

lege_artis

CONTINUITY, CONSOLIDATION AND CHANGE TOWARDS A EUROPEAN ERA OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Agora conference, 16-17 March 2009, Thessaloniki

Working group II: Promoting excellence and innovation in VET

Monday, 16 March 15.00-17.00

Walter Stach / Gabriele Stöger

Commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture

2009 – EUROPEAN YEAR ON CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION – Austrian examples

1. "Exploration and Analysis on Creativity and Innovation in Initial Vocational Education and Training"

The investigation is based on the question, to which amount creativity and innovation actually play a role in the IVET systems of selected EU-member states,

a) in the official training regulation documents,

b) in the education and training practice of vocational schools and enterprises.

For the exemplary research IVET systems in 7 EU-member states and 12 professions were selected.

The result of the survey, which was started in September 2008, will be available in September 2009.

Its purpose is to serve as background for recommendations how to enhance creativity and innovation in initial vocational education and training systems, which is an important type of education for young people. In Austria 40% of youth aged 15 to 18 start an apprenticeship training, and we can look back on 20 years experience with cultural mediation projects that were particularly designed for the Austrian dual IVET system (see attachments *The Useful and the Strange* and *K3*).

2. More Examples of Good Practice on Creativity and Innovation in Austria

"Jugend Innovativ / Creative Youth" is a national competition for students in the age from 15 to 20 years. This initiative aims to encourage the development of innovative ideas in the fields of business, design, engineering and science. As such it supports the creative thinking of young people, who are considered essential resources in Austria, and provides them with a possibility of turning their visions and ideas into concrete practice.

„Diploma Theses on Secondary Technical Colleges“

The final exam at these schools ("diploma examination", entitling for further studies and for working in a higher qualified profession) can be taken as "project" or as "diploma thesis". Especially in the diploma thesis knowledge, experience and individual skills have to be used in a creative and innovative way for the solution of technical problems.

Demand and support of creativity and innovation can also be documented in the educational tasks and in hands-on-training in Austrian third level **Institutions for Kinder Garden Pedagogy** and **Institutions for Special Pedagogy** as well as in **Secondary Schools for Business and for Business Administration**.