FlorCert

FlorCert is an international project in which several activities are carried out. Its main objective is to raise the level of professional skills of the secondary school level florists and to unify fundamental knowledge. Comparability of the floricultural knowledge in different countries is invaluable as obtaining of internationally comparable knowledge opens the door to employability. When students obtain an internationally recognized certificate, they are certified to have achieved high international standards in their education, so they can easily get a job abroad because employers know what level of knowledge can be expected from such employees. With the establishment of Florcert this idea is being brought to life.

The President of FlorCert, Mikael Sörensson, is also the President of Swedish Florist Association. So far, five countries have been involved in this project: Sweden, Finland, Italy, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Participation in the project is beneficial for all partners. The project supports and stimulates a high-quality education; it is also an opportunity for both teachers and students to exchange valuable experience. As this is considered to be an international project, mobility is a priority task of partners; that's how the level of intercultural dialogue and knowledge of foreign languages​​, especially English, can be raised. Participants with mobility experience gain additional know-how, which enhances their flexibility in the labour market.

Each year, examination themes are changed with cooperation of all partners involved in the project.

Students had to use at least three different techniques of making floral decorations. Their work was then presented in English. All candidates had to meet high standards of commission in which participated members from Finland, Sweden, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia. All candidates passed the exam and acquired FlorCert certificate.

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This project therefore have a great base to build from when it comes to quality assurance and work in different levels (organization, teacher and student)its excellent from the perspective of competence development for the teachers and will also increase the possibilities for the students to travel and work abroad after taking their exam. The benefits we have seen in this previous projects are many and to further develop the methodology and to involve more partners is essential. The strategy for achieving to objectives is to use the proven method used in the previous TOI - project and the partnership project. By having a number of meetings, workshops, seminars and exams we will involve people from the partner countries and by having meetings on regular base, teachers and staff develop a clear view of the skills and competencies, in line with the industry of the participating countries. In the strategic partnership we have also involved florist associations and flower business to show the benefits of having employees with a certificate that proves both floristic skills as well as necessary key competencies like entrepreneurship and speaking different languages. In the coming project we will continue to build and develop the florist education in the different partner countries and we will involve new partners (schools, flowershops for internship and countries) that has shown that they have a great need to improve their education and use the FlorCert system for quality assurance. We have also discovered that there is a need to develop material for teachers and students to make it easier to communicate and also to make the availability of education more flexible. We like to base the project in two big areas. One is more process based and stresses the development in the organization when it comes to quality assurance, methodology and education. The other part is a concrete e-learning platform for teachers and students. We have discovered that a e-learning platform and e-book will help communication between teachers and students and make the education more flexible, this will be innovative and complementary in the florist schools. By designing a floristic e-book we make sure that the quality in the florist education will be more equal and the way to the final exam is comparable and transparent. It also help the students to communicate with students in other countries and prepare them for work in a European context. This will further help and clarify the need of both key competencies and professional skills and further make the education more transparent and get the students to know students from other countries by taking part in different e-learning tasks and workshops in the different partner countries. The e-learning activities will be constructed so there is material on both teacher-and student level and some material will also be available for shops. To have a common e-learning platform connected to different European schools is unique and in a long term will have a great impact. It will make it possible to have student mobilities in direct connection to the curricula.

E-learn book for FlorCert partnership is made of 6 partners. From knowledge point of view.   
And from geographical view, all the partners develop their daily work in a close relation with the Floristic knowledge in the industri, preservation and renewable energy but their expertise are different and complementary thus guaranteeing the development of the synergies needed to achieve the objectives foreseen in the work plan.