

Practice enterprise: An entrepreneurship education in higher education Experiences from Lithuania and Finland

Grazina Strazdiene
Siauliai University
Konstitucijos Ave. 11, LT-09308 Vilnius, Lithuania
e-mail: grazina.strazdiene@mail.lt

Sami Heikkiniemi
Turku Polytechnic
Ylhäistentie 2, 24130 Salo, Finland
e-mail: sami.heikkiniemi@turkuamk.fi



Higher education system of Lithuania and Vilnius co-operative College

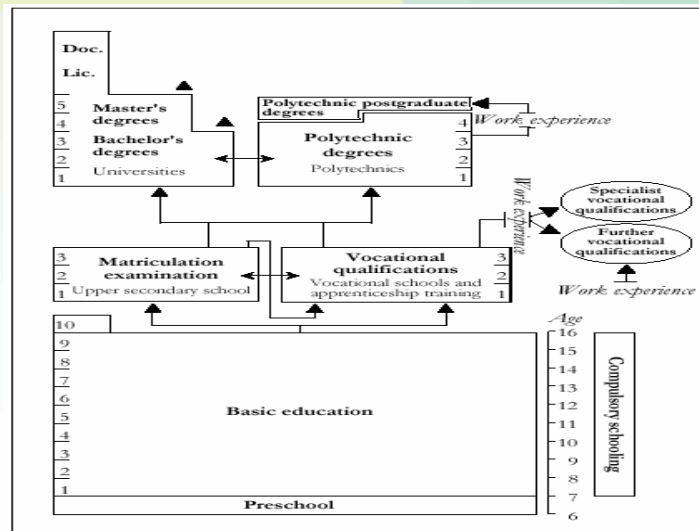
Vilnius Cooperative College provides
3 study programmes such as:

- Business Management,
- Accounting,
- Information Management.

The studies in the College are
oriented to practical application of
gained knowledge.



Higher education system of Finland

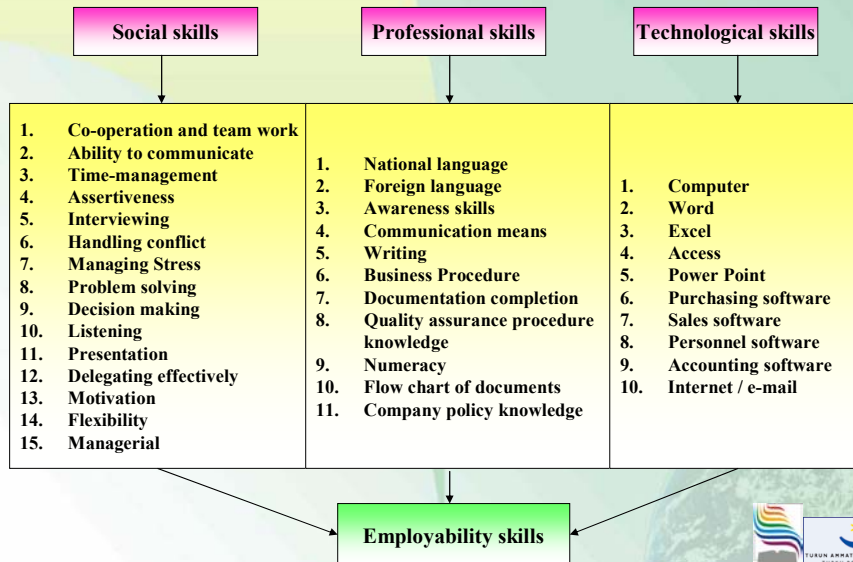


An entrepreneurship education in higher education

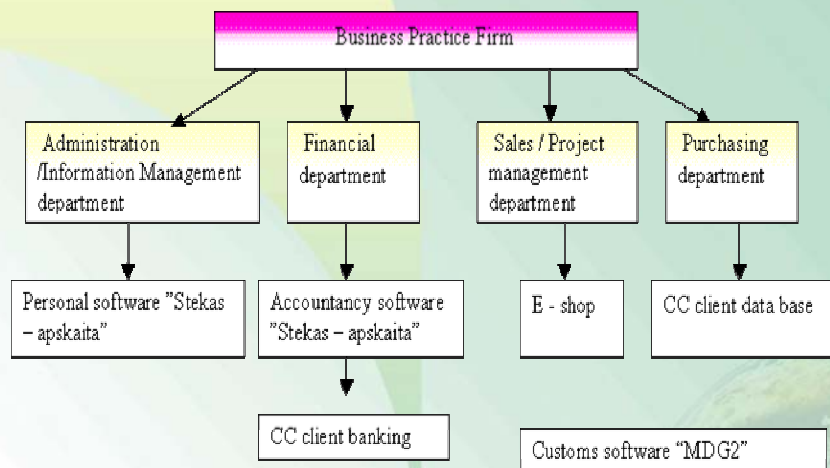
- The practice firm is a virtual enterprise, which simulates the work of “real” business enterprise. Each practice firm trades with other practice firms, following commercial business procedures in the practice firm’s world wide economic environment.
- The practice firm is a student-centred learning model that requires students to work in teams, learn from one another, to use information technology to solve every day business problems and think creatively to solve problems and practice written and oral communication routinely.
- Employability skills are one group of skills which are demanded from the employees to work successfully in the company and which are vital for those who are seeking to get job.



Skills gained in the Practice enterprise



The model of Practice enterprise in Lithuania



The model of Practice enterprise in Finland

Autumn	Theme 1 2 weeks To get knowing each other	Theme 2 7 weeks Set up a practice enterprise	Theme 3 6 weeks To arrange a virtual context
Spring	Theme 4 8 weeks Trade fairs	Theme 5 4 weeks Time to grow and develop	Theme 6 3 weeks Closing of the books

The main target competences:

- To learn practical skills needed in setting up and running a company
- To learn tolerate uncertainty and solve problems
- To learn work in teams and act in a proactive way
- To learn to be curious and able to work with different people and tolerate dissimilarity
- To learn to creatively plan and manage ones own work.
- To develop an attitude of internal entrepreneurship.
- To learn critical thinking.



The Survey methods, procedures and results in Lithuania

- There are advantages to do the training in a practice enterprise compared to a real company.
- It is hard to organize the training in the real company so that the staff has enough time for the student.
- The practice enterprise is good way to organize the training because of the teacher who is working for student all the time and because of the diversity of the roles and tasks.



The Survey methods, procedures and results in Finland

- The most powerful reason to start their own business was the earning of money.
- Most of the students agree that a practice enterprise project was useful for them.
- Marketing, selling, bookkeeping and organizing of the trade fairs are the skills that are able to study in a practice enterprise.
- The negative impacts of the practice firms were because of the difficulties to teach entrepreneurship in generally and because of the methods of teaching.
- A practice enterprise can't in this form produce any business ideas for students.



Discussion and future development



The students who start at the polytechnic are in a higher level in the entrepreneurship (a knowledge, the skills and an attitude), and mainly because of the entrepreneurial education strategy.

A business idea is the most critical reason to start a new business.



Thank you for your attention

Grazina Straziene
Siauliai University
Konstitucijos Ave. 11, LT-09308 Vilnius,
Lithuania
e-mail: grazina.straziene@mail.lt

Sami Heikkiniemi
Turku Polytechnic
Ylhäistentie 2, 24130 Salo, Finland
e-mail: sami.heikkiniemi@turkuamk.fi

