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**Description of study plans and changes introduced  
at the Department of Special Pedagogy and Inclusive Education,  
the Faculty of Teacher Education, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv  
within Erasmus+ Project ITE-VET**

As a means of implementing the project tasks for the development of the teacher education system for VET, Lviv University has placed emphasis on training students of the specialty ‘Special Education’ as teaching assistants (tutors) qualified to provide assistance on matters concerning employment to students of vocational education with special needs who are experiencing significant difficulties in mastering the professional skills and performing the activities required at various companies.

The system for training the VET teaching assistants includes, first of all, learning the key elements of psychological and pedagogical guidance of disabled persons, the needs of the local labour market, and the main characteristics of local businesses and practical training in the work placement.

In the framework of the project, we have started revising pedagogical courses and programmes and developing the study plan for the new specialization (specialty 016 ‘Special Education’) in training assistants of vocational education teachers for persons with special needs. The main purpose in introducing a new specialization was to unite the efforts of the university, vocational schools, and enterprises to train vocational education teaching assistants.



In February 2018, Lviv University approved ‘assistant master of production training’ as a new specialization for the specialty 016 ‘Special Education’. The curriculum of the new specialization provides psychological, pedagogical, didactical training, and vocational education. The automotive and publishing businesses have been chosen as potential places for future tutors to complete the required internship. In developing the study plan for the new specialization, we tried to achieve an equal balance between the pedagogical, didactic, and vocational training of future assistant teachers. In line with European experience and following long-term course changes, the final version of the study plan includes the following training courses:

- Methodology and Didactics of Vocational Education – 3 ECTS;
- Foundations of Vocation-oriented Education – 10 ECTS;
- Models and Technologies of Social Rehabilitation Work – 3 ECTS;
- Ergotherapy – 6 ECTS;
- Foundations of the Automotive and Publishing Business with practical training in educational workplaces –5 ECTS;
- Work in Production Workshops – 3 ECTS.

These courses are practically new. Some of them (‘Foundations of Vocation-oriented Education’, ‘Models and Technologies of Social Rehabilitation Work’, ‘Foundations of the Automotive and Publishing Business with practical training in educational workplaces’) have been involved in the work plan during the project.

The ‘Methodology and Didactics of Vocational Education’ is a new course, and develops the system of basic knowledge and skills necessary for the



successful vocational and pedagogical activity of assistant teachers at institutions of vocational education and for their further professional development.

The ‘Foundations of Vocation-oriented Education’ course is aimed at developing the future assistant teachers’ skills in organizing psychological and pedagogical support (accompaniment) for students with special needs, particularly in selecting the appropriate profession for their needs, interests, and abilities and in adapting to the professional environment at the workplace.

The course ‘Models and Technologies of Social Rehabilitation Work’ equips the students with psychological and pedagogical knowledge and skills in pedagogical activity as prospective assistant masters of production training.

The ideas of rehabilitating students with special needs continue in the specialized course ‘Ergotherapy’. Its aim is to develop the future specialists’ skills in selecting and using various techniques of ergotherapy for the rehabilitation and socialization of young people with disabilities.

The ‘Foundations of the Automotive and Publishing Business with practical training in educational workplaces’ course develops future specialists’ technical knowledge and skills in the automotive and publishing businesses as well as their knowledge of the didactics of teaching subjects on production training (in the car repair and publishing businesses) for students with special needs.

The ‘Work in Production Workshops’ course is a new one, and is closely linked to the previous one. This course is aimed at developing prospective tutors’ skills in providing guidance to young people with special needs at the workplace, in particular while working in production workshops.

The courses described above are normative, interrelated, and complementary. Altogether, they provide a coherent, integral training system for the assistant



master of production training. Each of them covers certain aspects of professional training of specialists (didactic, psychological, and pedagogical, directly professional). All of these courses are practice-oriented and focused on the practical activities of the prospective specialists.

According to the new study plan in the framework of project tasks, the practice training in the bachelor's programme for future assistant masters of production training includes the following internships at different stages:

- Training practice (volunteering) – 3 ECTS, 2 weeks;
- Training practice (psychological and pedagogical) – 3 ECTS, 2 weeks;
- Teaching propaedeutic practice – 3 ECTS, 2 weeks;
- Teaching practice – 3 ECTS, 2 weeks;
- Production (at enterprises, workshops, companies) practice – 9 ECTS, 6 weeks.

All the internships are oriented on the training for the qualification 'assistant master of production training'. According to the project tasks, future specialists are therefore able to obtain professional experience in VET outside the university classroom at a very early stage of their studies. For the first volunteering internship, we expect to include vocational schools, business companies, enterprises, and production workshops in the practice bases to enable prospective assistant masters to learn about the workplaces their future students are likely to be employed at.

The final stage in learning the profession of the assistant master is the production internship at enterprises, companies, workshops, etc. The objective of this internship is to acquaint students with the content, forms, and methods of production activity which involves young people with special needs and to



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develop their skills and abilities in providing guidance to youths with special educational needs who work in production workshops.

The main base for the production internship is the Employment and Rehabilitation Center for the persons with disabilities, which has been established at the Faculty of Pedagogical Education of IFNUL on the basis of auto repair workshop during the participation in the project. In the Center there are a mini printing house, automotive workshop, training hall and rooms for individual counseling. Today the persons with special needs attend the Center for mastering the auto mechanic and printing business.

The ITE-VET Project team of IFNUL