

Possibilities for Training of Latvian Students at Valga County Vocational Training Centre

Ene-Mall Vernik-Tuubel

Internationalisation of VET - in practice

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Valga County Vocational Training Centre

- On September 1, 2011



Dislocation from Satellite in 2010

Construction site inside **the red ring**



Professions trained in Valga County Vocational Training Centre **today**

- Car mechanic / technician
- Car plumber
- Social care worker
- Cookery
- Household management
- Customer service assistants for logistics / warehousing
- Freight forwarding
- Shop assistants
- Tailor
- Joiner (woodwork)
- Log house constructor

For studies in the school today

- Number of students in regular studies – about 500
- Number of students in adult training last year – about 1200
- Number of beds in the Students Home – 100 (in single and twin rooms). Just now, more than 90 beds are used

1. Some history in advance

1.1. Valga County and Valka District agreed upon development in regional education system as follows:

Valka would develop higher education with the help of University of Latvia, Valga would develop vocational training. This principle is expressed also in Valga County Development Strategy.

http://www.valgamaa.ee/userfiles/file/valitsemine/a_rengustrateegia_2009_parandustega.doc

1.2. Agreements between Valga and Valka towns

It was also in 2006 that Valga and Valka signed their joint development plan for education, culture and sports.

<http://www.valgalv.ee/et/Linnakodanikule/Projektid-ja-arengukavad>

1.3. Forming of a Working Group

On the 22nd of May 2007, a joint working group was formed by Valga and Valka cities and counties to prepare training with instruction in the Latvian language so that after completing the construction works of the new buildings of Valga County Vocational Training Centre training of Latvian students would start.

- The working group analysed the needs for labour and professions in Valka area;
 - Profession options of 2007-2008 were as follows:
Welder, (industrial) wood processor, cook, confectioner, (all-round) construction worker, electrician, sewer/tailor, hairdresser

1.4. The first students

- On the 1st of November 2004, a vocational training group for students from Latvian Valka was opened
- Some 10 students from Valka started their studies in wood processing as joiners.
- The language of instruction was Russian, but translation into Latvian was also much needed.
- In the spring of 2005, 10 students from Valka complete their pre-vocational training course as joiners.

2. High-level documents supporting training of Latvian students at Valga County Vocational Training Centre

2.1. Latvian-Estonian Future Cooperation Report

- One of the highlighted priorities in Estonian-Latvian cooperation is cross-border collaboration in the field of vocational training, including training Latvian students in Valga County Vocational Training Centre
 - Latvian-Estonian Future Cooperation Conference in Riga on the 10th of December, 2010.

2.2. Decision of the Governemnt of the Republic of Estonia of March 17, 2011

- This decision emphasises the need to have a memorandum of cooperation in field of education in the Estonian-Latvian border areas.
- The decision also instructs the Ministry of Education and Research to start preparations for such memorandum.
- <https://dhs.riigikantselei.ee/avalikteave.nsf/documents/NT001386F2?open>

2.3. Agreements in Ventspils

- 17th Meeting of the Baltic Ministers of Education and Science, Ventspils, June 1-3, 2011)
- *A decision is taken to prepare the memorandum*
 - Joint meeting of the representatives of the ministries in Valga on the 16th of August 2011 - *Guided tour in the newly completed building of Valga County Vocational Training Centre and preparation of the text of the memorandum*

3. Memorandum of Understanding on Creating Possibilities for Latvian Students to study at Valga County Vocational Education Centre

Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Research and Acting State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia signed it on Sept 29, 2011;

3.1. The objective of the Memorandum

- The purpose of the cooperation between the Parties is to launch 2 (two) Latvian language study groups at the Valga County Vocational Education Centre starting from 1st of September 2012 which will
 - stimulate mobility in border regions and people-to-people relations.
 - increase the quality and competitiveness of the labour force in the border regions
 - Improv the business environment and
 - integrating the border regions.

3.2. Activities mentioned in the Memorandum

- Set up a Joint Working Group to develop a management and administration plan, as well as a work plan for co-ordination of the co-operation;
 - Setting up the working group: representatives of the business communities of North-Latvia and South-Estonia, local authorities, educational establishments, ministries of education

Activities mentioned in the Memorandum (2)

The working group has authority to prepare Latvian study groups in Valga County Vocational Training Centre.

Practically all the issues of opening Latvian study groups are included, for example

- The professions trained should meet the demands of Latvia;
- Development of curricula;
- Recruitment and training of teachers;
- Preparation of study material in the Latvian language;
- Finding of places for practice and preparing them for the students;
- Social guarantees to Latvian students
- Possibilities for funding
- etc

3.3. The joint working group is starting

- Meeting in Tartu on the 23rd of November 2011.
- Participants: Representatives of the Estonian and Latvian ministries, Valga County Vocational Training Centre, leaders of Valga County and Town.
- The eventual composition of the joint working group was agreed upon.
- Hopefully the working group is formed by December 16 when the Estonian Latvian Strategic Cooperation Conference takes place in Tartu

**4. Possibilities for studying that
Valga County Vocational Training
Centre is willing to offer for Latvian
students**

4.1 Possible profession groups

- Transport services – international logistics and freight forwarding
- Construction and civil engineering – construction of energy efficient housing
- Material processing (wood processing) – joiner

4.2. Study forms

- On the basis of basic education (9 years)
- On the basis of secondary education (after 12 years of studies)
- Adult training
- Training based on work place

4.3. International Freight Forwarding

- Language of instruction: English
- Study forms: on the basis of secondary education
- Study period 1-1.5 years
- In cooperation between:
 - Tallinn University of Applied Sciences
 - Valga County Vocational Training Centre

4.4. Joiner

- Language of instruction: Latvian
- Study forms: on the basis of basic and secondary education
- Study period: 3 and 2 years
- General subjects to be taught by teachers from Valka Gymnasium
- A partner from Latvia is needed to train the profession

4.5. Construction of Energy Efficient Housing

- Language of instruction: Latvian or English
- Study forms: on the basis of secondary education, adult training, training based of work place
- In cooperation between:
 - Tartu University, Institute of Technology, Core Laboratory
 - Passive House Latvija birojs@passivehouse.lv
 - Valga County Vocational Training Centre

4.6. Study Material and Trainers

Preliminary budget as described in the VocLink Project for opening two groups:

- Translation or outsourcing curricula (15 thousand euros)
- Creating study materials (20 thousand euros)
- (Additional) training for instructors/trainers (10 thousand euros)
- Promotional efforts in Latvia (20 thousand euros)

Please find more information at:
www.vkok.ee

Thank you!

Ene-Mall.Vernik-Tuubel@hm.ee