

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Bulgaria

Technical Assistance for Upgrading of Vocational Qualification Standards Taking Account Best Practices in EU Member States

Understanding the Client's Aims

UK NARIC and its project partners were contracted to undertake this project under PHARE 2003 BG 2003/004-937.05.03. The objectives were to assist the Bulgarian education and training authorities and other stakeholders to build the capacity of the vocational and technical training systems, in particular focussing on the upgrading of 80 vocational qualification standards according to labour market needs.

The UK NARIC Approach

A key phase of the project involved establishing a clear methodological approach for the design of vocational education standards. This required an extensive research study into the vocational training and education curricula design processes in the following countries: Belgium (Flanders & Wallonia), Denmark, England, France, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Canada . The activities for the project included:

- The engagement of employer groups, and other stakeholders in the development of methodological guidelines and framework of requirements for developing vocational qualification standards in Bulgaria
- The upgrading and development of 80 vocational qualification standards in 5 sectors: Agriculture, Chemical Technology, ICT, Production and Tourism
- The provision of training to approximately 2720 people throughout Bulgaria including Teachers, regional inspectorates, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science to develop and use the standards.

Delivering Quality Results

UK NARIC and its project partners presented the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Bulgaria with a comprehensive report detailing international best practices in vocational qualification development. It also provided the Ministry with a manual for drawing up curricula in accordance to standards and the development of 6 toolkits / training manuals for developing vocational qualification standards.

The results were presented and disseminated through a national conference and several regional workshops.