UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre and UNEVOC Centre in Georgia Joint Project

"International Seminar on Advancing TVET in Georgia through Enhancing the Use of ICTs"

Report

5/10/2009   **Tbilisi, Georgia**

The report below was prepared by the project officer in charge Ms. Maria Ghlonti on the progress and outcomes of "International Seminar on Advancing TVET in Georgia through Enhancing the Use of ICTs" that was organised by UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in conjunction with UNEVOC Centre in Georgia, Information Technologies Vocational education and Training Centre (ITVET).

As planned, the seminar was held on 7th and 8th of September at the conference hall of Information Technologies Vocational Education and Training Centre. In the Seminar, experts from Germany, the Netherlands, Finland as well as government officials from Georgia and representatives of Georgian VET institutions were participating.

On 7th of September the seminar started with the opening speeches of Head of VET department at the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia Mrs. Nani Dalakishvili, Representative of UNEVOC International Centre Ms. Maja Zarini and the Director of ITVET Mr. Zaza Tsiramua. They explained the main idea of the seminar to the participants and clarified the mission and goals of UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre.

The first speaker was Mr. Petri Lounascorpi the chief consultant at the University of Tampere - the Research Centre for Vocational Education in Finland. Mr. Lounascorpi dealt with the E-Learning its benefits and challenges as well as the importance of digital literacy in the modern world of information technologies.

The next presentation was made by the representative of National Institution for Vocational Education (BIBB) in Germany Mr. Michael Haertel who made a very interesting presentation about the internet portal for teachers and trainers that gives opportunity to share knowledge and experience in real time. This was particularly interesting for the Georgian auditorium as within the project funded by European Training Foundation ITVET is in charge of creating a portal for

Vocational Education in Georgia. As a follow-up activity ITVET and BIBB plan to have a workshop to discuss the sustainable development of the web portal for VET in Georgia.

As a project coordinator of the above mentioned ETF project in Georgia, Maria Ghlonti made a presentation about the concept, objectives as well as the implementation progress of the Web portal for VET in Georgia.

Representative of InWent – Capacity Building International, Germany, Mr. Andreas Hoerfurter made a presentation about the e-learning platform Global Campus 21, developed by his company as well as a project within which InWent has started trainings for 14 institutions in Georgia in strategy development and decision making for eLearning implementation, as well as capacity building and training of eLearning teams in terms of Management, Instructional Design, Content Development and Tutoring.

Next day, on 8th of September, Ms. Maja Zarini, Representative of UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET in her presentation dealt with the key objectives of her organisation and explained the importance of the collaboration between the TVET centres all over the world to support that collaboration. Furthermore she encouraged the participants to involve in the activities of UNEVOC Network and become part of the international TVET community. She also made a detailed presentation of the capabilities and benefits of the web portal developed by UNESCO-UNEVOC which is called TVETipedia and distributed promotional materials for further reference.

The manager of Moodle Course Management Automated System at ITVET Ms. Iza Okropiridze made a presentation about the capabilities and application of Moodle open source environment in the academic process of ITVET. Ms. Okropiridze also talked about the opportunities and challenges of implementing the Moodle system in other VET Institutions in Georgia.

The academic process manager at ITVET Ms. Tamar Menagharishvili made a presentation about the e-journal which is an automated system of student attendance and academic progress evaluation.

The other VET centers of Georgia also expressed their willingness to apply such a system in their institutions as well and agreed to contact ITVET for collaboration of details.

The director of ITVET Mr. Zaza Tsiramua also made a presentation about the idea of creating unified informational environment for TVET in Georgia and made a proposal for the practical implementation of this idea. Additionally, Mr. Tsiramua made an announcement about the availability of international testing and certification program for ICT skills developed by ECDL Foundation and localized by ITVET in Georgia.

The representative of CISCO Networking Academy Ms. Gajane Valchevskaia participated in the seminar through online technology called WebEx. Ms. Valchevskaia focused on products and services CISCO provided and emphasized the role of these products in VET all over the world. She also encouraged the VET centers in Georgia to implement the CISCI internationally recognized courses and certification. ITVET as a regional representative of CISCO would support and assist them in developing CISCO at their centers.

The hard copies of seminar materials as well as the list of participants were handed out to all the participants of the seminar.

Next day Ms. Maja Zarini discussed with ITVET the follow-up activities and the deliverables required by UNESCO-UNEVOC. ITVET has translated the presentations made in Georgian into English and attaches all those electronic presentations to this report.

Project Coordinator,

Maria Ghlonti