

A regional consortium in European mobility projects – the Thuringian story

LEONARDO-Büro Thüringen
(Hochschule-Wirtschaft-Verbund)

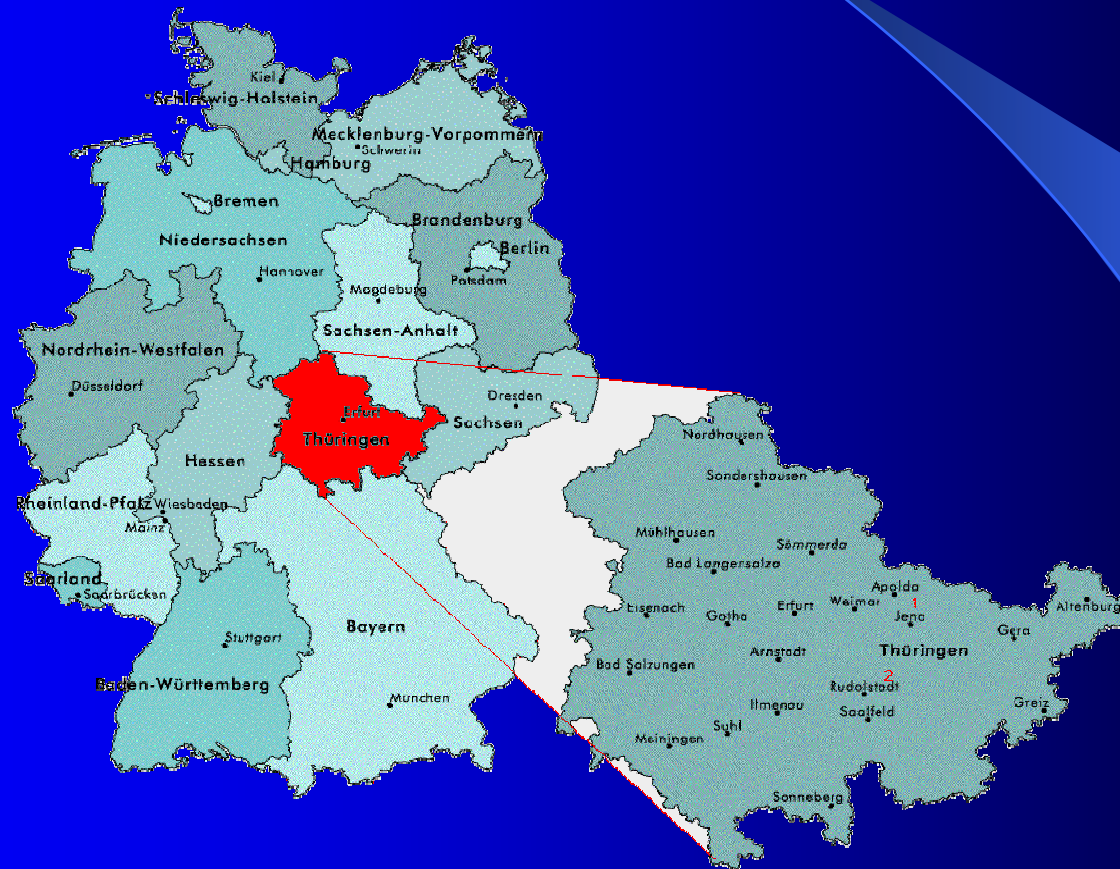
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LEONARDO-Office Thuringia (University-Enterprise-Network)



LEONARDO in Thuringia

background, services and experiences

- founded 1992 as a *COMETT* UETP – **Community Action Programme in Education and Training of Technology University-Enterprise-Training Partnership** (AUEF in French)
- Body responsible: Thuringian Ministry of Education
- The LEONARDO-Office is responsible for Thuringian students (all universities and Fachhochschulen in the region, host is **Ilmenau University of Technology**)
- Specific aspect: supervision of the so called **incomings**.
- Participation in pilot projects & thematic networks
- Main activities: **mobility** of students and young graduates and staff

LEONARDO in Thuringia

background, services and experiences

- Experiences / references in realisation of more than 2.500 successful student placements in Europe
- The office is member of **LEO-NET** – a network of more than 150 members in all regions in Europe
- 2 skills needs analysis with training bodies and industry partners
- Participation on several pilot projects and thematic networks
- Networking with regional and transnational partners – Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Craftsmen, Technology Parks, several regional ministries, training bodies and promoters/co-ordinators of European funding programs

What is a modern consortium now?

- ... Is a multilateral association of partners in a region and in Europe to support the co-operation between the two sectors of education H.E.I. and industry at European level
- ... Is a service provider for universities and companies in a region to participate in European projects with focus on mobility
- ... Regional centralisation of EU projects to reduce administrative efforts for all!

- ... Guarantees the equal treatment of all participating (regional) universities within mobility actions
- ... Submits, supervises and gives financial contributions to student placements abroad, to mobility of young graduates and staff exchange
- ... Participates in call for proposals at European level and earns third party money for projects
- ... Acts as a multiplier of European policy within a specific region or sector of technology or science

- ... Forms necessary local, regional and transnational networks to optimise the work
- ... Disseminates experience and results of the projects at the appropriate levels, „guarantees“ the continuity of projects and participation in EU activities

Specific experience / references in Germany

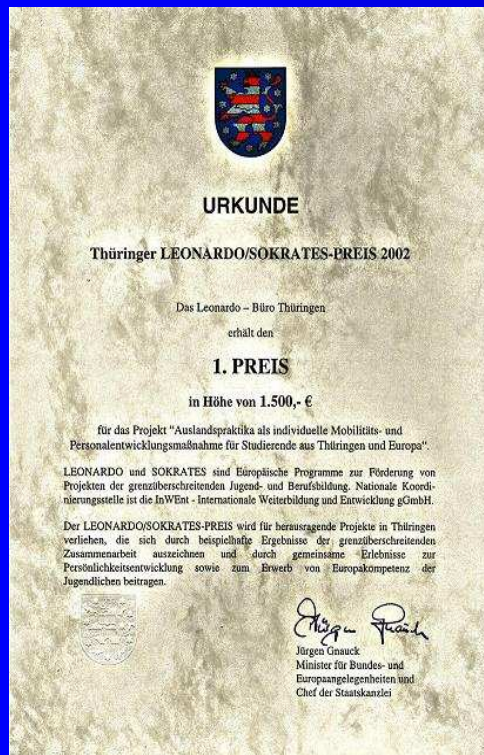
A **still existing network** of regional networks like UETPs with different kinds/models – career services, sectoral partnerships, „old“ UETPs

German contractors **share their experience** by workshops

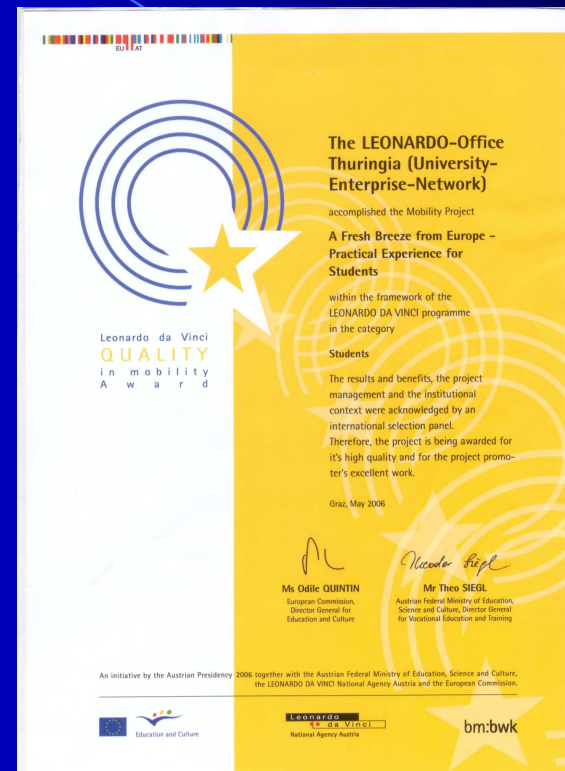
In Germany there was a **steering board** of contractors to co-operate with the NA for the active creation of frame work conditions in project management and realization

German was one of the countries which had an „incoming regulation“ until LLL program

Public recognition of the performance



Regional award 2002 Thuringia



European Quality in Mobility Award 2006

Rank 2

Aspects of quality assurance in mobility projects

- **General influence on quality**
- EU program design
- Project promoters
- Students / young graduates as participants / preparation
- Host Companies / tasks
- Sending universities / academic recognition
- Mediate partners / service providers
- Curricula of the participants & motivation
- Multilateral agreements / cultures and law
- Visions from universities, companies, countries

Practical aspects from the experience of a consortium

- Conditions and schedule of project proposal development
- Views/expectations from the specific clients
- Quality and clearness of calls and forms
- Structured time schedule, fair for all
- Academic recognition of the results of mobility
- Integration into curricula of studies
- Legal agreements/contracts – program, role of contractor and NAs
- Stimulation of promoters to do max. possible efforts

Quality aspects

- Social status of the participants, taxes, holiday regulations ...
- Preparation phase – application/motivation, cultural and linguistic preparation
- Level and extent of supervision of sending institution and host
- Role of networks of project coordinators, short access in case of problems
- Insurance aspects – health, accident and legal liability – who takes care, how is supervision done, risks ...
- Rights and obligations of the participants
- Evaluation of projects and recommendations = feed back from the actors

Financial concerns

- Level of grants for the participants per month
- obligations/recommendations for the host companies
- Co-financing part of the contractor, company
- stimulation to maximize the outcome – clear schedule and agreement about the tasks
- volume of overhead, free handling for contractors
- differentiation between the member countries and regions?
- status of grants – social contributions, public grants from the country or regions, taxes
- mutual acceptance of the partners

Quality aspects

other influences

- Duration of placements – requirements and expectations, needs from companies, requirements from Bologna process, curricula
- Role of networks of promoters / contractors, consortia regional or sectoral
- Platforms of communication and meetings of contractors to share experiences
- Certificates and references for participants and hosts, networks, quality reference centres (currently developed in thematic networks like EUE-NET.com or Eunext.eu)
- Lobbyism ... and may be many more => still to be identified and discussed

Practical results from the work and ways of quality assurance in Thuringia

- regular meetings of the consortium about rules and criteria of the mobility projects
- integration of the industry's side as much as possible
- Strict quality assurance at project development
- excellent information, preparation and supervision for applicants and participants
- Academic recognition of the results – close contacts to the sending universities and faculties/supervisors
- Annual meetings with participants / share of experience
- Integration of staff exchange into the general strategy

- Development of synergies between the action lines
- Creation and care for partnership network
- Experiences are no secrets, they must be shared and published.
- Flexible help for other regions and free movers
- Permanent address for partners on both sides
- Public presentation of the consortium – ambassador of European projects and activities, Europe for the citizens

requirements and wishes for the future

- Continuum of consortia as intermediate institutions
- Networks must be kept at regional, national and European level
- Level of grants per month must increase – min. 500€/m
- Platforms for exchange of experience should be provided
- Development of label of international mobility
- A glossary of European mobility programs is helpful
- Establishment of a lobby for university-enterprise-cooperation
- A European standard of quality assurance is necessary
- Keep the successful cooperation between contractors and NAs

Thank you for your attention!

