

Grundtvig Partnership 2013 - 2015
“ENGAGING DISADVANTAGED PARENTS TO ACQUIRE PARENTING SKILLS“

GUIDE

Path to follow for a successful professional orientation



Project financially supported by the European Commission under Lifelong Learning Programme, GRUNDTVIG Sectorial Programme, Grundtvig Learning Partnership Action. The contents of this information is the sole responsibility of the authors. The National Agency for EU Programmes in Education and Training and the European Commission are not responsible for how the contents of the information will be used.

INTRODUCTION

Choosing a career is an important decision which impacts the satisfaction and success in the life of an individual. Parents play a huge role in the choices children make when they start looking for a VET.

When I grow up I'll be...?

At the age when they are expected to choose a future profession, youth is standing in front of a major question – either to choose a specific profession or further education.

Wrong VET choice lead to child's unhappiness, loss of interest for education and, in some cases, is an important reason for interrupting VET. Disadvantaged children are often at risk of poor outcomes in their education and may need additional support in order to reach their full potential.

Parent's participation in early childhood education and care from a very young age, however, improves the likelihood that children from such backgrounds will be successful in their education, and reduces their chances of becoming socially excluded. In this important moment not only parents and school but also information centres for professional counselling, as well as many companies could be of great help.

This short guide consists of good practice examples of partner countries collected in the framework of Grundtvig Partnership project and could be used as an effective tool to improve support to professional orientation of children and youth.

Vocational oriented activities

- **School**

Advising and supporting needs to begin at the preschool level.

School counsellors at primary and secondary schools should help parents to decide which educational path is best for their child by:

- *involving* parents in career guidance e.g. creating brochures, lists of practical suggestions etc.
- *raising* awareness of parents! Primary and secondary school parents often don't realize that this is the time to begin.
- *helping* parents to understand their role in child's career development.
- *giving* parents up-to-date information about educational opportunities.
- *organizing* talent workshops, company visits, parent/child seminars etc.

Example 1: Albrecht Dürer's School in Weiterstadt, Germany in cooperation with Berufsbildungs-und Technologiezentrum organized a **2-week internship** for pupils of 8th classes who worked 3 days in occupations: hairdresser, painters, carpenters, electricians etc. At the end pupils received certificates for participation in vocational orientation and potential analysis of their strengths.

Example 2: Some schools in Germany organize **practice day** for pupils of 9th classes. For half a year pupils visit once a week firm. Pupils have the opportunity to get a taste of professional life and gain valuable experience for the choice of their future training place. The choice of enterprises and institutions is carried out independently by pupils.

- **Family**

Family is responsible for choosing educational path suited to the specific needs and abilities of their child. Family influence is important in preparing youth for their role as worker. Family plays an important role in the transmission of values like independence, ambition, career orientation and actual career choice. Young people form many of their attitudes about work and career as a result of interaction with the family.

What can you do as a parent?

- Talk to your child about work and career
- Show faith in child's abilities to be successful, providing them encouragement and information

- Learn your child basic work attitudes of promptness, respect, responsibility and interest in schoolwork
- Get more information on jobs and training possibilities from Your career information center
- Arrange a personal appointment so that they get to know your child and can identify your child's strengths and interests
- Test your child's readiness for vocational education

Evaluation: Is my child ready for vocational education?

- ▶ Test 1: Vocational basic skills
- ▶ Test 2: Thinking and combining
- ▶ Test 3: Physical skills
- ▶ Test 4: Social skills
- ▶ Test 5: Maturity for choosing a profession

Tests are available at: <http://www.planet-beruf.de/Checklisten-zur-Ausb.553.0.html?&type=2>



Info workshops for parents entrepreneurs, KWVD Germany



Info workshop for parents, Çanakkale Halk Eğitimi ve ASO Müdürlüğü, Turkey

• Employment agencies

Counselors at Employment Agencies: help pupils in their career choice during education, but also in transition from education to employment; inform about training opportunities, prospects in the labor market, on application procedures and application deadlines; advise about professional desires, goals, expectations, or even about their fears and problems; prepare for job interviews and selection tests; organize Career choice tests.

Successful tools in professional orientation

Career choice passport



Nationwide proven tool in Germany which documents all child's personal information important for the career choice, e.g. description of interests and strengths, list of all internships, teacher's evaluation, self-evaluation.

Advantages:

- child will be aware of the early professional orientation,
- career guidance process starts on time,
- child's vocational orientation process is documented, traceable and available for parents, child and for external support.

Career choice passport unfolds its potential best when is supported by school and by parents. This allows parents to accompany their child on the way to apprenticeship.

Parent's role in making career choice passport:

- ▶ Evaluate your child: Where do you rate your child better than child itself?
- ▶ Work together with the career choice passport
- ▶ Encourage it to keep the career choice passport constantly updated
- ▶ Get information about all ongoing career events of your child
- ▶ It is important for your child that you show interest
- ▶ Career choice passport will show you what the teachers have done. Ask if you do not understand something. Make suggestions, if you have and ideas.

Girls' Day & Boys' Day – The biggest career orientation project for pupils from the 5th classes throughout Germany

On **Girls' Day** enterprises and universities open their doors to female pupils. Girls can learn about apprenticeships and courses in IT, crafts, science and technology, in which women are rarely represented. Girls also meet female role models in leadership positions in business and politics.

On **Boys' Day** boys can get to know new professions, e.g. kindergarten teacher, nurse etc. Pupils can show their strengths and talents in organized workshops, gain an insight into the daily lives of businesses and try out their skills in practice. Pupils can get direct answers to their questions and can make initial contacts.



KWVD, Germany opened door for Boys' Day

Vocational Fairs

Numerous **Vocational Fairs** and related events are taking place in partners' countries Turkey, Italy, Romania, Poland, Greece and Germany with the purpose to make parents and children aware of benefits of VET and to get information what the various trades involve. Young people can choose among many skilled trades.



Trainee speed dating

Every year Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Frankfurt am Main, Germany organizes **Trainee speed dating** which include 10 minutes conversation with a future employer. Pupils have the opportunity to show themselves and their strengths and abilities to recruiters.

Internet Professional Orientation Gate

Due to the fact that the Greek educational system pays little attention to the professional orientation of the youth, the Esperia association organized a conference in order to inform its members about an internet site which includes useful information about the professional orientation for students and the youth, in general. Although the site contains a lot of useful information for both parents and students, it still remains almost unknown and it is not widely utilized by schools or other educational institutions. Nowadays, that finding a job is quite difficult – at least for the Greek standards – the parents' help and advice is considered absolutely necessary. For this reason the presentation and familiarization with the certain "Professional Orientation Gate" was welcomed quite positively by Esperia's members.

The "Internet Professional Orientation Gate" can be utilized and provide information for:

The personal self – knowing of young people through taking digital tests of professional orientation, procedures of making right decisions, successful gain of educational and professional targets, possibilities present for the continuance of the education of the youth, apart from university studies, Greek Universities' departments and in particular: entry prerequisites, programmes of study, professional rights, future professional prospects – professional redemption, prospects of further studies – post graduate courses, useful links for studies in foreign countries and also the official sites of all foreign universities with the corresponding information about studies and professional prospects.

At the same time, Esperia association informed all its members about, and prompted them to attend congresses held by other European projects, as well. In this way they were given the opportunity to be informed about the many chances that young people have to participate in an Erasmus project, also about CEDEFOP and Europe Direct, which are projects that support the seeking of new professional prospective in the framework of the European Union.

Presentation of occupational profiles to pupils

In Romania the first step in professional orientation with a real success is at the age of 13-15 years and consists in knowing occupational profiles and finding out each child abilities.

In this context different occupational profiles were presented to pupils of 7th and 8th classes of Gelu and Varias schools. This type of orientation and counselling is useful in self-knowledge and developing a series of competences associated with a career success.



Save the Children Timisoara

Occupational profile contains the description of the occupation followed by some of the characteristics: Main task ⇒ Work context ⇒ Qualification and educational level ⇒ Knowledge and skills ⇒ Ability ⇒ Interest, professional satisfaction and personality characteristics ⇒ Perspective on the labour market ⇒ Pay category.

Also, in partnership pupils – parent – teacher – community members, successful careers of some parents or local personalities were presented to the pupils.

In the workshops organized for pupils of 8th classes from Varias municipality, members of the NGO PROSCOALAVARIAS and parents analysed different instruments applied on pupils to find out the their children's abilities and which profession suits them best. Over 40 selected occupational profiles were presented and analysed on the basis of interests and the pupils abilities. Aware of the concept of long life learning, pupils and their families have shown a keen interest to participate in this type of activities.