

Project “University Labor Market Liaison Offices”

Benefits of students’ internships for students,
Universities and businesses”

Project Framework

- ❑ Funded By: European Social Fund (ESF)
- ❑ Amount: more than 7M
- ❑ Consortium: Network consisting of eight public and private Universities operating in the Republic of Cyprus
- ❑ Coordinator: University of Cyprus

Project Goal

The transfer of knowledge between HEI and the business world through the placement of undergraduate and postgraduate students in companies and organizations for internships with the purpose to:

- Provide professional work experience to students
- Universities introduce internships as a part of their programs of study

☐ Place ~3000 students

- Allow students to gain professional work experience
- Transfer knowledge/skills to and from companies

☐ Streamline University internship procedures

- Develop an online platform matching internships with student CVs
- Have in place a dedicated team managing internships

☐ Strengthen University – Industry engagement

- Gain new perspective/fresh ideas and expertise from students
- All Universities partnering in the Project offer placements as a part of their programs of study

□ Gain Practical Experience

- Acknowledge the need for the development of soft skills
- Develop and enhance their soft skills
- Apply acquired skills and knowledge in the classroom and vice versa
- Gain a new perspective
- Benefit from the interaction/supervision/mentoring/coaching of business/industry professionals and academics
- Gain experience in a real life work environment
- Decide if on the right path, adjust and make decision
- Increase their employability potential

□ Receive Academic Credits

- 1-15 ECTS, counting towards their University degree

Increase Employability

- Create more attractive CVs
- Receive job offers
- Obtain valuable references for future job opportunities

Receive Financial Compensation

- €500 per internship covering travel expenses

Expansion of Network

- Create professional connections

Benefits for Companies/Organizations

Every company/organization can participate

- Private SME's and large companies from any business sector, Public and semi-governmental organizations, Non for Profit organizations

Maintain Competitiveness

- Transfer of knowledge/skills from high-quality interns
- Keep up with developments and latest technological innovations
- Attract new talent

Innovate more

- Students to complete projects at relatively no cost
- Test out new ideas from both company and interns

Bridge the gap between education and professional skills

- Improve job matching
- Test potential employees on the job
- Identifying and attracting talent
- Shape the future workforce
- Promote an enterprising culture

Easy

- Students are paid from the Project
- Administration is being handled by the Project's personnel
- Everything is provided for

Benefits for Companies/Organizations

Contribute to society and get recognized

- Be acknowledged as a participant - a good employer
- Be awarded a honorary plaque
- Help young generation develop professional skills
- Decrease unemployment

The Project has an Impact on teaching and learning

- Facilitating interaction between the business world and HEI
- Shape study programs
- Serve as a tool assessing whether students are technically/professionally ready for the job market
- Co-supervised projects/dissertations, allow students to gain other perspectives

Impact on ranking

- University – Businesses cooperation is a requirement

Increase Student Employability

- Improve employability opportunities
- Enrich career path

□ Project's electronic platform

- Main purpose: criteria-based matching between students and internship positions
- Used by students, academics, companies/organizations, Project officers
- Reduce bureaucracy to a minimum – almost paperless operation

□ Operation

- Companies/organizations upload internship positions
- Students get notification, if they are a match with a position
- Students follow a procedure for applying, being assessed for the position and receiving an offer
- Students log their activities during their internship
- At the end, work mentor and academic evaluate the students' performance
- Students adduce two documents in order to get paid

Project “University Labor Market Liaison Offices”

Project’s Management Team

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Thank you