







Authors

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Suitability of this case to the ApprEnt definition of HEA

Workplace/ training 	Mentoring 	Remuneration 	Formal programme 	Certification 	Contract/ Agreement 
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Evaluation of how the programme/practice reaches the following goals Scale: 1 = not at all; 2 = very little; 3 = somewhat; 4 = well; 5 = very well

	1	2	3	4	5
i. Enhances relevant working life skills and qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Promotes professional growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Develops learning environment practices as a whole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Develops work-based learning practices and materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Improves work performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi. Improves tutoring and mentoring practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
vii. Enhances University-Business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
viii. Showcases potential aspects for programme standardisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Title

Programme of Apprenticeship at the State Higher Vocational Schools in Poland

Description

Model

Description of the model

Since 2015, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education has been carrying out a pilot project for the implementation of the six-month apprenticeships at the State Higher Vocational Schools (Higher Education Institutions) under the non-competitive project co-financed by the EU Operational Programme Knowledge Education and Development (PO WER). The main objective of the non-competitive project, entitled Programme of Apprenticeship at the State Higher Vocational Schools, is to develop, test, and implement a nationwide, uniform system of the 6-month mandatory student internship. The project finances an additional three months of apprenticeship that complement the mandatory three-month apprenticeship at a practice-oriented profile degree programs.

The project was intended to involve 7.000 students (it has already involved over 7.000). The project contributes to the development of students' competences required by employers, increase in the flexibility of vocational HEIs in terms of creating curricula and strengthening cooperation with business sector.

The project is addressed to institutions with a status of a State Higher Vocational School or a non-public vocational school, educating at least 100 full-time students and in which the proportion of full-time students in the total number of students is at least 40%. The team of experts has elaborated a document containing regulations and instructions for implementing the pilot 6-month internships. Six calls for proposals have been launched and 66 vocational HEIs have been implementing such apprenticeship programme.

Project duration - 1.10.2015- 30.09.2018. Budget - 135 937 731,39 PLN.

Best practice

Regulations and instructions for conducting apprenticeship have been elaborated by a team of experts – i.e. representatives of academia and industry. They have defined the following elements:

- Tasks of institutions, of students, and of the two tutors – at HEIs and at the company;
- Recruitment process of students and academic tutors;
- Scholarship payments;
- Choice of employer.

There are 4 types of contracts signed by the HEI and:

- 1) Students;
- 2) Company;
- 3) Academic tutor;
- 4) Professional tutor.

An IT Platform supporting the monitoring of implementation of the programme (e.g. trainee's portfolio, register), database, e-learning, information, and promotion tools is being prepared.

Rules for conducting apprenticeship:

- Description of expected learning outcomes to be achieved by students;
- Methods of verification: mini-professional tasks and a commission exam;
- 20% of trainees prepare a diploma thesis;
- Report prepared by trainees (self-assessment);
- Opinions and assessment of the academic and professional tutor;
- Quality of apprenticeship ensured by internal quality assurance systems, detailed documentation of the process and by external auditors;
- Model apprenticeship programmes and examples of learning outcomes available in four areas:
 - Humanities and social sciences;
 - Teacher education programmes;
 - Medical sciences;
 - Technical sciences.

Outcomes:

- Pilot programme resulted in the proposal of legal changes (New Law on Higher Education and Science enhances a practical profile of studies. It introduces two obligatory forms of conducting studies at a practical profile: six-month apprenticeships or dual studies).
- Development of practical skills and social competences; awareness of organisational, technical and technological aspects of the work place, work culture;
- Building trust and long-term cooperation with business sector;
- A team of experts prepared materials and methodology of ECVET implementation during the six-month apprenticeship programme - five vocational HEIs have been implementing ECVET;
- Increase in graduate employment rates.

Feedback from users

N/A

Relevance and Transferability

N/A

Comments

<http://www.nauka.gov.pl/projekty-i-inicjatywy/program-praktyk-zawodowych-w-panstwowych-wyzszych-szkolach-zawodowych-w-ramach-dzialania-3-1-kompetencje-w-szkolnictwie-wyzszym.html>