



**European
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Knowledge Education Development

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As part of the project "Experience primarily - organization of professional internships in foreign companies for students", 29 students from the prof. Jozef Tischners' School Complex No. 3 in Bochnia participated in the internship which was based in Greece. Project participants went on a 26 – day work experience. Internship took place in two rounds. The first group consisted of 11 people, while the second group of 18 people. The entire project involved 22 students from the hospitality profile, and 7 students from catering profile.



The idea of the project is to familiarize participants with the functioning of foreign hotel industry and catering business, to overcome the language barrier - consolidation of specialized vocabulary of the trade (acquisition of specialized vocabulary for the industry) and to shape entrepreneurial and mobile attitudes.

The concept aims to increase students' determination, self-confidence and self-esteem. Participation in the project is not only working and studying. The program assumes also cognition of tourist attractions, culture, tradition and history.

Participants establish new friendships that last for many years. Internship abroad contributed to greater openness, tolerance and raised awareness on mental and cultural differences. Owing to the knowledge of operation of foreign companies in the hotel and catering industry, participants will be able to move around the EU labor market easily. At the end of professional practice, participants receive Europass certificate, whereby acquired by the students skills and qualifications receive formal character, recognizable by European employers.

The primary objectives of the project are:

- Increasing the professional qualifications of the students;
- Learning the principles of operation of foreign companies in the hospitality and catering industry;
- Breaking the language barriers (increasing the skills in foreign languages);
- Shaping self-esteem and assertive attitudes;
- Getting intercultural experiences.



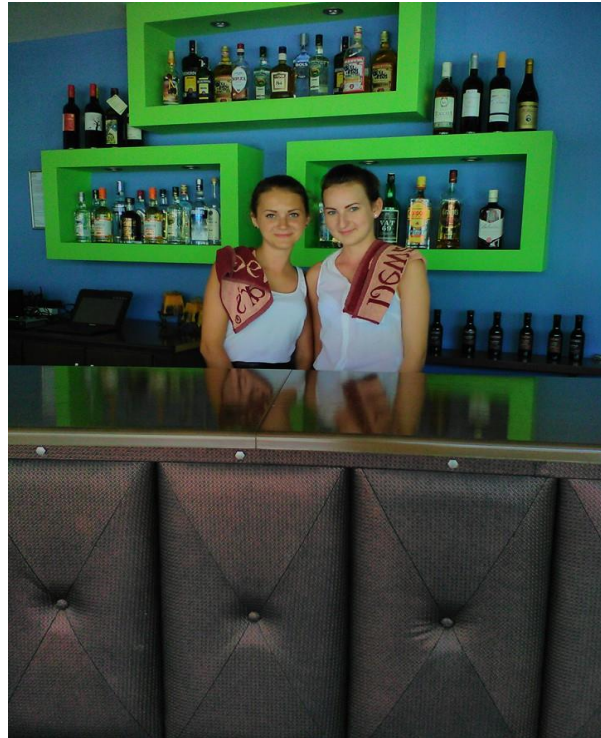
These objectives are being realized by:

- Getting by the participants practical experience in the hotel and restaurant in an international environment. The whole assimilated knowledge will be certified by the Europass - Mobility certificates and certificates of participation;
- Encouraging openness and cooperation by the cultural - pedagogical preparation classes before leaving provided by teachers of the prof. Jozef Tischners' School Complex No. 3 in Bochnia;
- Learning the basics of communication in Greek by the classes of linguistic preparation in the place of internship;
- Familiarizing the participants with the operation of Greek companies in the hospitality and catering industry;
- Breaking the language blockade in the use of specialized vocabulary - classes of language preparation.

All the established project objectives were fully achieved. Participation in the internship abroad adapted students' knowledge and skills to the requirements of the modern labor market, thereby enhancing their chances of employment in Poland and abroad.

Participation in apprenticeships allowed students to expand the experience in the profession hotelier and restaurateur.

In the first case, there were primarily tasks for the competent and professional customer service in hospitality. Participants held practice in Greece, where the tourist market is very well developed and acquired many valuable skills that they can use in the Polish sector, eg. in handling foreign guests. In the second case, it was grinding craft, development of manual skills and preparation of Greek products, which are becoming more popular in Poland. Acquired skills enhance participants' competitiveness in the labor market.



Students except the professional skills and qualifications, acquired a series of personal and cultural competencies, inter alia, increase self-confidence and the ability to cope with difficult situations.

Kika Mobility Center - our foreign partner, which has extensive experience in organizing international practice, was responsible for organizing professional practicum as well as its supervision, that is, ensuring the course is compatible with the internship program. Thanks to their great competence in the organization of professional mobility there was a high standard of teaching. The high substantive support concerning vocational training was given by Jozef Tischners' School Complex No. 3 in Bochnia.

All project partners were actively involved in each stage of the project, what strongly affected to the high quality of organized internship. Achieving all the objectives of the project greatly contributed to improving professional qualifications and skills of the students. The knowledge they have gained participants in the project, is reflected in the Europass certificate, which will be presented at the end of the project. Participants

certificates can present to potential employers, thus increasing their chances of employment.



Implementation of the project with the Greek organization contributed to the improvement of intercultural competences of all three sides, which was positively reflected in further plans for professional practice in Greece.

