

Development of a flexible, innovative and practical framework for Work-based Learning in higher education of Armenia and Russia

Erasmus+ | Key action 2:

Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices
Capacity Building in the field of higher education

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“WORK-BASED LEARNING” IN THE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION: BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

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The strategy for the development of higher education institutions in modern socio-economic conditions provides solutions to at least two tasks:

**1. Conducting effective
scientific and educational
activity**

**2. Updating the University's
management system
according to the challenges
facing the Russian economy**

As actual problems impeding the sustainable development of the management and economic system, the following ones should be highlighted:

– a contradiction between the market of educational services and the labour market

– discrepancy in the quality of training of managers and economists from the standpoint of the information component

– the Federal State Educational Standards in Higher Education impede the implementation of innovation initiatives of educational institutions regarding specialties

In this study, the system of management and economic education means the preparation of bachelors with specialties 38.03.02 Management and 38.03.01 Economics

The solution to these problems can be achieved by changing the innovation component in the structure of modern management and economic education for example by promoting dual education technologies

J. Talbot, K. Costly, M.A. Dryomina, V.A. Kopnov in terms of dual technologies highlighted such their important feature as **lifelong learning, or the concept of “work based learning”**

Term “Work-based Learning”

In British and then in European higher education, people began to use the term “**Work-based Learning (WBL)**” to describe the learning resulting from real activities at a place of work – in other words, from what people and/or teams of people learn when solving and discussing production tasks.

WBL has a number of distinctive features:

the educational programs are clearly focused on a certain segment of students with priority given to consumers who have working experience

the active participation of employers in the dual education system both as direct participants in the educational process (teachers) and quality assurance “supervisors”

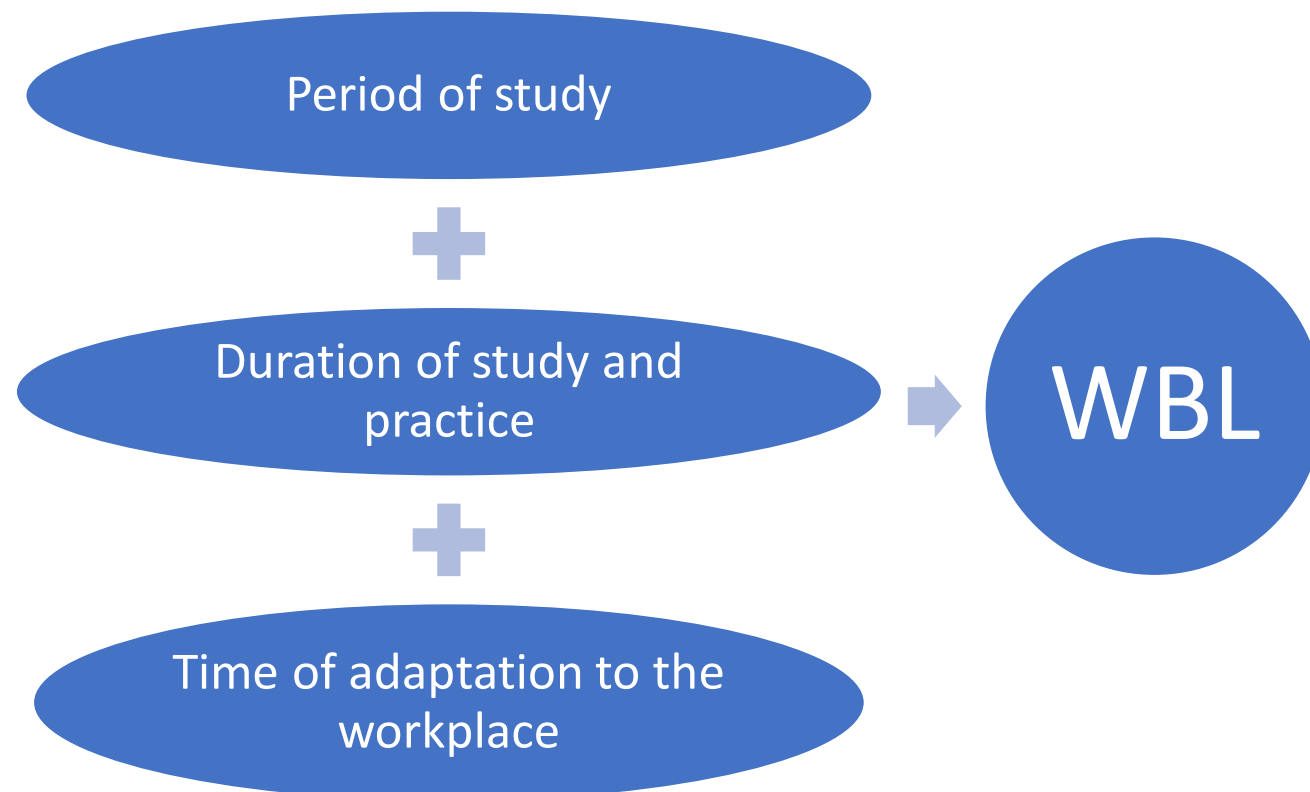
the cooperation of an educational organization, enterprise and other stakeholders is focused on developing a certain strategy of partnership

practice-oriented approach to the organization of the educational process



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Major Parameters of WBL Model in the Management and Economic Education System



Parameter 1: Period of study

- **Normative term:** 4 years – full-time form; 4.5 years – extramural form
- **+ basic SVE (secondary vocational education):** reduction of the period of study to 3.5 years

Benefits for students: reduction of the period of study

Parameter 2: Duration of study and practice

Option 1:

- one week – training in an educational institution
- one week – work at an enterprise

Option 2:

- 2 days a week – training in an educational institution
- 3 days – work at an enterprise

Benefits for students: flexible academic schedule

Parameter 3: Time of adaptation to the workplace

Option 1: not required if a student has undergone dual training at this workplace

Option 2: at a new workplace – 1 month (after traditional training – from 5 to 12 months)

Benefits for students: faster involvement of students/graduates in the production process

To enhance the implementation of WBL-technologies into the Russian management and economic education system, the following measures should be taken:

- 1 alignment of goals of the “educational institution – enterprise” interaction
- 2 inventory of processes in an educational institution and enterprise, determination of their compliance with the strategic goals of this partnership
- 3 identification and addressing of problems that limit effective implementation of WBL-technologies into the management and economic education system
- 4 evaluation of the quality and efficiency of the processes occurring within the strategic partnership of an educational institution and enterprise

Benefits of WBL Programs

- + validation of knowledge and skills acquired at work;
- + minimization of learning time through recognition and accreditation of prior learning, integration of the contents of completed and upcoming refresher courses as well as implementation of projects in the workplace;
- + focus of education on solving certain tasks;
- + network learning opportunities with the attraction of the necessary resources of other HE institutions and external educational platforms;
- + flexible individual learning pathways with the subsequent awarding a corresponding degree and graduation

Conclusion

Students actively create a mobile person-oriented educational environment, thus, they become active participants in the formation of the electronic information and educational environment going beyond the educational institution what corresponds to the trends in the modern educational system.

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