

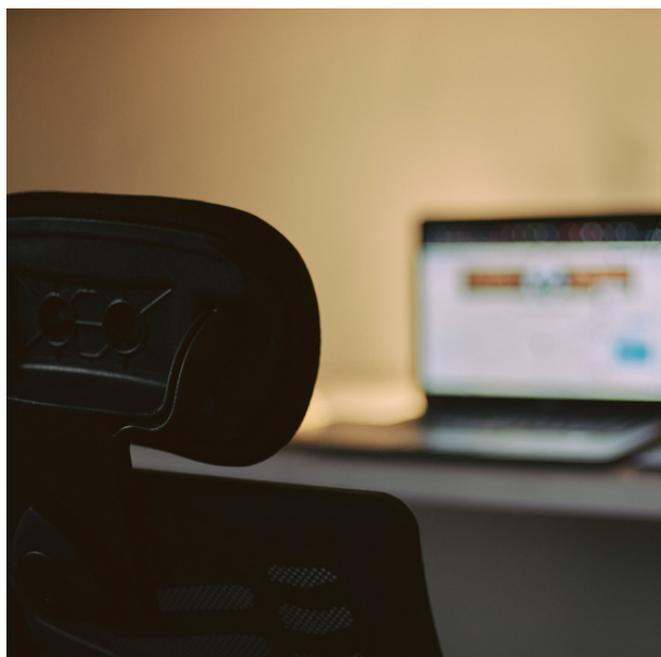
The Career Garden

Building bridges between educational institutions and companies via remote and hybrid internship



What is The Career Garden ?

The Career Garden is an innovative project that responds to current developments and needs in the field of education. 8 partners from 5 countries formed a partnership and plan to counteract the lack of opportunities in the field of professional internships caused by the pandemic. Against this background, the idea was born to develop virtual internships with companies to be used by students at vocational schools but also at general schools. An innovative web platform and a multilingual approach are necessary to realise the project. It is envisioned that the virtual internships lead to face-to-face internships at a later stage.



The project would also like to contribute to a better transition between general and vocational schools and improve the quality of vocational training in an international context. In addition, the project responds to dynamic developments in the EU labor market and the associated needs of companies to recruit motivated trainees and offer them high-quality training. Another desirable side effect of the project is the reduction in the dropout rate of trainees. By providing virtual internship formats, borders between countries will be bridged and more young people will be able to discover Europe and its possibilities. This will increase the mobility and flexibility of workers.



In addition, educators, trainees, students and companies from five selected sectors also benefit from the activities that offer vocational training in the following areas: **IT, medical, craft and construction, hotel and catering and the educational sector**. As part of the project, companies not only have the opportunity to develop a digital internship for their own house, but also get the opportunity to exchange information about in-ternship and training processes with the participating companies from other countries as part of a multiplier event. The results of the project should have model character. An expansion of the ideas to other sectors is planned beyond the regular project period.



Aims of the project



Produce 30 multilingual modules for digital internships to be used by students in vocational and general schools, involving 6 companies in each of the 5 countries

Develop guidelines for vocational orientation at schools in order to:

- Link general schools even better with vocational schools
- Motivate students to decide on vocational training
- Prepare students for internships and apprenticeships
- Support teachers in their role of making a contribution to professional orientation
- Accompany companies, to bring internships to students at home digitally
- Allow companies to better prepare students for their working life and get to know them personally
- Improve the general image of vocational training



What do we understand by virtual internship modules ?

- ✓ To replace partly a real internship with tasks that can be done at home
- ✓ An opportunity for companies to find trainees and introduce them to their jobs
- ✓ A learning module about demands and requirements of certain jobs
- ✓ Information for students to understand what to expect during an internship
- ✓ Support material for career counsellors or teachers to introduce certain studies or jobs

The virtual internship modules will consist of different elements like interviews, virtual tour of the company, research tasks and practical tasks that students can try at home, an e-learning sequence and a quiz. Companies are asked to work with given elements but are free to include their own experience, expertise and ideas. The modules should not allow for passively watching movies. Instead, the modules - including video parts - are intended to provide guidance for practical work, should motivate to try and learn new things. It will also help companies to communicate about their internship opportunities.



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