

Reflections on national chances and problems in promoting values in vocational education

Reflections of Bulgaria

Bulgarian chances in promoting values in vocational education

- On state level - The Operational Programme “Science and Education for intelligent growth” has identified insufficiency in pedagogical staff and engineering, and is working on methods for attracting more young teachers.
- Private VET providers have already incorporated some values in their systems, they have initiated the process of promoting values even if they are not accorded between them and with the state. The opportunity is for state schools to be obliged to follow the trend in order to be competitive.
- The lack of “value system” has been under discussion for quite some time, the necessity for a sound value system finds large affirmation in society. Considering this an issue, further steps are to be expected.
- Alignment of values promotion with basic market requirements, based on employers’ feedback, respectively promoted values are current

Bulgarian problems in promoting values in vocational education

- Lack of sound value system on national level
- Reform in the education system with very low speed - The education system is outdated, it doesn’t correspond to the present reality, nor to the requirements of the business, therefore the values promoted are outdated (or lacking).
- Most teachers are highly unmotivated, working for many years in irrelevant conditions, under stress, leading to burnouts.
- The teachers’ average age is increasing, which broadens the gap between the generations, respectively it becomes even harder for teachers to promote values, which don’t correspond to their value system and for learners to adopt these values.
- Promoting values would be of additional administrative burden for the teachers, as this activity is not supported by the state policy.
- The state policy of very low salaries for the educational sector becomes a serious obstacle for teachers in supporting and promoting values.
- The VET’s place in educational system is not clear, it is difficult to identify and promote specific values.
- Deficits of pedagogic staff, in the Universities the discipline of “Pedagogies” is considered not very respectful.