

European strategy for internationalisation of

2nd EPAL of KARDITSA

The state of the school today

2nd EPAL of Karditsa is a new Vocational High School (founded in 2001). Since the first year of its operation gave emphasis on the European dimension of education, on the creation of an open European culture, on the way of thinking and operation as well as on the implementation of innovative projects. It is no coincidence that just the second year of its operation it implemented a Socrates/Comenius program which lasted three years in collaboration with three other European countries, England, Denmark and Belgium. Between 2002 and 2015 it implemented seven successful Leonardo da Vinci projects of VETPRO Category and one Erasmus+ - KA1 Staff Mobility, on issues related to new technologies, management, adult education, educational software in virtual enterprises and the quality and evaluation in education. There is also no coincidence that the school is one of the two secondary schools of the prefecture involved in teachers4europe action, which for the first time this year was implemented in secondary education.

Learning outcomes of European programs implementation contributed essentially to the school to become a privileged framework for developing innovations in the daily educational process such as the high degree of ICT integration, the implementation of virtual enterprises, the use of new more effective methods of approaching students and developing the cooperation between teachers and students and the use of modern evaluation methods of the educational work in order to improve them.

But, as the total European vision for the initial vocational education has been redefined in the summit of Bruges (December 2010), the school considers that it is necessary to develop a new strategic approach of its internationalization and promote the participation of its teachers and even more of its students in various mobility actions.

Vision and strategy objectives

The new strategy for Vocational Education in Europe in the decade 2010-2020, as expressed at the meeting in Bruges in December 2010, envisages an attractive, without exclusions Technical Vocational Education (VET), with high quality initial VET, accessible and career-oriented continuing VET, with flexible systems that allow permeability between the different education and training subsystems and ensure the validation of non-formal and informal learning. It also envisions a European education area, with transparent qualifications systems with substantially increased opportunities for transnational mobility of VET's students and professionals, which will enable the transfer and accumulation of learning outcomes and recognition of qualifications and competences. Finally, envisions easily accessible and high quality lifelong information services of guidance and counselling, which will form a coherent network and allow European citizens to make decisions and manage their learning and professional careers beyond the traditional features in accordance with the sex.

2nd EPAL of Karditsa always follows the developments in the field of education, especially vocational education that are directly linked to the developments in the domestic and European labor market, aspires to work in concert and according to the conditions that the national educational system allows to make the original VET, which it provides, attractive learning option for both students and their parents. The school aims to stimulate excellence in all areas of teaching, developing a strategic plan aimed at teaching process configuration and cooperation with institutions both at domestic and European level. Therefore, our school considers the contribution of the ERASMUS+, e-twinning, teachers4europe and any other program related to European Union as essential to achieving the goals it sets for internationalisation.

Specifically, the school will seek to:

- Exploit as much as possible the possibilities offered by the Erasmus+, e-twinning and teachers4europe program in order to strengthen the transnational mobility of teachers and learners and establish international networks with partner institutions for the support of its graduates to economic globalization of the market.
- Use the opportunities of the program for the vocational training of human resources in new teaching methods and practices and for the interchange of knowledge and culture between the partners in order to enrich the teaching process and academic work.
- Make every effort to inform educators, young students and their parents on European transparency tools such as Europass, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the European reference framework for quality assurance in VET (EQAVET).
- Promote and enhance, as far as possible, foreign languages learning opportunities for both learners and teachers, and the provision of language training adapted to the specific needs of VET, with special emphasis on the importance of foreign languages for the cross-border cooperation in VET and international mobility.

Action Plan

To achieve the objectives of the strategic plan, the school has formed a special action plan, which includes the following:

- Proposals to implement various type of mobility KA1 actions for both trainers and learners and KA2 actions of Strategic Partnerships for Schools within the Erasmus + program.
- Actions of information and awareness of teachers, students and parents under teachers4europe program.
- Strengthening and expanding the use of ICT in the daily educational process, improvement and continuous upgrading the portal, the school blog and school's participation in the social networks for the establishment and maintenance of international networks with partner institutions.
- Encouraging and strengthening teachers' training on issues related to modern requirements and the quality of vocational education.

- Use of the Quality Detection and Impact tool that allows an institute to analyze the situation of its internationalization strategic and develop more this strategy (<http://www.erasmusplusvet.nl/QIS2020/default.aspx>)
- Organisation of information days for teachers, students, parents about European tools such as Europass, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the European reference framework to ensure quality in VET (EQAVET).
- Annual workshop organization to inform students and parents about the Eures - European Employment Network.
- Day or career days organization to provide information and high level of guidance that will allow young students and their parents to get acquainted with various professions and career paths, during the compulsory education, both at home and abroad.
- Organization of a voluntary school-based training in foreign languages, especially in English for the school teachers, in cooperation with the English teacher of the school.
- Organization of free language courses for school students, in collaboration with the Association of secondary education Teachers of Karditsa and the Association of English Language teachers of Karditsa.
- Organization of experiential seminars with the participation of teachers and learners in order to develop and strengthen their intercultural skills and their skills of cooperation with people from other countries of different languages, cultures and probably way of working.
- Utilization of modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to achieve partnerships with educational organizations abroad (video conferencing, chat, forums, online learning platforms, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses, cloud computing)
- Monitoring of school education with the active participation of all sectors of the educational community through evaluation and organization of school education, as well as the evaluation of parents' participation.

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The headmaster

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