

WORK PACKAGE 5: Real Life Problem Solving

Deliverable 5.6

Report of the result of each implementaion

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5.6.1 Evaluations

During the project period in autumn 2014 there were three surveys, after the first and second intensive weeks and after the final seminar. All in all were the assessments of both projects very good. The students liked the programs of intensive weeks, the tasks and working together in intercultural and interdisciplinary groups. And the students liked the social and cultural events, too.

It was interesting that several students perceived different ways of working between students from different countries, so they could learn from each other. It was a great experience for all students and they have learned a lot.

But there were also some criticism. It was a lot of work and not enough time for sightseeing. The communication between students, supervisors and companies could be better. And there were different credits for the project work in different universities. That means more synchronization between the study courses is necessary.

5.6.2 Benefits

Several people and partners can have benefits from the real life problem solving process.

The benefits for students:

- Increasing intercultural competence
- Learning of project management skills
- Working in an interdisciplinary group
- Learning of different methods and tools
- Increasing of different competences, e.g. communication, conflict management, etc.
- More possibilities for future study plans abroad (exchange program, internship, double degree, etc.)

The benefits for companies:

- Human resources department can meet and recruit potential employees
- Find new ideas and solutions
- Start for further cooperation
- Create new contacts

The benefit for HEI's:

- Growth of expertise
- Possibility for development and expanding of company cooperation
- Get new ideas and new contacts
- Possibility to build up new partnerships with foreign universities
- Expansion of international partnerships (exchange program, double degree, etc.)
- Good for reputation
- Ensure excellent education

5.6.3 Problems and obstacles

Besides the benefits there are also problems and obstacles to implement international cooperation projects:

- International cooperation activities are depending on contacts. So a functional international network is necessary.
- Not each teacher is willing to supervise an international cooperation project because of higher effort.
- Attractiveness of countries is different.
- Because different languages between international partners, communication in English is needed. That means contact persons with English knowledge are necessary.
- Financing of travel cost for students is still a problem. Either companies have to pay or it is necessary to find alternative sources of money. Universities in Eastern Europe have more problems with this point as universities in Western Europe.

5.6.4 Summarize

Real life problem solving projects are really good opportunities to act and cooperate on an international platform. It is a big chance for companies and universities to tackle the challenge of globalization.

Work package 5 shows that it is possible to realize successfully international cooperation projects. Prerequisites for this are a functional network and a solution for financing of traveling costs.

The analysis of all evaluations has shown that companies as well as universities were very satisfied with procedure and results of all projects. It was a great and interesting experience not only students for but also for staffs from companies and universities.