

Combating unemployment through VET entrepreneurship education

Greece



The contribution of Olympic Training in entrepreneurial education is twofold. Olympic Training provides VET services and counseling to unemployed as well as to self-employed and employees.

It is based in Pyrgos Ilias, Greece and holds educational centers around Greece (Athens, Tripoli, Patras, Zakynthos).

In years 2013-2016 in collaboration with the General Secretary for the management of European funds of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Greek Tourism Confederation of Ministry of Tourism, OT provides under EU funding, in all branches training courses and consulting services to unemployed for their entering in the labour market. The used training model consists of Theoretical & Practical training in real environments as well as Support and consulting services (*training needs analysis, internships placement, support, supervision etc.*) A proportion of the theoretical training, usually 20%, concerns the development of transversal skills such as Business Basics - principles of doing business, effective communication and professionalism, health and safety at work, job search techniques, Labour Law Basics - principles of labour law, entrepreneurship - principles of entrepreneurship - fundamentals for start – ups.

Concerning training and counselling for employees and self-employed, under the frame of the program “Structural adjustment of small business during the economic crisis 2011-2013’ funded by EU we provided Consulting and training services for 618 self-employed and employees, in collaboration with 16 bodies representing employers. Training methodology consists of theoretical training (blended learning, classroom & asynchronous e-learning) and practical training in computer labs. All training programs except from specialized course contained courses for the enhancement of entrepreneurship like basic principles of business operation.

Most common used training methods in classrooms for the provision of courses related to entrepreneurship are Case Studies, Brainstorming, Learning by doing method, Role playing, Interactive exercises, Workshops, Simulation.

One of the most representative projects for the provision of training and consulting in the field of entrepreneurship was the project “Comprehensive plan for the combat of unemployment and the promotion of entrepreneurship” that was coordinated in the frame



of the Development Partnership **Letrinon Gaia**. This project was implemented at Pyrgos Ilias under the Operational program Development of Human resources 2007-2013 of Region of Western Greece. The project lasted from 09/2013 until 06/2015 and it was implemented by a partnership of several organizations, VET centers, chambers, business associations, business advisors, social care services. The aim of the project was the development of infrastructure and new practices for the promotion of VET training in entrepreneurship in view of developing new professional activities while strengthening employability and social inclusion. The target group, in particular, was unemployed farmers, citizens of Pyrgos with low income.

The project activities were:

1. Report for the depiction of the current status and development prospects of the production of agricultural and local traditional products of Iliia region
2. Multilevel networking
3. Awareness and information share actions
4. Coordination and administration
- 5. Vocational training and seminars**
6. Support and consulting services for targeted promotion towards employment

In the frame of Multilevel networking activities, there was support for:

- ✓ Development of a local network with the participation of beneficiaries, farmers union, NGOs, etc.
- ✓ Networking with stakeholders at local level
- ✓ **Networking in national level with other similar programs**
- ✓ Networking with research centers and laboratories - **thematic workshops**
- ✓ Development of **one cluster** with the participation of beneficiaries and one **e-shop**
- ✓ Development of **local quality agreement** and **representative package** of local agricultural and traditional products
- ✓ **Festival for local traditional products**
- ✓ Thematic workshop (15/11/2014) so as to understand the meaning of innovativeness and the connection with entrepreneurship through the study visit to an aquaponics and Hydroponics provider.

Links/References/Materials:

www.olympiakokek.gr
<http://letrinongea.gr/el>
<http://www.bio-ilis.gr>
<http://arcadia-network.gr/>
www.thermokitida.gr
www.aspasitheia.gr
www.agro-messinia.gr