

PROFF – Professionalisation of VET teachers for the future

The PROFF project built upon the findings of the TTnet thematic workshop in Helsinki in 2001 on 'Professionalisation of VET Teachers for the Future'. One of the conclusions of that workshop was that there was a need for further studies within this area and more specifically to "identify good practices in the Member States within the field of professionalisation of VET teachers and to disseminate them on a European level".

The project focused primarily on VET teachers and on learning activities within the different Member States aiming at qualifying the teachers for meeting present and future challenges to the profession. Such challenges are new target groups, new conceptions of learning and new working methods, developments in ICT, developments in the surrounding world and within the institutions, internationalisation and finally, improving the status of the VET teacher profession through improved quality.

The approach employed was a case study approach: the involved national TTnets collected cases of good practice on how the challenges to the VET teacher profession have been met. This approach was selected in order to paint a detailed picture of the individual VET teacher in-service activities. Out of the nationally selected 21 cases, 10 cases were selected for in-depth analysis.

In the first analysis five areas of professional development emerged i.e. pedagogical update, vocational update, qualification update, school vs. world of work and professional well-being. The following in-depth analysis then concentrated on analysing the cases through these themes.

Based on the analysis the following recommendations were given:

- teacher training should be an integral part of educational reforms
- flexible training pathways should be provided
- there should be ongoing interaction between school and enterprises
- teacher development is an organisational matter
- regular INSET should be provided during working hours