SWOT ANALYSIS

Involvement of companies in the vocational education and training

1. Strengths

- Vocational Training (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- Creation and development of the system of recognition of qualifications.
- Improvement of the accesses between the Intermediate level VET the Advanced level VET (courses of preparation for the entrance test to the Advanced level VET)
- Government is spending a lot of money in order to improve the public image of VET.

Strengths

- Vocational Training (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- The vocational training has practices in companies as obligatory content (25 % of the time of education). This fact helps to improve the relation between centers of formation and companies.
- The practices in the companies provide to the students the practical learning of a job.
- The practices facilitate the labour insertion of the people titled in vocational training.



- Vocational Schools & training centers (facilities, building infrastructure, staff, financing,etc.)
- Improvement of the quality standards of the centers of formation.
- The working conditions of teachers are quite beneficial, which makes it an attractive profession for high qualified professionals.
- Companies have programs to finance training courses for their workers.

2. Weaknesses

- Vocational Education (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- Complexity of the system of vocational training, due to his great scope (from pupils in school age up to accreditation of workers and unemployed people).
- Lack of adjustment with the demands of the Companies
- The school failure in the compulsory education has the negative consequence that potential VET students not always have the necessary level of knowledge.
- Lacks of the vocational training in the areas of the languages and of the information and communication technology (ICT).

Weaknesses

- Vocational Training (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- The bureaucracy around arranging an agreement for practices.
- Difficulties to fit the content of the formation with the activities that have to be carried out during the practices in companies.
- Educational programs are proposed by educational administration and often they are not adapted to the specific needs of the companies.
- Shortage of workers in companies prepared to attend students during their training.



 Vocational Schools & training centers (facilities, building infrastructure, staff, financing, etc.) In some cases the costs of the courses are higher than his financing.

• The financing does not distinguish sufficiently between the most expensive specialities and the least expensive, or between the territories with more and fewer resources.

- The budget investment is insufficient in public and private schools.
- Public schools have difficulties to choose the equipment that they need out of the sets that administration provides them.
- Private schools must obtain financing through other activities or donations if they want to buy equipment.
- Educational staff for continuing vocational training does not have steady employ conditions.

3. Opportunities

- Vocational Education (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- High degree of labour insertion of the students titled in vocational education.
- Internationalization of vocational training through European programs and initiatives (Erasmus, Leonardo,...)
- Creation of digital platforms that allow on-line learning modules for professional certificates or diplomas.



- Vocational Training

 (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- Development of national catalogue of professional qualifications in order to be the basis for organizing the training.



- Having agreements with companies allows the training of teachers, getting low-cost equipment, increasing employability of students, etc.
- It is possible to obtain funds for financing from banks or foundations.
 - Manufacturer companies show special interest in lending equipments to vocational schools.
 - Usually, workers near retirement or retired enjoy teaching to young people. This is a good way for transferring knowledge from companies to schools.
 - The financing programs for training courses to prepare specific training adapted to the needs of companies.

 Vocational Schools & training centers (facilities, building infrastructure, staff, financing, etc.)

4. Threats

- Vocational Education (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- Traditional negative vision with which the Spanish society perceives the studies of vocational training.
- Complexity of the configuration due to the implication of many agents: educational and labour administrations, businessmen's associations, unions and centers of formation.
- Continuing VET depends on every company and on the importance that this one assigns it.
- The small and medium enterprises, generally, do not detect the needs of formation in a systematic and orderly manner.

Threats

- Vocational Training (System, Curricula, Teaching methods, Trainer, co-operations, etc.)
- Difficulties to combine work schedules with practices.
- Some companies use practices as a free labour.
- Lack of financing for non-labour practices.

Threats

- Vocational Schools & training centers (facilities, building infrastructure, staff, financing, etc.)
- Ongoing changes in regulations, setting up new requirements that are sometimes very difficult to achieve when a workshops is already running.
- The training course calendar for unemployed people changes every year according to the budget of the government.
- There are no specific programs facilities and infrastructures. The initial investment in vocational schools is too high.

Thank you. Agata Strudzińska Lubelska Izba Rzemieślnicza