

Light & Sound project

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The Light & Sound project, the full title of which is Vocational training for stage and film lighting and sound technicians under the Erasmus+ programme, is an unusual project. To start with, an atypical theme of vocational training and education was taken up, focusing on the film industry, but also the music industry.



The starting point of the project was the labour market situation in the EU in the film industry. Although there is a demand for technical and support staff in the film and music industry, it is primarily directors, editors, cinematographers/camera, cameramen and production managers at university level. Meanwhile, the training of lighting technicians, dolly makers, sound technicians, props makers is disappearing. Vocational schools in Germany, trade schools in Poland, optional vocational schools in Italy, vocational schools in Croatia focus on popular professions such as hairdresser, logistician, welder, cook or electrician. In the aforementioned types of schools in the EU, especially in Poland, there are also classes with a profile of advertising technician, which was extremely important in the case of the project described.

The second starting point for the project was the development of a vocational training programme, which would not only be aimed at vocational school students, but also at graduates or simply at those wishing to change profession or to pursue a profession related to their current one, especially that of electrician.

Selected specialists from the partner institutions initially met online due to the pandemic and then face-to-face in order to work on the vocational training programme and, on the occasion, to exchange experiences in the field of vocational training, the development of the training programme, the organisation of vocational training, the organisation of apprenticeships and the regulations stemming from the law of individual professional corporations.

We can confidently write that the project was a kind of journey of vocational training in the indicated areas, a way to create an educational product with a clear objective and universal knowledge for job searching in different parts of the EU.

The meetings in professional film and music production venues were extremely fruitful. Participants in the project had the opportunity to attend a workshop on sound in film thanks to the cooperation with the Film School in Lodz. Bodgan Klat, who has soundtracked dozens of feature films and documentaries, conducted a one-day class.

Participants had the opportunity to observe and learn how to use computer programmes to soundtrack films for six hours of lessons. At the Art Kombinat, which manages the Monopolis stage in Łódź, the participants learned about building and connecting a sound system. In Turin, in turn, we visited the Vivien Meyer exhibition, who worked unusually with light in her snapshots of major American cities, and we had the opportunity to visit the professional music studio MusciLab, which is part of a music school that also focuses on vocational training for future sound engineers and concert sound engineers.

The project participants were most impressed by the workshops and the visit to the Museum of German Cinematography in Berlin. Thanks to this visit, we were able to round off our previous activities and meetings. In Berlin, we were able to visit a television studio and learn about the layout of studio light, see models of the light set-up that would be used to create works of German expressionism, see the sound systems in the television studio and see the first film cameras, taps and trolleys and the first headlights used in film production, which now serve as valuable exhibits.

The sum of the experiences gained contributed to the development of a training programme, the preparation of a trainer's handout for vocational training in the form of courses and the development of a vocational training project focusing on the creation of educational podcasts.



It is worth quoting the words of the participants in the pilot training in Turin:

The trip to Turin taught me a lot. I am not just talking about the fact that it was an amazing experience in itself. Even the road we had to travel to get there was an educational adventure. You could see the differences between the Polish and Italian climates, the terrain, the architecture. I saw a bit of the world.

The workshops, which were part of the "Light and Sound" project, allowed us to get to know how to process soundtracks, record sounds and the equipment necessary for this. It is also worth mentioning the people we met there. After all, it is not every day that you have the opportunity to talk to people from different European countries.

Apart from the workshops, the city was extraordinary. The sights, the monuments, the old town - not everything can be described in words. I was most impressed by Torino Porta Nuova railway station.

I returned to Poland richer both in knowledge and in new acquaintances and experiences. We could go on and on, but to sum up: it was worth it. What is more, it was certainly not the last trip of this kind. I am already looking forward to the next one.

