



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE SKILLS TRAINING RAN IN ENTERPRISES BY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

The following report is a study looking into students experience around training in enterprises. The project titled 'Development of The Skills Training ran in Enterprises' is funded by Lifelong Learning Programme.

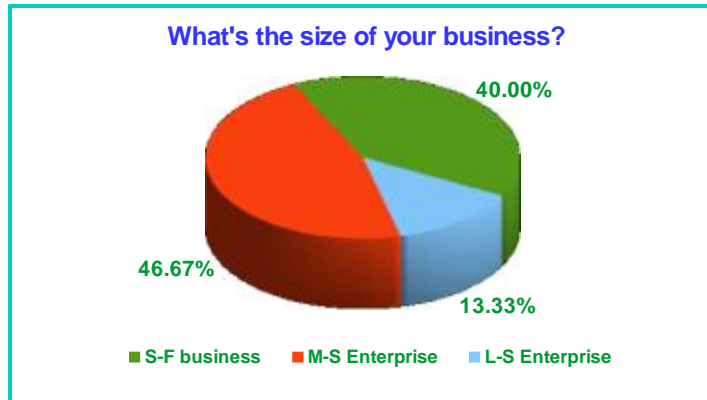
The questionnaires were applied across three countries, Spain, Turkey and the UK. The following report is based around responses received from students in the UK aged between 14 and 19 years of age.

It is hoped that learning from these studies from all partner countries will help work placements in partner countries.

Reports from other partner countries can be found on the project website [www.it4dip.eu](http://www.it4dip.eu)



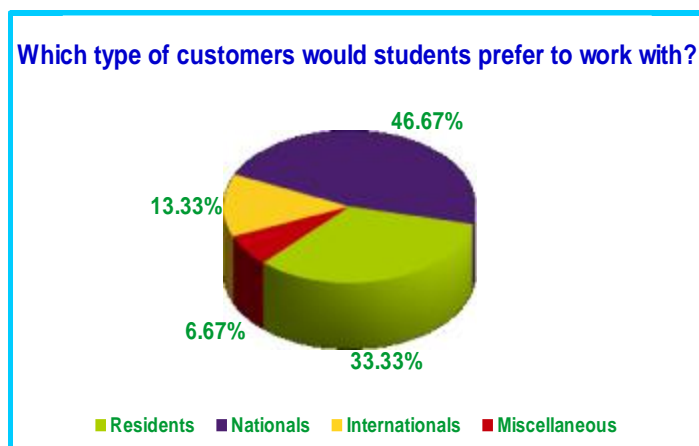
The questionnaire covered a range of topics to ascertain the views of young people from type of organisations they wished to work for to their views on the benefits of vocational training.



When questioned on type of business young people preferred to take their skills training in, overwhelming 46% of students preferred to work for small to medium sized business with only 13% opting for large businesses.

With the current climate, small to medium sized businesses are struggling to offer vocational training due to cost implications. Businesses are already inundated with individuals wishing to volunteer to keep their skills current.

Supervising young people who have little to no experience unfortunately fall bottom of the pile and therefore struggle to get work experience.



46% of young people wished to work where the business had access to national customers.

With most small to medium sized businesses, unless they are a chain, do not tend to work at national level. They choose to utilise the power of the Internet which does not give young people an opportunity to have experiences dealing with national customers.

When further questioned on the skills students had develop during vocational training, mixed responses were received.



- Learning to be organised and having good time keeping skills
- Being confidence whilst talking to customers. I have learnt team work is vital for when it comes to skills training and communication as this will help you in the future
- Working with numbers has helped me with many items

Students found that following topics were not sufficiently covered during their studies which would have been useful during their vocational training.

- Communication with senior members of staff
- We studied how children at the vocational school are taught, however this did not really help me to gain a good understanding of the job in the enterprise, however it was a good experience.

The most useful skill students developed during their vocational training was language: oral and writing with customer service a close second.

During vocational training students inevitably face some difficulties. These ranged from not getting on with team members and not really appreciating what the role required.

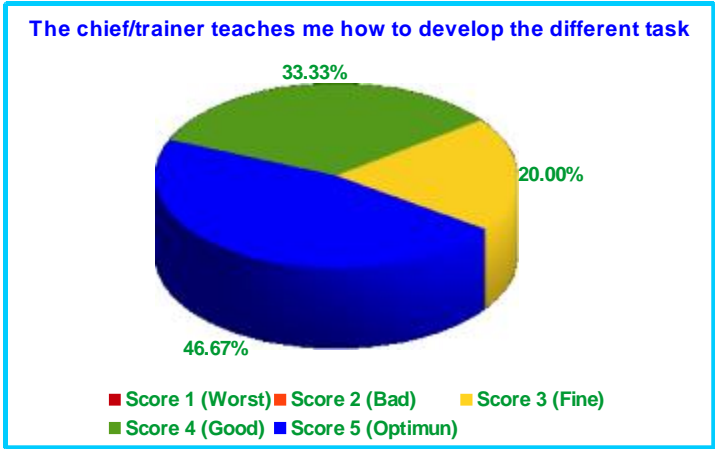
In our mini-research, students gave these top five difficulties they faced during skills training.

1. Communication with management
2. Jointly with skills to use equipment, tools and premises
3. Theoretical knowledge of equipment, tools and premises
4. Communication with customers
5. Communication with colleagues.

53% of students felt that they had improved their knowledge and skills during their vocational training.

Following are some of the comments by students:

- I have learnt how to communicate well under pressure
- I learnt how to communicate well
- Because I never acknowledged my weaknesses before and now I have sharpened myself.



Did the students feel supported?  
 46% of students agreed that they were supported by trainers to develop different tasks. The graph clearly illustrates the fact that despite various difficulties faced by students, no one indicated that they were not supported.

The survey clearly shows that those that had an opportunity to get work experience were well supported by their trainer/supervisor.



Did the students feel that they had gaps in their skills before they went on vocational training?  
 Only 20% felt they had gaps at the beginning of their training.

Finally, students were questioned about the length of vocational training. In the UK students carry out two weeks work experience at the age of 14. All the students that responded to this survey were aged between 14 and 16.



60% of respondents felt that the length of work experience was not enough.

Following were some of the reasons given by the students:

- *There was enough time to gain new skills and qualities which will help me in the future for when it comes to gaining more work experience.*
- *We only had 5 days and by the time we got used to it and the environmental feeling it was our last day we could have learnt more.*