – VALIDATION OF ON-THE-JOB ACQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE; INTEGRATION OF SCHOOL AND WORK

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Partners	OPTIMA Vocational School - Finland



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project tackles the formal education of adult workers in the retail sector. The study programme comprises of formal classes and practical work under supervision at the students' workplace. This emphasises validation of on-the-job acquired skills and knowledge. The three participants of the project come from different areas of the retail and education sectors. All of the participants were directly involved in developing the study programme. Their host organisation was a vocational college in Finland which had considerable experience in validation and similar programme development.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for innovation, results and benefits. It is directly linked to the development of a new study program for people on the labour market where innovative teaching methods are used to attract this target group. The outcomes of the project have made an impact on all relevant parties and the results have been introduced to the industry and the Ministry of Education. Furthermore the project has led to further co-operation between the partners adding more European countries into the partnership promoting convergence between vocational training systems in Europe.

HANDS ON HYDROGEN

Project Number	EX-ISL-05-A-428
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Target Group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
Partners	Electro-Ausbildungszentrum Aalen - Germany



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project, Icelandic New Energy organized a study trip to Germany for teachers and trainers from vocational schools. On the trip there were also experts on engines and electrical systems, from communities and companies. They were given an opportunity to participate in a seminar on hydrogen technology in action and to visit organizations and companies using hydrogen as a source of energy in their operation. The main objective was to promote the idea that trainers and teachers could introduce this technology in their own teaching and training in Iceland. In this way help to raise awareness and interest in this new environmentally friendly energy, both within the educational sector and the communities.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for innovation and benefits. The use of hydrogen is in itself very innovative. The initiative taken by Icelandic New Energy to offer vocational teachers and experts in the field of engines and electricity a possibility to acquaint themselves with the use of hydrogen shows great innovation. It is hoped that as a result of this project the use of hydrogen will be integrated in the curricula of vocational schools, which again is very progressive.

THE CHURCH DEALING WITH CHANGES IN SOCIETY

Project Number	EX-ISL-05-A-434
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Target Group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
Partners	Institutt for Sjelesorg - Norway Sarum College - United Kingdom Stockholms Stadsmission - Sweden



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project, seven clergymen and deacons had the opportunity to go to Europe for a week. The goal was to enhance their skills and competences in order to be better able to deal with the changes in society and serve the mission which the Church stands for. They visited Sweden, Norway and the UK and participated in seminars, met colleagues or visited specialized institutions. Each visit was tailor-made and with different emphasis according to each participants' needs and interests. As an example, one of the visits focused on how the Church and the healthcare systems can work together with homeless people.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for results and benefits. The participants of the project were all satisfied with their stay and felt the results met their expectations, both professionally and personally. There is a growing demand that the church is more active in helping people with their everyday problems and the participants returned to their jobs revitalized with new skills to help people tackle difficult issues in today's society.

TRAINING FOR VET CENTER PERSONNEL



Project Number	EX-ISL-05-A-432
Promoter	IDAN Vocational Education and Training Center
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Target Group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The need for this project emerged when several separate vocational centres merged into one: IDAN Vocational Education and Training Center ehf. One of the organisation's roles is to provide companies and individuals with new knowledge and skills, and in this project thirteen staff members at the IDAN Vocational Centre visited VET schools, companies and institutions in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK and Germany. The objective was to find ways to enhance the quality of the work at IDAN, strengthen its international network and build new partnerships. Each trip was organized for a specific sector or subject, such as cooling techniques, printing, welding, distance learning for adult learners, gender awareness and tourism. The project proved very important for this new organisation and it resulted in many valuable contacts and participation in European networks and projects.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for results and benefits. Each visit was carefully planned focusing on the needs of each sector. The objectives of enhancing the quality of IDAN's work as well as strengthening their international network were clearly met and the results were very satisfactory. A very important outcome of this project is that it has had influence on sectoral level in various fields and IDAN is now participating actively in numerous European projects and networks.

TRAINING IN TOURISM

Project number	ISL/06/A/INS/164026
Promoter	The Federation of General and Special Workers in Iceland
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Target group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
Partners	PAM - Service Union United - Finland Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union -Sweden



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is directly linked to a national project addressing the need for providing formal training to people working in the tourism sector. This is the result of a review carried out by the Icelandic Travel Industry Association. Before starting to develop relevant training programmes, it was important to learn from countries that had successfully organized such training for this target group. Finland and Sweden were chosen as host countries because of cultural similarities and their experience in developing regional tourism. The broad variety of partners from different organizations both in the tourism industry and education in Iceland meant that the results could be directly disseminated to the relevant parties and successfully fed into the training market. It is safe to say that the project's results have had a strong impact on progress in this field as new curricula was developed and implemented in continuous education and it is now planned to start a new study path within the vocational schools.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for innovation, management, results and benefits. There was an identified need for training for the target group and the objectives of the mobility project were clear and directly linked to results of needs analysis carried out within the target group. Participants were actively involved in the project team. They represented different players or interests in the subject and the visits were targeted with that variety in mind. The project had a strong impact on the renewal of education within the whole tourism sector in Iceland. New curricula has been developed and the organization of training has been structured.

ENVIRONMENTAL METHODS IN HAIRSTYLING

Project Number	ISL/06/A/INS/164027
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Target Group	Human resource managers, teachers and trainers
Partners	CPH West - Denmark



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project four representatives from the hairdressing profession in Iceland went to Denmark to acquaint themselves with environmental thinking in hairdressing and the use of more environmental friendly products in the industry. They participated in a special training course, visited environmental friendly salons and were introduced to a system of certifying such salons. The main objective of the project was to gather knowledge and to encourage environmental thinking in hairdressing in Iceland. Acquired allergies in the trade are high and the project tackles issues regarding health and safety of the hairdressers themselves, their clients and ultimately the environment. The choice of participants was very important for the utilization of the project results, since they are all involved with education in the field and can influence the development of a new curriculum in Iceland.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for innovation, results and benefits for the environment. Environmental thinking in this field is relatively new in Iceland and it is very important to ensure the health and safety of people working in the trade and their clients. Outcomes of the project were easily fed into the industry as the participants are working within the education system and could include environmental thinking in the preparation of a new curriculum. Furthermore they organized a seminar on the subject and planned extensive dissemination of the ideology within the hairdressing sector as well as to the Icelandic Administration of Health and Safety.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS IN EUROPE

Project number	PL-ISL-05-A-419
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Target group	People undergoing initial vocational training
Partners	Johnbauergymnasiet - Sweden



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project four students from the Vocational School of Austurland had the opportunity to visit a vocational school in Sweden. The aim of their three week visit was to broaden their horizons and get to know how the subjects they are learning are taught there. They took part in classes as well as social activities and sports, the cultural experiences being an important part of their visit. Two teachers accompanied the students for the first week. They assisted the students at the beginning of their stay, learned about the Swedish VET system and were able to exchange ideas and experiences with the Swedish teachers. The project was organized as a follow up to a former project where students from Sweden visited the Icelandic school. Further co-operation and student placements between the schools are expected.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for management, results and benefits. The project was very well managed, preparation thorough and it was important for the students to have the teachers accompanying them the first week. Placement like this is an important experience for the students involved and active co-operation between the schools is positive and creates possibilities for further co-operation and exchange of students.

TRAINING ELECTRICIANS

Project Number	ISL/06/A/IVT/164014
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Target Group	People undergoing initial vocational training
Partners	YIT A/S - Denmark ELAJO Elinstallationer AB - Sweden



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this project three students in their final year of studying electricity were given the opportunity to do 12 weeks of their practical training in Scandinavia. Two participants went to Denmark and one to Sweden. The success of the project was largely due to its careful preparation. It began by representatives from the The Icelandic Committee for Electrical Training and Education contacting similar institutions in the Nordic countries and later visiting them and planning the content and practical aspects of students' placements. One of the most important criteria was that the placements were an integral part of the students training period and fully accredited. Prior to the placements the students were given linguistic preparation. Altogether the project was a great success and very beneficial to the students both professional and personally.

QUALITY ASPECTS

The project receives recognition for management, results and benefits. The preparation phase of the project was excellent and the representatives of the Icelandic Committee for Electrical Training and Education did their utmost to ensure that the placements would be as beneficial to the students as possible. The evaluation factor was also important in the project and the professional experience the students gained fully valid as a part of their formal education in electricity. Last but not least the students' linguistic, intercultural and social skills grew considerably as a result of the project.