The Positive Effects of Internationalization at Gothenburg Technical College

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Upper secondary school level</th>
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<td>Higher Vocational Education</td>
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<td>Professional Skills Training</td>
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- Technical program
- 370 students
- 16-18 years old (3 years)
- Theoretical and vocational
- 25 weeks internship/3 years
- 33 students abroad/year
- 9 weeks of internship
Why internationalization at GTC?

• The Volvo companies ask us to prepare the students for working and studying abroad.

• The Swedish National Agency for Education emphasizes internationalization “An international perspective is important to be able to see your own life as part of a greater whole”

• GTC has the ambition to become number 1 in Europe: Development projects strengthen the organization. To be at the front edge the employees need to have an international perspective.

• To get the most out of mobility projects, the organization must have conscious and consistent strategies for internationalization.
## Objectives for Internationalization 2011

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Specified areas</th>
<th>Example of activities</th>
<th>Targets achieved</th>
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| To strengthen the preparedness to changes in the world around us.          | • Cooperation with countries in Asia  
• Cooperation with companies and schools in Europe. | • India  
• Q-placement network                                                        | Approved applications             |
| To enhance and increase the staffs’ technical, pedagogical, social and cultural exchange of knowledge. | • In-service training  
• European courses  
• Leonardo Mobility Participation in different international projects. | • Leonardo VETPRO – "Ecvet"  
• Comenius course for teachers  
• Study visits                                           | Approved applications             |
| To adopt an international approach to course contents to increase the students’ knowledge of the subject. | • International cooperation with other schools through team work within subjects or thematic areas. | ie. Sustainable environment, Young entrepreneurship, Languages, E-twinning, Leonardo Partnership | None at the moment!               |
| To prepare the students for international studies or for work abroad or in an international environment. | • On the job training/internship abroad | • Leonardo mobility projects  
• Atlas-project outside Europe                                                     | Approved applications             |

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Internationalization at 3 different levels in the organization: company - staff - students

1. Organizational development through Leonardo development and network projects
   Aim: To strengthen and develop our college

2. Pedagogical development/professional skills training through Leonardo/Comenius projects:
   Aim: To improve the teachers’ qualifications
   “...sharing experiences with colleagues in other cultures and organizations broaden one’s mind....”

3. Preparing the students for an international work life through Leonardo mobility projects
   Aim: To improve language skills, intercultural understanding and to get experience of working abroad
International Projects at GTC

1. Development projects and network projects:
   Aim: To strengthen and develop our organization

   **Projects spring 2011:**
   - PPI – Partners Pro Internship
   - VetPro – to receive principals (Munich)

   **Closed projects:**
   - To enhance quality in VET (QPM) (i2i)
   - To study and develop teaching methods (IVOLVE)

   **New approved application 2011:**
   - Q-placement network project
     - To strengthen mobility
     - coordinator: Chamber of Commerce in Catalonia

   **Future: EQF and ECVET**
   - A tool to compare qualifications and competences in VET
IVOLVE (http://www.ivolve.eu) was an EU project that was being conducted from 2004 until 2007 and a partnership of colleges and associated organisations from five countries: Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The project was designed to address the imbalance between rapid technological development in industry and a lack of effective learning methods.

IVOLVE’s learning model is based on striking the right balance between an array of learning forms and combining these to achieve effective learning.

1. Lecture
2. Computer based learning
3. Individual training
4. Company based learning
5. Practical skills development
6. Mentoring consultancy
7. Facilitated open learning
International Projects at GTC

2. Projects to improve the qualifications of staff:
   Aim: International courses and meetings with colleagues
devlop and strengthen our school

   Closed Projects:
   Leonardo da Vinci teacher exchanges (teaching methods)
   Comenius courses for teachers,
   Nordplus teacher exchange

   New approved application 2011:
   Leonardo da Vinci exchange for staff (Learning Outcomes: ECVET,EQF)

   Teacher visits spring 2011:
   - Belgian trainers of car mechanics: 19/2-5/3 (6 students)
   - French teachers, eng/ma: 13/3-10/4 students:14/3-18/3
     - Spanish teacher in May (2 students for 11 weeks)

   Autumn 2012:
   Austria, Argentina, China, France...... you are welcome to visit us ;)
   (8 students)
   - Austrian teachers with 26
3. **Projects for students:**

**Aim:** To develop language skills, gain an intercultural understanding and get prepared for work abroad and in global companies.

**Closed projects:**
- Comenius Partnership Project: language/technical project. (ILTE)
- Leonardo Mobility Projects (internship in Europe)

**Ongoing projects:**
- Leonardo Mobility projects IVT/PLM. Appr. 36 students/school year
- Atlas internship project (China, India, South Africa) - 1-year project: 7 students

Certification for Leonardo Mobility Projects
(Students in Upper Secondary School)  

Motivation of the jury:

”The project has made excellent preparations, especially regarding the intercultural perspectives. The partnership was well established and bilateral. The dissemination of the project involved actors of many different levels in society/.../In spite a relatively high number of participants, individual specific interests have consistently been considered.”

http://www.programkontoret.se
The aim of this European Leonardo Da Vinci project is to improve the quality of workplace training in industries in Europe.

Coordinators: When placements abroad are the topic, the sending organization is usually the place where it all begins. Read more

Supervisors: For a successful internship good coaching on the workplaces is needed. Not only the help of the supervisor, but also by the working... Read more

Trainees: You are interested in foreign countries, getting to know new people and want to improve your practical skills and your technical knowledge... Read more

Internship to Industry = i2i

The aim of this European Leonardo Da Vinci project is to improve the quality of workplace training in industries in Europe.

European mobility is one possibility to increase the competitiveness of enterprises. Foreign work placements are especially well suited to gain international experience and to improve vocational, linguistic and...
Organising workplace training
Before internship placement

1. Agreement

Sending Coordinator → Student

2. Selection

Student → Hosting Coordinator

3. Matching

Hosting Coordinator → Company/Department

4. Preparation

Company/Department → Sending Coordinator
Why was the project initiated?

worst case scenario

1. Matching process:
   Wrong work placements.

2. Supervising/Tutoring:
   Bad tutoring. No learning process.
   Lack of information. Wrong assessment

3. Preparation of trainee:
   Wrong expectations. Bad experience.
The expected impact on target groups

The aim of this project is to improve the quality of work place training in mobility projects

- **Organizations participating in mobility programs:**
  Better work placements that match the student’s education and training.

- **Supervisors:**
  Improved support to student’s learning process at the work placement abroad.

- **Students:**
  Improved preparation for internship abroad.

A positive experience of workplace training abroad will enhance the chances that students will take part in the European labour market in the future.
“- It’s a significant experience which you can be proud of ”