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DEVELOPMENT OF A SKILL ECOSYSTEM FOR THE RAW MATERIALS SECTOR IN THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES



Supported by



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SKILLS FOR THE RAW MATERIALS SECTOR

One of the first objectives of the ProSkill project was to reveal which skills, both soft and hard, are missing or underdeveloped in the raw materials sector of the Visegrad countries: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Hard skills are fundamental for future Earth scientists and engineers, but soft skills are no less important. ProSkill has conducted questionnaire surveys and interviews with industrial managers to map these extra skills needed from the business point of view. As the main direction of the ProSkill strategy is to bring closer the competency expectations of companies and the existing teaching practices of universities, surveys on skills have also been conducted among students. To ensure sustainability, the project addresses not only students and professionals but also lecturers. Educators must develop knowledge about new and innovative educational techniques to reshape the outdated curricula and train future professionals more effectively. Based on the analysis of all the research conducted, ProSkill has developed a skill ecosystem strategy. Key missing skills in the raw materials sector of the Visegrad countries are being addressed through specific educational activities.

SKILLS ECOSYSTEM STRATEGY

Some of the educational activities organised within the framework of ProSkill are the following:

• International Mentoring Programme

An international network of experienced professionals provides guidance and support to the new generation of geoscientists. Over a fixed period, the mentees receive advice and targeted support from mentors, according to their individual goals. To guide these mentors, the workshop 'Effective ways of mentoring and other best practices in the raw materials industries' was organised. During the event, two longstanding mentors shared their insights and best practices on mentoring.



• Inter-University Field Trips

Two field trips for students take place, one in the Czech Republic and the other in Slovakia. The field trips include a dedicated visit to a company or factory and workshops focusing on developing the skills required in the raw materials sector.

• Spend a Day with Me

Students benefit from a one-day programme in which they meet the manager of a company, plant or mine. The activity includes a guided visit to the company site and an informal lunch or dinner with the manager. Thanks to this experience the students learn about managerial skills.



• International Competitions

Students are encouraged and supported to participate in international competitions. The competition V4 - SX - Simulation of Stock Trading is organised. The teams have to create a portfolio with a maximum of 5 basic instruments, including at least one rare earth metal and one precious metal. Each team is composed of an economist and an engineering student.

• Many more educational activities

- Conferences on the challenges of the raw materials sector toward industry 4.0
- Workshops on new and innovative teaching methods - reshaping of curricula focusing on active learning and other solutions
- Workshops on digital education tools for teachers and students
- Workshop on social media management
- Guest lectures to develop soft skills