

## Mechanical Engineering and Machine Design students' participation in "Worldskills" competition

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*"You hear - and you forget,*

*You see - and you remember,*

*You do - and you learn"*

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### FAST FACTS

#### Country or Region:

LATVIA

#### University:

Riga Technical College (RTC)

#### Business partners:

- Festo
- Grandeg
- MASOC

#### Area of UBC:

- CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY
- MOBILITY

**Project start date:** January 2013

**Project end date:** July 2013

#### Keywords:

- Innovations
- Creativity
- Technologies
- Cooperation

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Mechatronics students participated in the Worldskills professional contest that took place in Germany in July 2013. The participants were supported by Festo and Grandeg specialists. Festo provided the financial and technical support as well as students' training. Grandeg expert travelled to Germany along with the participants to supervise the preparation process.

### CASE STUDY IN DETAILS

#### Project Background and Needs

The participation in this project was beneficial to both sides. The College students were able to take part in a major professional event. They had the opportunity to develop their skills on the international level. The partners helped to prepare the young professionals who could apply for the job vacancies in these companies after graduation. The demand for Mechanical Engineers is high and there is a lack of trained specialists in Engineering, thus, the graduates with intensive training and international experience will be ready to fill the gap and develop the industry in the long-term perspective.

#### Project Solution from University's Side

The College established contacts with the Partners that were ready to provide financial and technical support for the College's students. Liaising with the Partners helped to ensure the highest level of students' preparation. As a result, students' practical skills were promoted significantly and the College was represented on the international level.

#### Project Solution from Partner's Side

Participation in the project enabled the Partners to advertise themselves on the international level and to prepare the future Mechanical Engineering specialists who will promote the professional area in Latvia after graduation.

#### Achievements and Impact

Liaising between the College and the Partners boosted the

## Key Objectives:

- to represent Latvia and the College
- to advertise the Partners and professional associations
- to promote students' and lecturers' professional development
- to establish international contacts in the field

## Lessons learned:

- liaising with new cooperation partners provides new opportunities for the professional development
- establishing contacts in the professional area promotes the reputation of both sides
- long-term cooperation leads to better results as there are various projects to participate in

## University profile:

Professional Education Competence Centre "Riga Technical College" (RTK) is a public non-profit regional scope educational institution offering a number of accredited upper-secondary vocational and short-cycle higher educational study programmes in different fields of technologies and management: Metal Work (CNC), Wood Processing, Machines and Tools Design, Mechatronics, Electrical and Heat Power Engineering, ICT, Electronics, Auto Transport Maintenance, Telematics and Logistics, Secretariat and Office Work Management. The total number of trainees and students: 2200. Full-time employees: 274. RTK has established and maintains very close and efficient co-operation with industrial and social partners in order to determine the needs and demands of the labour market. This co-operation sufficiently influences upon the contents of curricula and teaching/training process as a whole and enables "Riga Technical College" to prepare young specialists.

students' motivation to achieve better results in the area of their professional interest. The project had a positive impact on College's reputation as representing the country at the international level is an honour and adds to the fundamental values of the institution. The Partners had an opportunity to participate in the competition which is also beneficial to their professional reputation and helped establish international contacts.

## Quantifiable Outputs for University

1. The amendments in the study programmes to promote the development of the industry;
2. Apprenticeship opportunities for the students;
3. Seminars, post-graduate education for the lecturers;
4. Visiting lecturers, practical classes at the enterprises;
5. Cooperation within Erasmus programme.

## Quantifiable Outputs for Partner (s)

1. Preparation of the potential employees taking into account the company's needs;
2. Cooperation in the new study programmes' development;
3. Recognition of company employees' informal education;
4. The opportunity to select the most qualified students for full-time jobs;
5. Project cooperation.

## CHECKLIST OF PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS

### Formal aspects

- Formal practical level Co-operation Agreement is signed between University and Partner(s) which defines particular roles, outputs, reporting mechanisms and other relevant aspects.
- Formal SLA (Service Level Agreement) is defined between University and Partner(s) ensuring quality of partnership
- Clear roles and responsibilities are defined for University.
- Clear roles and responsibilities are defined for Partner(s).
- Project is related to at least one strategic priority of the University.
- Project is related to at least one strategic priority of the Partner(s).

### Financial and/or Infrastructure aspects

- University invests financial resources in the project.

- Co-operation Partner invests financial resources in the project.
- Co-operation Partner invests infrastructure and/or material type (in kind) resources in the project.
- University gains monetary benefits from the project.
- Co-operation Partner gains monetary benefits from the project.

## Human capital aspects

- University is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation, specifically, academic staff and students.
- Co-operation Partner is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation.

## Marketing and communication aspects

- Project and/or project results are communicated within mass media channels.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within social media channels.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within internal marketing and/or communication channels within the University and/or Partner institution.

## For More Information

For more information about the case study contact Anda Kazusa on [anda.kazusa@rtk.lv](mailto:anda.kazusa@rtk.lv)

For more information about the project "FROM BRIDGING TO SUCCEEDING. University and Business Co-operation Through Success Stories." and for more case studies visit [www.university-business.net](http://www.university-business.net)

For more information about the Nordplus Horizontal programme visit [www.nordplusonline.org](http://www.nordplusonline.org)

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