

Foundation for the Promotion of Technical Education

S. Żurkiewicz

Gdynia Maritime University, Gdynia, Poland

ABSTRACT: The author presents his project to establish an institution under the name “Foundation for promotion of technical education” on the base of his experience reached in the field of crewing and maritime education and training.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Expansion of the European Union to include Baltic States as well as Central and Eastern European countries has had a profound impact on the labour market and resulted in economic migration of over 2 million workers towards more developed EU member-states.

In parallel, systematic inflow of Foreign Direct Investment towards the new EU members has been observed resulting in a shift of manufacturing activities from the original 15 EU countries towards the newcomers and frequently relocating the complete production facilities.

The above phenomenon coincided with notable increase in demand for labour, primarily in metals and construction industries in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Norway and Iceland. None of these countries, by themselves, have been able to meet the demand for skilled labour, technicians and engineers.

The new EU members as experiencing gradual outflow of highly-skilled personnel to the more developed countries and despite still alarmingly high official unemployment figures of up to 15% are themselves experiencing increasing labour market shortages.

The new EU member-states still have significant untapped potential in terms of qualified labour, however due to the changes in educational system, namely dramatic reduction in the number of vocational and technical educational institution; the skilled human resources are not being replaced in sufficient quantities.

It can also be observed that the skills of the new graduates are not aligned with the demands of the

marketplace. Misalignment of qualifications or lack of required qualifications applies not only to the new graduates but even more so to the unemployed section of the population, including individuals with high-school educational attainment.

Despite availability of financing from the budgets of the individual member-states, European Union as well as a wide network of national and local governmental institutions designed to address the issue of unemployment, I believe that it is a need for establishing an institution which without excessive bureaucracy and without obligations from the participating individuals, would provide support to persons interested in obtaining new skills or improving the existing ones in order to align their own qualifications with the demands of the dynamically changing labour market.

Such institution should integrate all the elements of the labour market and by doing so achieve more effective utilization of the financial and human resources.

Considering current regulatory environment as well as an obvious niche among the existing institutions dedicated to the development of the labour market, in my opinion the most appropriate legal structure for this form of activity would be a non-for-profit foundation.

2 PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 *The Name of the Foundation*

The Founding Members decided to establish an institution under the name „Foundation for the Promotion of Technical Education”. However,

the name could change in case of change in the final makeup and the founding group.

2.2 *Founding Members*

Founding Members can be individuals with professional relationship to education as well as companies which, through their financial involvement, intend to alleviate the growing shortages of qualified personnel.

2.3 *Objectives of the Foundation*

The objective of the Foundation is to optimize the utilization of human resources as well as available sources of finance with a view to making a contribution to the social, economic and scientific development of Poland and other members of the European Union.

2.4 *Scope of Activities of the Foundation*

- Promoting technical education among the youth.
- Providing support to educational institutions in aligning their teaching resources and curricula to the demands of the labour market.
- Sponsoring and crediting individuals who wish to upgrade, modify or obtain new qualifications required on the labour market.
- Conducting research into the labour market.
- Obtaining financing necessary for the execution of the statutory objectives.
- Management of the projects undertaken by the Foundation.
- Management of dedicated projects in accordance with the requirements of the donors.

2.5 *Funds*

Funds dedicated to realize the statutory objectives and activities within the scope of the Foundation will come from the following sources:

- Founding capital.
- Donations.
- Subsidies from the national budget and the budget of the EU.
- Dedicated funds provided to execute projects in accordance with the requirements of the donors.
- Interest accrued from bank deposits.
- Loans and bank credits.

2.6 *Donors and Dedicated Funds*

Donors of dedicated funds can be:

- Governmental institutions on national and local level.
- Educational institutions.
- Commercial entities both domestic and international.
- Other foundations.

Dedicated funds can only be utilized in accordance with the objectives and the scope of activities of the Foundation.

Dedicated funds can be augmented with Foundation's own financial resources, finances obtained by the Foundation from other sources which have been dedicated for the purposes consistent with the intentions of the donors.

The utilization of the dedicated funds will be regulated by agreements between the Foundation and the donors.

2.7 *Operational Mode*

The Foundation will, by itself, promote technical education and conduct research into demands of both the internal and the external labour market. Selected activities within these areas can be outsourced to specialized external organizations.

The Foundation will cooperate with educational institutions and will support these institutions in promoting their educational offering, development of faculty and adjustment of the curricula to current demands of the labour market.

The Foundation will cooperate with employers and institutions of the labour market

The Foundation will undertake activities based on the analysis of the labour market and realize its own projects in accordance with the objectives and scope of activities of the Foundation

Moreover, the Foundation will undertake activities and execute projects in accordance with requirements of the donors.

2.8 *Projects and Execution Methods*

Execution to the project will be coordinated by an appointed Project Manager.

Execution of every project will be supervised by the Foundation Board.

Every project will be formally defined and described with the source of funding clearly spelled out.

Every project accepted for execution will be assessed by an external expert.

The rules of formal project description, project assessment, sources of finance and decision making criteria with regard to project acceptance for execution will be defined by Foundation Board in a Code of Project Execution.

2.9 *Invitation to Co-Operate*

Initiators of the Foundation would like to extend their invitation to participate in the project to all potential Founding Members as well as individuals and institutions interested in both support from the Foundation and well as providing financing for dedicated projects executed by the Foundation.