

THE DANISH CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (NCE)

Company Profile - 2009

The Danish Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training, (NCE) was established in 1969 and has for almost 40 years delivered training services to Danish vocational schools and labour market training centres. During the last approx. 20 years, NCE has been involved in a wide range of international activities. Our core activity is continuing professional development (CPD) and other types of competence development in the shape of teacher training, implementation of VET reforms, policy studies etc. In the following, these activities will be described on a more detailed level.

NCE plays a central role in the interaction between the Ministry of Education and social partners and the public authorities at a national level and the vocational schools, labour market training centres and enterprises on the local level. This unique position in the Danish education system enables NCE to make vital contributions to the identification of new skills requirements and subsequently update educational programmes and teacher training accordingly. In January 2008, NCE became a part of the Metropol University College - a merger of thirteen existing educational institutions. The merger comprises close to 10.000 full and part-time students and 950 faculty members and administrative staff. The Metropol University College brings together professional expertise from all relevant sectors of the modern welfare state, including health, nutrition, public management, social work, public administration and taxation as well as education.

NCE is a nationwide institution with three regional departments in Copenhagen, Odense and Aarhus and an educational department (incl. the international secretariat) situated at the HQ of Copenhagen. NCE has a staff of 60 employees mainly composed of consultants, educators and technical-administrative employees. The R&D experts and educators all have a university qualification in education, psychology or social sciences – combined with a comprehensive expert knowledge of the theory and practice of vocational pedagogics.

Generally, NCE provides a wide range of services and activities within the field of vocational education and training (VET) both on a national and an international level. The activities comprise:

- **Education and training of vocational teachers**

NCE's core service is educational training of vocational teachers at all levels (initial, continuing and further training). Furthermore, NCE has specialised in training programmes for adult education teachers and other types of continuing professional

development programmes. All training programmes are continuously updated on the basis of input from schools and participants, and experience from NCE's many national and international R&D projects. Our trademark is developing and implementing TT courses based on a participatory approach and in larger-scale projects on a cascade model. Our methods are based on the newest educational theories on learning, and our courses are based on principles such as action learning, reflection, student-centred teaching, interaction between theory and practice etc.

NCE offers the following national training programmes:

- Pædagogikum (professional postgraduate teacher training)
- Diploma Programme (PD) in vocational pedagogics
- Diploma Programme (PD) in college development and innovative processes schools
- adult education teacher training (VUU)
- tailored skills development programmes

- **Implementation of educational reforms and curriculum development within the area of VET teacher training**

On an international level, NCE focuses on development of ministerial orders, national framework and curriculum at ministerial/national levels and at school level, of curriculum, guidelines and teaching material. The NCE approach is participatory and takes into consideration the importance of national capacity building. In Denmark, NCE has in recent years acquired a central role in the efforts to implement major reforms in VET. The Ministry of Education has benefited from NCE's position and our knowledge of the daily practice at the vocational schools to facilitate the implementation of the reform. In the reform processes, NCE has been:

- contributing to the development of central reform fields
- contributing to the competence development of vocational teachers
- participating in the systematic evaluation and documentation of reform
- disseminating information and reform experience to vocational schools.

- **Consultancy Services**

NCE carries out numerous national and international consultancy services for vocational schools, private companies and national governments. The major themes for our consultancy services are:

- competence development
- didactics and educational planning
- tailor-made teacher training
- differentiation and learning

- the use of IT in education and training.

In relation to competence development, NCE assists both vocational schools and private companies in the implementation of quality management, knowledge management, strategic competence development and organisational change.

- **Skills development**

Skills development of staff at all levels in national VET systems – nationally and abroad: ministerial officials, school management and teachers. Focus is on developing key skills, team building, supervision and on the educational skills of the teachers.

- **Policy development**

Feasibility studies, concept papers, development of standards and qualification frameworks are all assignments that we undertake on national and/or EU level. Generally, the objectives of the products are linked to competence development and different types of CPD.

- **Innovation and development work**

NCE carries out innovation and development work within the entire Danish vocational pedagogic field – often in cooperation with the vocational colleges. During recent years, the importance of vocational educational research, experimentation and development work has been steadily growing to a point where NCE can be considered as a key actor in innovation and development work undertaken in the Danish VET system.

- **Analyses**

Documentation and analyses aiming at gaining an overview or a more in-depth knowledge of a certain area with the long-term objective of policy development is one of our main areas of expertise. In these analyses, we are usually contracted by Cedefop (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) or the European Commission.

- **Study visits**

NCE provides training programmes for foreign groups and delegations with a focus on the Danish VET teacher training system. The training primarily takes place on NCE's premises in Copenhagen but is supplemented by visits to colleges, enterprises etc., relevant to the particular group. The programmes are tailored to individual groups and adapted to match expectations and requirements.

- **International networks**

NCE is deeply embedded in VET-structures – both nationally and internationally. On an international level, NCE is represented in various networks. In the following, we have listed some of the most important networks within the VET field:

- TTnet (Training of Trainers Network) – National Co-ordinator
- AIOSP (International Association of Vocational and Educational Guidance)
- NFUE (Nordic Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance)
- INAP (The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship)
- Nordisk Yrkespedagogisk Netværk (Nordic vocational network)
- QiS (Quality in School)

NCE is contracted by and cooperates with a number of different national and international organisations and institutions e.g.:

- The Danish Ministry of Education
- The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Danish Labour Market Authority
- The Danish Ministry of Refugee, Integration and Immigration Affairs
- the Nordic Council
- the European Commission
- the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
- The European Training Foundation (ETF).
- Danish Development Assistance (Danida)
- Grontmij / Carl Bro Group
- ATC International
- A number of international consultancy companies (GOPA Consult , Agmin, Bernard Krieg Consultants etc.)
- Social Partners
- Vocational schools and training centre