

Conception of life-long learning in Slovak Republic

Introduction

Development of technology, IT society, economy globalization, and changes on labor market increases strategy importance of learning and education. The future of each country is a learning society, where initial education is not sufficient for life-long working and social process. It results to LLL necessity. Success in this area is conditioned by creation of good environment for possibility and attendance each citizen in LLL.

Current position

LLL includes learning and education activities in school sub-system (kindergarten, basic schools (elementary), high schools and universities) and non-school educational sub-system (enterprises, branch, citizens, interests and others). First sub-system is formal education, the second is non-formal. According to European Commission there is higher accent at activity of learning subject and to both sub-system adds non-institutional learning – based on everyday activities in work, family or free time. This learning is non structure, do not ends with certificate so called informal.

Financing of educational

Sources of funds and rules of financing in formal learning are defined by our law. For elementary and high-schools exist a normative for scholar, witch defines money amount that school get from a state. This normative is equal for state and non-state schools.

Sources of funds and rules of financing for universities is regulated by other act, where students on public school are not oblige to pay any school-fee, in a cause of private school is school-fee amount up to the school.

Financing of other learning is provided by self-financing, employers, state budget, town budget and others.

Financing of education is not sufficient in all educational systems.

Approval of qualification

In a system of a formal learning is established a term *degree of education*. Formal learning end with the certificate, fully accepted by employer according to request.

In system of non-formal learning reach people any certificate, certified the successful end of the course. Content of course is not standardized, resp. certificate is not appreciated like qualification degree for some activity. Application of graduate is determined by acceptance by employer.

This weakness of non-formal learning is need to be eliminated with the system of acceptance non-formal and also informal learning. The way is to realize education by the module structure of learning and adequate credit system.

Informational and advisory system.

In a system of formal learning exist a database elementary a high-schools, included information about specializations and possibilities of university studies. In school sub-system exist a net of advisers, they can get scholar information and advise at the field of future career.

In a system of non-formal learning and next learning is similar system missing. There a long-run demand on complex information of next learning from a side of citizens. Labor offices provide some advisory, mainly for unemployee.

Strategy for LLL

Strategic aims for development of LLL are focused on:

- making good conditions for every peoples equal access to reach and refresh skills, necessary for connection to society and economy based on knowledges. This is mainly a IT, language, social or business skills.
- increasing the amount of investments to the educational system to accent most important wellness of Europe: EU citizens. It means direct investment, taxation, account standards and so on. Progress in this field can be reached through frame agreements between social partners focused on special education and next special education, but also on co-financing education of employee from employers.
- installation and support of innovation in education process in field of content, form and methods, in educational technology based on IT. It is allow for change the status of teacher, teacher should change their role to advisers for learning people and be helpful in learning process for self-educating and self-motivating subjects.
- change of mechanism and rules for approval qualification reached especially in non-formal and informal learning
- insure a access to informations and advises about possibilities of educating for everyone and for life-long. Career advisory is resident and local service for everyone. It provides exact and relevant information of education possibilities, but also high specialists advise making easier the process of decision and motivation to improving personal skills.

- to get possibilities of education closely to people with the support of IT.

Activities

New skills

- open system of LLL to have stronger alternatives of LLL
- increasing interest for LLL in public
- to make a mechanism supporting projects for module educational programs oriented on reaching new skills and improving chance on labor market

Investments to education

- increase a share and amount of budget for education from a side of state budget, employers, employee and all social partners
- to assign share of budget from social fund for LLL. Social fund creates every employer from a wages fund by the law.
- supporting partnership between educational establishment, schools, clubs, non- government educational organizations, enterprises, research centers, libraries an so one.

Innovations in educational processes

- supporting open modular credit system of education, insures permanent innovation of learning context.
- complete system of professional standards and educational standards to corresponds together
- supporting a research in a field of LLL

Approval of qualification

- create a legislation for approval modules ended in independent kind of formal and non-formal learning
- create a legislation for approval education reached out of formal system

Information and advisory

- create and refresh databases of educating possibilities, qualifications and career.
- publish information about career, labor market, possibilities o application, education and next learning
- better utilization of school, information centers, local libraries for system of next learning

Used literature: Konceptia celoživotného vzdelávania, Ministersvo školstva SR, 2005