

Current state in the field of life-long learning of employees in the mechanical engineering and automotive industries in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic

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Since February 2020, a project entitled “Establishment strategic partnerships and preparation of advanced life-long learning courses for companies and clusters with innovative potential in the field of mechanical engineering and automotive industry - EDU-MATech“ has been implemented within the Operational Program 304000 - Interreg VA Slovak Republic - Czech Republic 2014-2020, which is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project partners are the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Materials Science and Technology in Trnava, National Cluster Association, Ostrava - Poruba and the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bratislava, Regional Chamber in Trenčín.

The main aim of the project is to establish strategic partnerships and develop a cross-border strategy for life-long learning in selected technically oriented fields for companies in the mechanical engineering and automotive industries, taking into account the application of common European qualifications frameworks for the recognition of acquired qualifications. The project goals are based on the real requirements and needs of employers and the labor market. The key output will be the preparation and pilot implementation of advanced life-long learning programs in the fields of

- materials science and production quality assurance;
- engineering technologies and computer support of production preparation;
- automation and control of technological processes and mechatronic systems

and the development of a common database of training programs as a tool to increase knowledge, skills and competencies of employees, as well as competitiveness and innovation potential of companies.

The paper presents an overview of the current state in the field of life-long learning in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, the main problems, needs and requirements of the labor market and compares their compliance with current trends and strategic documents at the regional, national and European level.

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