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Vocational Guidance Education in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe

European Commission

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE EDUCATION IN FULL-TIME COMPULSORY EDUCATION

LIECHTENSTEIN

School year 2007/08

Education is compulsory for pupils between the ages of 6 and 15. It covers primary education lasting 5 years *(Primarschule)* and the first level of secondary education *(Sekundarstufe I)* lasting 3 years in a *Gymnasium* or 4 years in an *Oberschule* or a *Realschule.* According to the school, pupils then go on to upper secondary education (general in the *Gymnasium* – *Sekundarstufe II* or vocational in other schools).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Legal references:

- 7 July 1976 Law on vocational education (the revised law will be in force from 1 August 2008) – http://www.gesetze.li/get_pdf.jsp?PDF=1976055.pdf
- Decree on vocational education (will presumably be in force from 1 September 2008)

National objectives/current debates: The secondary school reform planned for the beginning of the 2009/10 school year will probably also influence vocational guidance education in compulsory education.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ministry of Education *(Regierung, Ressort Bildung)*
- Office for Vocational Training and Career Guidance *(Amt für Berufsbildung und Berufsberatung)*
- Office of Education *(Schulamt)*

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

The objectives of the 'life skills' subject area included in the curriculum for *Sekundarstufe I* level consist, among others, in preparing pupils for their choice of career by giving them the possibility to develop the capacity to evaluate their own needs and skills according to the demands and characteristics of the professional world. Pupils must be capable of planning their educational and vocational pathway.

The preparation for a career choice, included in the subject 'Life skills' takes place in the 8th and 9th year (secondary school pupils between the ages of 14 and 15). During this time, a strong cooperation exists between schools and the Vocational Guidance Centre.

Traineeships within the framework of the curriculum

Until now, apprenticeships have not been included in the curriculum for compulsory education. With the revision of the school law, in conjunction with the reform of the secondary school level (see above), apprenticeships will eventually take place during the 9th year.

During the optional 10th year *(Freiwilliges 10. Schuljahr)*, apprenticeships are part of the curriculum within the subjects 'bridge to the future' *(Zukunftsbrücke)* and 'working class' *(Werkklasse)*. The subject *Zukunftsbrücke* offers an apprenticeship day in a company once a week (every Wednesday). Four periods of apprenticeships are foreseen, for 7 weeks each. The subject *Werkklasse* has a very practical orientation: for 19 weeks, two days per week are devoted to apprenticeships in companies. For 22 weeks, projects, basic courses and work placements take place. The age groups concerned are pupils aged 16 to 17.

OTHER TYPES OF ACTIVITY/GUIDANCE SERVICES

Contacts with the professional world

Apprenticeships *(Schnupperlehren)* lasting two to five days are organised for pupils from the 8th year on, from the age of 14. The aim is to provide young people with an objective and complete vision of a profession as well as the possibility to practise it in order to facilitate their future choice of career. Young people aged 14 and over may be employed for posts of a short duration. During their apprenticeship, the young people remain under the supervision of their teacher.

Guidance services at school

There are no guidance services located in schools.

Guidance services outside school

At national level, the vocational guidance service under the Ministry of Education is accessible to anyone who requires information and counselling in the area of vocational guidance. The staff from this service provide counselling and guidance to pupils in compulsory education regarding the choice of career and other aspects related to guidance. Counsellors from this service may go to schools.

QUALIFICATIONS OF GUIDANCE STAFF

There are different ways to become a vocational counsellor:

- University studies in psychology and a specialisation for vocational counsellors.
- Bachelor's degree in psychology e.g. at the *Hochschule für Angewandte Psychologie* in Zurich as well as a specialisation (Executive Master or Master of Advanced Studies).

- Bachelor's degree in a field of study other than psychology (education, economy, etc.) as well as a Master of Advanced Studies, e.g. at the *Hochschule für Angewandte Psychologie* in Zurich.

COOPERATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS, EMPLOYERS, PARENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In the process of making a career choice, cooperation between schools, teachers, parents, employers and vocational counsellors exists on a non-formal basis (e.g. through informative days/evenings etc.).

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

The Office for Vocational Training and Career Guidance Centre provides information through newsletters, personal guidance, documentation (folders on professions), information events, two-day seminars on vocational and study choices, on its website, etc.

Internet references

http://www.llv.li/amtsstellen/llv-abb-home.htm

http://www.llv.li/amtsstellen/llv-sa-home.htm

http://www.llv.li/amtsstellen/llv-aiba-home.htm

Sources

1. Eurybase; Eurydice.

National Euroguidance Centre

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