

OCCUPATIONAL ORIENTATION / SUPPORT



Erasmus+



LV

Daugavpils Valsts ģimnāzija, Latvia

Mobilise YOUrself – studying and working in the EU

What our school does to support our pupils with regard to occupational orientation / support

occupational orientation / support

DAUGAVPILS VALSTS ĢIMNĀZIJA, LATVIA

In Latvia, career education is provided from primary through upper-secondary education by both general and vocational schools. Career management skills are integrated into subject standards as learning outcomes. Connection of the school and the world of employment, strengthening of the economic basic knowledge, practice orientation as well as individual promotion are the goals of career education in Latvia for students. Career education is an important part of educational programs in Daugavpils State Gymnasium. There are different types of occupational support in our school and country.

Almost all Latvian schools have a career counsellor who offers regular common activities for classes and individual support for students. National education standards determine that one of the main goals of education is to prepare students to make a conscious career choice. Career counsellor together with subject teachers help students realize what they CAN (knowledge, skills, abilities, personal characteristics, etc.), what they WANT (interests, endeavor, ambitions, etc.) and what they NEED (competences, characteristics, etc.) for their future profession ★.



Topics of career education are included in the programs of so called class lessons. Teaching units of CV, applications and job interviews are integral parts of the curriculum of such subjects as Latvian, German, Russian and English. Students' interests and talents are developed in out-of-class activities that are organized in the gymnasium, for instance, theatre club, choir, dance group, debate club, robotics.

Additionally, there is a Career week organized once a year in our city and school, when all students visit different companies in the region or invite the entrepreneurs to the school. The parents and alumni are also involved in these activities – they meet students and share their experience how and where they acquired necessary qualifications and climbed their career ladders. Also, once a year all classes undertake learning excursions to the successful companies around the country to get to know the environment of modern business.

Job shadowing is another popular way how to get introduced into the working world. Once in February all Latvian students are invited to the companies and institutions. Everybody can choose the most desired job. By completing the application form the students define their interests and motivation. If the application is successful, the student is invited to spend all working day with the entrepreneur or official and get inside of all nuances of the job – competences, education acquired, personal characteristics etc. In 2017, 8044 job vacancies were offered for 49 000 students. The most popular jobs for shadowing were a programmer, a doctor and a radio announcer. This event is organized by Junior Achievement Latvia.



A practical way for students to learn how the entrepreneurship works is founding their own students' company in the frame of Junior Achievement program. A group of 3 students work the business plan out, produce their own products, advertise and sell them, and take part in different regional or national markets and contests. In the last 5 years 18 companies have been founded by our students.