



HLW Rankweil Lives Europe with Erasmus+

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Abstract

EU mobility projects are an integral part of the HLW school culture and its guiding principles. The quality of the education we offer to our pupils is significantly improved by participation.

The focus of the education we offer at the HLW Rankweil is on general studies and business studies along with foreign languages and hotel and catering management.

As part of their five-year education the pupils have to complete a three-month mandatory work placement between their third and fourth school year.

More than 1,100 students did their work placement in a hotel abroad within the last fifteen years. In order to find appropriate hotels, the HLW Rankweil has managed to build up a network of about fifty partner organizations in England, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany and Lichtenstein.

Pupils choose a company on the basis of their foreign language ability and are employed primarily in the kitchen, as waiters and waitresses, and on reception.

They get to know the structure and the management style of a hotel and in the process develop an entrepreneurial way of thinking. They learn new techniques of working, train their practical skills and realize the significance of teamwork. They learn to critically reflect on their attitude at work and to question methods of working. By working abroad, they significantly improve their competence in foreign languages and communication, which further motivates them to learn languages.

Independent and holistic thinking provide a crucial basis for a successful start in their career or further education. Through to their stay abroad pupils become permeable to new cultures and people, learn to avoid invalid preconceptions and fears and begin to identify themselves as EU citizens. They get to know Europe as an essential job market and living environment and gain skills applicable in an international environment.

Keywords: *learning on the job, skill expansion, self-reflection, independence, culinary arts, personality development, foreign languages;*

HLW lives Europe



The development and objectives are divided into six priorities.

1. Quality assurance

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2. Expansion of the existing network with partner companies in EU countries
3. Social commitment
4. Strengthening the idea of the European Union
5. Public relations - dissemination of Erasmus + projects
6. Studying abroad. Getting to know and appreciate new living areas and cultures

1. Quality assurance

School education must be subject to comparison with other vocational education and training systems. The educational objectives, learning outcomes and educational level of every single year must be exactly described. The allocation of ECVET (European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training) points for the learning results must be carried out by team of experts in a uniform manner for all schools; teachers of the HLW-Rankweil are prepared to be part of such teams.

We intend to use the ECVET documents increasingly for the purposes of documentation. So far, only the Learning Agreement and the Personal Transcripts have been assessed in term of these criteria, but the intention is to eventually complete the Memorandum of Understanding with our long-term project partners.

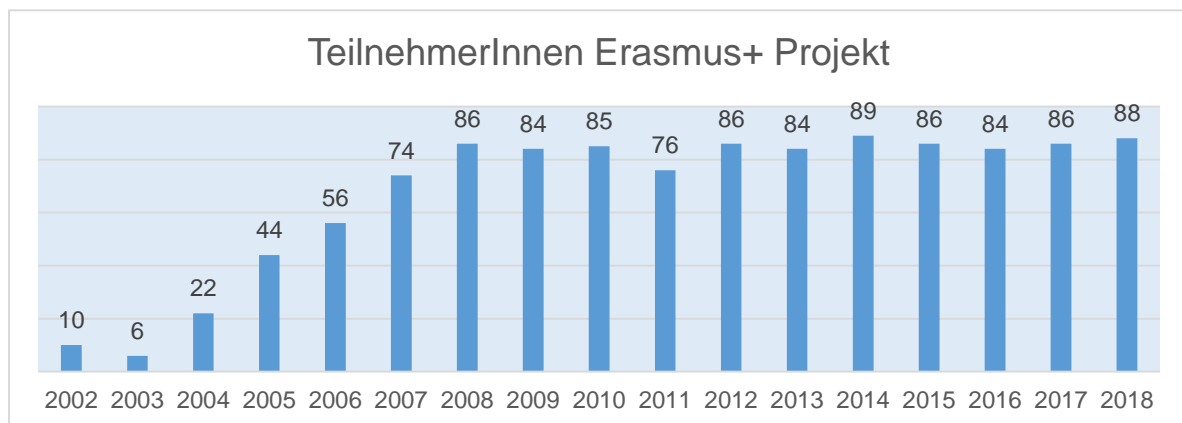
We are committed to the ECVET. We are open, and we want to realize this open-mindedness to an even greater degree. We are not only mobile, but work, study, comprehend and live together.

1.1 What is HLW Rankweil?

Our school's model allows pupils to progress while working with real-life scenarios. There are three basic areas of focus for our pupils: basic accountancy education, practical hotel training (cooking and catering management) and broader language training: they learn three foreign languages, going beyond the usual standard in Austrian schools of two foreign languages. As well as English and French they have to learn either Italian or Spanish.

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Increase from 2002 to 2018

Compared to previous years the number of participants has increased, and in summer 2018, 89 or 90 students will complete their mandatory internship abroad.

In order to improve the quality of the foreign exchange program, cooperation with the companies has to be intensified and the way the training works has to be understood. For this reason, it is essential that the companies and the trainees are visited during their placement. The teachers at the HLW organize and make these visits in their free time.

1.2 Openminded

Pupils choose a company on the basis of their foreign language ability and are employed primarily in the kitchen, as waiters and waitresses, and on reception.



For the most of them this is the first time they will have ever been abroad for a long period of time. It will be a formative experience; it will open their minds and broaden their horizons.

From the start of the school-year 2017/2018, those students who will complete their practical training in Italy or Spain in the summer of 2018 are given the opportunity to pick up an additional language, Italian or Spanish.

Moreover, in the future there is a plan to establish a partnership with experts in catering and service. Annually different teachers in different subjects are going to impart cultural knowledge about our partner countries. Besides the linguistic activities additional cooking and service workshops with foreign mentors are going to be offered.

Returning trainees bring fresh knowledge to and kick start the momentum of the school routine. Teachers are challenged to integrate this new knowledge into their lessons.

Every year we have university students or graduates who work as language assistants, teaching and assisting in our weekly lessons for the duration of the school year and bringing a native knowledge of their mother tongue to classes. They come from Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and other English-speaking countries (i.e. USA).

1.3 Certificates

The acquisition of language certificates (DELTA, BEC, DELE and CILS) and specialized certificates (Young sommelier and Cheese connoisseur) increases the quality of the training and must be promoted and financially supported.

The prospect of attaining a language certificate is a further motivating factor for students which increases their desire to become one with Europe.

1.4 Foreign language competition

Alongside these initiatives we often introduce new ones which are accepted with great enthusiasm. Our students are also motivated to participate in language competitions. Every year we participate at the regional foreign language competition with very positive results: very often our pupils win a place in national finals.

2. Expansion of partnerships with foreign companies

We live in Vorarlberg. But whilst our activities spread across the whole of Europe we can justifiably say claim to „live Europe”.

The project team succeeded in gaining new partners in Ireland and Italy, such that now we have a network of 50 partner companies abroad:

France

Hotel du Golf (Saint-Étienne), Château Eza (Eze Village), Villa Marie (St. Tropez), Baie Dorée (Cap d'Antibes), La Bastide (Saint Tropez), Café du Progrès (Bormes-les-Mimosas), Hotel Cigalou (Bormes-les-Mimosas), Cannes Riviera Hotel (Cannes), Domaine du Mirage (Bormes-les-Mimosas), Hotel Font Mourier (Cogolin), Fermes de Marie (Megève), Lodge Park (Megève), L'Orangerie (La Croix-Valmer), Saint Amour la Tartane (Saint Tropez), La Voile d'Or (Cap Ferrat), Hotel Royal Riviera (Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat), Riviera Beach Club (Hyères), Hotel L'Ondine (Algajola), Hotel Les Roches Blanches (Cassis), Château De Meï Lésé (La Croix-Valmer),.

Belgium

Hotel Le Plaza (Brüssel).

Germany

Travel Charme Hotel (Sellin, Rügen).

Spain

Hotel Ivory Playa (Mallorca), Four Points by Sheraton (Barcelona), Hotel Vistabella (Roses), Hotel Costa Brava (Platja d'Aro Girona), Hotel Aromar (Platja d'Aro), Hotel Vistabella (Roses), Hotel Son Julia (Mallorca), Hotel Port Adriano (Mallorca), Le Meridien (El Vendrell), Heperia Villamil (Peguera).

United Kingdom

Grand Hotel (Eastbourne), MacDonald Highland Resort (Scotland), Crinan Hotel (Scotland), Combe House (Gittisham), Knoll House (Dorset).

Ireland

Aghadoe Heights Hotel and Spa (Killarney), Rosleague Manor Hotel (Letterfrack), Rathmullan House (Donegal), Connemara Coast Hotel (Galway), Galway Bay Hotel (Salthill), Dunbrody Country House (Wexford).

Italy

Falkensteiner Resort (Capo Boi - Sardinia), Bajaloggia Resort (Castelsardo – Sardinia), Baia Caddinas (Golfo Aranci), Falkensteiner Resort



(Moniga del Garda), Poiano Resort (Garda), Borgo il Poggiaccio (Siena).

Liechtenstein
Restaurant Amarone (Vaduz).

3. Social commitment

Vorarlberg is a fairly wealthy region in the heart of Europe. We border on Switzerland and Germany and are a mere few kilometres from Italy. The process of crossing borders is natural experience for our young people. And this openness to the European community promotes a communal ethic and solidarity with those of other backgrounds. This is why social projects are thought to be particularly valuable.

When engaging in social projects, pupils are expected to show responsibility for the well-being of fellow Europeans. Our commitment for the project "Street Children" in Romania and Bulgaria could be further developed. An HLW graduate heads this project locally alongside her university studies.



Presents for Romania and Bulgaria

4. Strengthening the idea of the European Union

In addition to the virtue of solidarity, we also teach our students to know and respect European structures and authorities. For this reason, the visit to the European Parliament of Strasbourg and Brussels is essential to us.

Students of fourth year will visit the EU Parliament in Brussels in the fall of 2018. EU experts will be invited to speak and hold workshops at our school. The EU Mobility Passes will be awarded in a special ceremony and during the ceremony the recipients will be informed about the meaning and importance of the European Union as an educational, economic and living area.

4.1 Strasbourg. Europe. A concept. A desire. A fantasy.

In recent years it has become standard practice for the HLW-Rankweil to organize a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. At the beginning of May third-year pupils face their three-month work placement. By means of the two-day project trip to Strasbourg, Europe, the EU and their institutions should become a little more tangible, comprehensible and concrete. Of course, the visit to the European parliament will be dealt with beforehand in lessons. After being particularly motivated by the Erasmus+ Award which our school managed to win last year, we are particularly keen to bring our pupils closer to European ways of thinking.



Visit in Strasbourg

5. Public relations

In addition to printed media, social media will be used for PR and the circulation of the project.



VORARLBERG

HLW Rankweil: Die Schule mit Zukunft

2 KOMMENTARE

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Unter dem Motto „Fit für die Zukunft“ bietet die HLW Rankweil ein äußerst vielfältiges Lernangebot mit den vier großen Schwerpunkten.

- Wirtschaft und Digitales
- Allgemeinbildung
- Fremdsprachen (Englisch, Französisch, Italienisch und Spanisch)

6. Studying abroad

All our students, at the beginning of their final year at school, take part in a week of study abroad. During language and culture weeks, the students are challenged to get to know new living areas and cultural sites in the European Union. They take part in a week of language study at a European school, in Rome, Barcelona or Cannes. During this time, they have a variety of experiences. The period functions not only as a holiday and a cultural trip, but also gives them an experience of different teaching systems.

6.1 School exchange

Another very important initiative is the school exchange which, at the moment, is only available to pupils wishing to spend time in Italy, where we have several links with high schools in Trent. Our students have the chance to live with a pupil from an Italian school for a few weeks, followed by a few weeks hosting that pupil in Austria in return. During this period pupils attend their exchange partner's school and have the opportunity to compare their own school system with that of the host country. They can also immerse themselves in the host family's social life within and outside of the home. These experiences, whether or not they are solely positive, propagate the idea of European shared consciousness amongst young people, teaching them to always be more open and hopefully relativizing any prejudices they may have.