

# The 7EU Research Project

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WARWICK



# The Project

- ‘Transversal Program’, DG Education and Culture
- Duration 2009 – 2012
- 7 EU member states: (UK) England, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Slovenia, Greece
- Large scale survey among VET population in 7 EU Countries plus secondary research
- Total achieved sample – 18,000
- Focus on 17-18 age cohort (10,052)

# Areas of focus

*...motivation and satisfaction*

*...transition and choice*

*...teaching and learning modes*

*... school success, acquired  
competencies*

*...career aspirations*

*... ICT*

*... international study*

# Challenges

- Designing a survey that is meaningful for VET learners across Europe
- Designing a sampling method that is workable across 7 VET systems
- Developing and sharing an understanding of context that can be used to interpret the findings
- Combining qualitative and quantitative data
- Building upon, in a critical manner, existing theoretical models, e.g. differences between systems

# Data collection in England

- CFE – research agency
- Cluster method – 35 randomly selected institutions led to successful participation of 993 students
  - 16-19 college – 601
  - Training provider – 323
  - Sixth form - 69

What is the total duration of this programme? (In years)

[illegible]

# Findings

## Learners rating factors as very or quite important when choosing current programme – figures in percentages

|                                     | English Students | 7EU All |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Job Interest                        | 71%              | 53%     |
| Job Prospects                       | 70%              | 53%     |
| Foundation for further study        | 70%              | 63%     |
| Programme reputation                | 59%              | 36%     |
| Easily travel                       | 51%              | 34%     |
| Influence of former teachers        | 20%              | 9%      |
| Influence of parents                | 14%              | 14%     |
| Where friends are going             | 14%              | 18%     |
| Exam results a constraint on choice | 13%              | 8.5%    |



**Learners rating sources of information as very or quite important when choosing current programme – figures in percentages**

| Information Source             | English Students | 7EU All                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Teachers                       | 35%              | 12.5%                    |
| Family members                 | 35%              | 29%                      |
| Class mates                    | 27%              | 18.5%                    |
| Open days                      | 23%              | 26%                      |
| On-line and media              | 23%              | 26.3%                    |
| Careers advisors               | 22%              | 12.4%                    |
| Work experience                | 16%              | 19.9%<br>(Germany = 49%) |
| Jobcentre Plus (or equivalent) | 6%               | 8%                       |
| Training provider              | 17%              | 14.3%                    |

## Did you consider any alternatives when choosing your programme?

|                           | English Students | 7EU All |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| No                        | 51%              | 32%     |
| One alternative           | 37%              | 40%     |
| More than one alternative | 12%              | 28%     |

NB. Around 30% are uncertain whether they are on right course – or believe that they are not.

# Questions

- When do they know if they are on the right course?
- When do we know?
- Does it affect learning behaviour and achievement?

## **Learners who report that they were completely or quite in agreement with statements about their study behaviour – percentages**

| Study behaviour                                 | English Students | 7EU All |
|---|------------------|---------|
| I strive for highest possible marks             | 78%              | 47.8%   |
| Important for me to fully understand            | 82.3%            | 60%     |
| I enjoy learning                                | 68.8%            | 22.9%   |
| I am interested in practical subjects           | 88%              | 61%     |
| I am interested in general subjects, e.g. maths | 35%              | 25%     |

**Higher socio-economic status was significantly associated with enjoying learning (in England)**

**Across 6 countries, higher levels of current achievement were significantly associated with higher levels of almost all of the motivation factors**

# Motivation

- What factors influence levels of motivation for learning?
- Why are some students not well motivated?
- How can motivation be improved?

## **Learners who report that they were completely or quite in agreement with statements of satisfaction – percentages**

| Satisfaction   | English Students | 7EU All |
|--|------------------|---------|
| Most of my classes are interesting                     | 59%              | 36%     |
| Most of my teachers are well prepared                  | 76%              | 54%     |
| Most of my teachers are interested in helping me learn | 78.4%            | 47.6%   |
| Careers advisors are usually helpful                   | 45%              | 40%     |
| Number of computers is adequate                        | 62%              | 46%     |
| All in all I am satisfied with the programme           | 80.5%            | 60%     |

NB. Those English students with below average socio-economic status judged teachers less interested in helping them and were less satisfied with teaching and learning materials than those from above average SES

## Learners who report that they definitely or most likely will continue their education in various ways – percentages

| Planned continuation              | English Students | 7EU All                             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Continue education                | 45%              | 42%                                 |
| Related to current programme      | 36%              | 28%                                 |
| Unrelated to current programme    | 8%               | 15%                                 |
| More specialised programme        | 23%              | 20% (NB 35% in Germany and Austria) |
| Higher level vocational programme | 24%              | 25% (NB 39% in Germany)             |
| Academic programme at university  | 31%              | 23% (NB 25% in Germany)             |

# Questions

- How and when do students decide whether and how to continue their education beyond current programmes?
- How well do their programmes prepare them to choose between work and further study?



**Have you worked for payment during the last year outside your programme (e.g. work that is not part of the completion of the programme)?**

|   |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|---|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|   |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Yes, I work regularly.                    | % within Country | 5%        | 22%     | 30%    | 12%    | 13%      | 26%     | 31%  | 18%   |
| Yes, but I only work during the holidays. | % within Country | 20%       | 37%     | 33%    | 46%    | 51%      | 14%     | 6%   | 29%   |
| No  | % within Country | 74%       | 40%     | 38%    | 42%    | 36%      | 61%     | 63%  | 53%   |
| Total                                     | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Are the tasks of this work similar to those you undertake during your programme?

|                    |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|                    |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Yes, most of them  |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|                    | % within Country | 25%       | 37%     | 20%    | 19%    | 14%      | 24%     | 19%  | 22%   |
| Yes, a few of them |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|                    | % within Country | 44%       | 36%     | 33%    | 41%    | 36%      | 16%     | 36%  | 38%   |
| No                 |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|                    | % within Country | 30%       | 27%     | 47%    | 40%    | 51%      | 59%     | 45%  | 41%   |
| Total              |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|                    | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Goals: Obtaining solid occupational proficiencies

|            |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|            |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Not at all |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 5%        | 3%      | 7%     | 3%     | 3%       | 2%      | 1%   | 3%    |
| Slightly   |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 18%       | 6%      | 12%    | 9%     | 12%      | 5%      | 5%   | 10%   |
| Fairly     |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 33%       | 26%     | 32%    | 30%    | 29%      | 27%     | 14%  | 28%   |
| Quite      |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 22%       | 41%     | 25%    | 26%    | 37%      | 44%     | 31%  | 32%   |
| Completely |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 22%       | 25%     | 23%    | 32%    | 20%      | 22%     | 49%  | 27%   |
| Total      |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Goals: Receiving a high income

|            |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|            |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Not at all | % within Country | 3%        | 1%      | 7%     | 2%     | 4%       | 0%      | 1%   | 2%    |
| Slightly   | % within Country | 13%       | 3%      | 14%    | 9%     | 8%       | 3%      | 1%   | 7%    |
| Fairly     | % within Country | 28%       | 14%     | 28%    | 24%    | 26%      | 14%     | 12%  | 21%   |
| Quite      | % within Country | 26%       | 37%     | 26%    | 29%    | 36%      | 40%     | 25%  | 31%   |
| Completely | % within Country | 29%       | 45%     | 25%    | 37%    | 27%      | 43%     | 61%  | 38%   |
| Total      | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Goals: Gaining job security

|            |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|            |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Not at all |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 3%        | 1%      | 9%     | 2%     | 4%       | 0%      | 1%   | 2%    |
| Slightly   |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 10%       | 1%      | 13%    | 7%     | 11%      | 1%      | 2%   | 6%    |
| Fairly     |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 23%       | 7%      | 29%    | 24%    | 30%      | 6%      | 12%  | 18%   |
| Quite      |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 29%       | 30%     | 26%    | 29%    | 38%      | 29%     | 29%  | 30%   |
| Completely |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 36%       | 60%     | 24%    | 38%    | 17%      | 64%     | 56%  | 44%   |
| Total      |                  |           |         |        |        |          |         |      |       |
|            | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Have you ever participated in an international exchange programme for pupils?

|                              |                           | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|                              |                           | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Yes, at my vocational school | Count<br>% within Country | 7%        | 4%      | 10%    | 8%     | 9%       | 3%      | 2%   | 6%    |
| Yes, at my general school    | Count<br>% within Country | 9%        | 4%      | 11%    | 8%     | 6%       | 11%     | 3%   | 8%    |
| No                           | Count<br>% within Country | 84%       | 92%     | 80%    | 84%    | 84%      | 86%     | 95%  | 86%   |
| Total                        | Count<br>% within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

## Would you like to participate in an international exchange programme especially for vocational pupils?

|   |                  | Country   |         |        |        |          |         |      | Total |
|---|------------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|-------|
|   |                  | Lithuania | Austria | Greece | Latvia | Slovenia | Germany | UK   |       |
| Definitely, I already have plans to participate | % within Country | 11%       | 6%      | 14%    | 14%    | 10%      | 6%      | 8%   | 10%   |
| Most likely, but I have no concrete plans yet   | % within Country | 21%       | 18%     | 25%    | 37%    | 21%      | 24%     | 30%  | 25%   |
| Maybe   | % within Country | 52%       | 32%     | 34%    | 29%    | 37%      | 33%     | 39%  | 37%   |
| Rather not                                      | % within Country | 9%        | 25%     | 16%    | 14%    | 18%      | 20%     | 12%  | 16%   |
| Definitely not                                  | % within Country | 8%        | 19%     | 13%    | 6%     | 14%      | 17%     | 11%  | 12%   |
| Total   | % within Country | 100%      | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100%     | 100%    | 100% | 100%  |

# Some questions

- What is the value, if any, of this kind of comparative survey of student perspectives for you?
- What are your knowledge needs – what do you want to know?
- What existing knowledge or research do you use? Do you make use of survey data? How?



# To follow

- Full report to be produced by December 2012
- Website: <http://www.7eu-vet.org/>
- Database will be made available to researchers
- Opportunity to contribute to project – email: [julian.stanley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:julian.stanley@warwick.ac.uk)