



## ***International placements as a recipe for the lack of soft skills***

Students at the vocational school Rudolf-Rempel Business College in Bielefeld, Germany, who are preparing to obtain general university entrance qualifications in the field of economics, languages and European culture, took part in work placements abroad. As a result, they gained practical work experience in a company abroad, developed professional and intercultural competences and improved their knowledge of foreign languages.

## ***Effects for students and employers***

New skills increased their chances of employment in international companies, helped to develop entrepreneurial thinking, and also showed the opportunities resulting from mobility. During the placement, the students focused not only on the workplace, but also participated in social and scientific life. They visited Malta, Ireland, Austria, Great Britain and Turkey. The positive results of the trainings were strengthened by the development of documents recognisable in Europe, i.e. Europass CV - a model CV proposed by the European Commission, Europass Mobility - a document confirming the knowledge and skills acquired in another European country, as well as the Euro Language Passport reflecting the knowledge of other languages and intercultural experiences.

The project "Professional Economic Training Abroad" ran for 2 years and involved a total of 32 students. In addition to students, companies benefit from such projects - they acquire candidates ready for mobility, with extensive soft skills and economic knowledge, thanks to which they freely navigate international economic issues.

## ***Bielefeld placements***

It is worth noting that also in Bielefeld at the Carl-Severing Technical College for Economics and Administration, foreign placements lasting from 3 to 5 weeks are an everyday reality. An example is the FIT FÜR EUROPA IV initiative, which, thanks to the involvement of technical schools, chambers of commerce and scientific institutions, helps students acquire soft skills and broaden their knowledge from other countries. In this case, young people organise their trips on their own with the support of their mentors.