

PROVIP

D4.1 Research report

Paving the way for the pilot project and the platform

Part I: defining the pilot network

To collect information from both HEI's and businesses in order to define the disciplines we will focus on to find study programmes and companies to engage in our pilot network, a survey was distributed among project partners. [Annex 1](#) provides a complete overview of the survey results gathered from the different pilot partners. Below we provide general conclusions per question.

Information from the HEI partners:

Which study programmes offer internships as part of their curriculum (virtual / international)

Every HEI partner offers the internships for students as a part of the curriculum. All of them are of a traditional nature. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven once offered the virtual internships as part of the pilot project. Università degli Studi di Padova offers the possibility of virtual internships for some courses. Most of the partners (4 out of 6) also offer the international internships. For detailed information on suitable study programmes please refer to every partner's list.

Which study programmes most suited for participation in pilot network? Why?

HEI partners offer different study programmes. Generally there are over 20 proposals (e.g. engineering, IT and multimedia, technology, sales, marketing, innovation, entrepreneurship, economics, business administration). The most commonly given reason is the content of the disciplines as well as the possibility to carry out these kinds of works via e-mails and telephones.

Do study programmes cooperate with certain companies on a structural basis?

4 out of 6 HEI partners cooperate with the companies on a structural basis.

Can you describe the internship process for relevant study programmes?

- Before phase (matchmaking, student support, collection of internship offers, agreements etc.)

Every HEI partner acts similarly when it comes to arrange the internship: students can choose the company from the databases of internship offers or they individually search for the relevant enterprise, some of the HE Institutions organize the job fairs, career days or provide the career consulting services. In every case the relevant agreements must be signed. In Lillebaelt Academy the internship contract between student and company is signed electronically.

- During phase (academic mentoring, peer assessment, length of internships etc)

Different methods are used during the internships (visits of tutor in the company, e-mails informing of any important matters, student's card of internship). Internships usually last between 3 and 6 months. In some cases shorter or longer.

- After phase (assessment of student and internship)

Very similar activities after the internship: evaluation reports, interviews, brief diary of the activities, short account, written opinions, questionnaires or digital self-assessment system.

Information from the business networks:

Which economic sectors are represented in your network?

Networks include different sectors: engineering, chemicals, plastics, construction, fashion and innovative services, marketing, human resources, consulting, IT, communication, technology, consultancy, development and education

How many companies are in your network? Size of companies?

2 out of 4 BN partners have more than a 1000 companies in their networks. These companies are small, medium and big. EFMD includes around 100 companies, most of them are very big and multinational ones.

What do you know regarding internships in the companies in your network? Local procedures/ habits? International? Virtual? Structural collaboration with HEIs?

Most of the partners are aware of some activities regarding the internships in the companies included in the network. IT Forum Fyn is not aware of activities regarding internships in the companies in the network for the time being. They will start a further investigation of the subject to be able to recommend certain companies for the internships.

How do you address companies in your network? Which companies would be suited to participate in our pilot network?

Different ideas. However, the most common answer is the ICT companies due to possessing required tools to conduct internships virtually. Companies, that offer teleworking or employ freelancers as well as BPO companies would also be willing to take part in this kind of activity, since they are usually operating on international level and are familiar with certain activities being done in distance.

Conclusion

The results of the survey were discussed during a virtual meeting with all project partners. Based on the information provided by HEI's and business network partners, the decision was made to focus on involving study programmes and companies in the fields of **marketing** and **ICT**. The two main reasons for this choice are firstly: the existing / possible links between partners and study programmes and secondly: the possibility for fully virtual internships in these fields.

Part 2: Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing platforms providing collaboration between different stakeholders regarding (virtual, international) internships

Based on desktop research and a survey among project partners the platforms below were identified as useful for further analysis. Strengths and weaknesses of these platforms were formulated based on the criteria for a successful virtual internship platform as could be taken from the EU-VIP project:

- Supporting international internships
- Addressing virtual(ly) support of internships
- Addressing internships which are part of a curriculum
- Involvement of three stakeholders
- Addressing and supporting three phases of an internship: before, during and after
- Accessible, user-friendly

AIESEC

[www://aiesec.be](http://www.aiesec.be)

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Involvement of three stakeholders Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User-friendly Virtual support of physical placements ICT tools development	Internships limited only to certain fields Limited space for the users to post their opinions

E-mentor

www.e-mentor.edu.pl/arttykul/index/numer/21/id/459#spis4

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Gives information about various models of virtual internship	This platform does not strictly concern virtual internships, it only provides information about <i>Cross Sector Virtual Mobility (CSVM)</i> project and shows different possible models of virtual internships

Globalplacement

www.globalplacement.com

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Involvement of three stakeholders Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>Lack of information about clear benefits for all stakeholders Limited space for the users to post their opinions</p>
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GraduateLand

www.graduateland.com

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>Lack of information about clear benefits for all stakeholders No clear guidelines of how the internship process works Platform does not involve three stakeholders Limited space for the users to post their opinions</p>
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Internship to Industry

www.internship2industry.eu/

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Involvement of three stakeholders Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>Lack of information about clear benefits for all stakeholders Virtual internships limited only to certain fields No clear differentiation concerning type of internship (national/international) Limited space for the users to post their opinions</p>
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Internship in Europe

www.europe-internship.com

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>No clear guidelines of how the internship process works Platforms do not involve three stakeholders No clear differentiation concerning type of internship (national/international) Limited space for the users to post their opinions</p>
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IPB

www.portal.ipb.pt/portal/page?_pageid=436,199898&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Involvement of three stakeholders Addressing and supporting phases of internship (before, during and after) User- friendly ICT tools development	Lack of information about clear benefits for all stakeholders No clear guidelines of how the internship process works Virtual internships limited only to certain fields No clear differentiation concerning type of internship (national/international) Limited space for the users to post their opinions

Laboratoria

www.laboratoria.wsl.com.pl/index.php?go=laboratoria

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
User- friendly ICT tools development	This platform was a project concerning virtual learning and it ended in June 2012, Only Polish language

Langloo

www.langloo.com/315/Kariera

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
There were no strong points of this platform registered, that could be potentially beneficial for the project	Virtual internship limited only to one field Platforms do not involve (with few exceptions) three stakeholders and do not support (with few exceptions) the three phases of an internship: before, during, after; No clear differentiation concerning type of internship (national/international) Limited space for the users to post their opinions

LEO-NET

www.leo-net.tue.nl/leonet/

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
The platform supports practical placements It includes sharing best practices between students, solving precise problems of student contracts and placements	LEO-NET (Leonardo Network for Academic Mobility) does not concern virtual placements, it supports vocational training programmes like Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci

LYKEION

www.lykeion.eestec.net/

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Involvement of three stakeholders Extensive database of companies Variety of the offered placements User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>No clear guidelines of how the internship process works Virtual internships limited only to certain fields No clear differentiation concerning type of internship (national/international) Limited space for the users to post their opinions</p>
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UETPNET

www.uetpnet.eu

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>E-learning courses ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>The project ended in December 2012 and it concerned only the e-learning courses, not the internships</p>
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ViCaDiS

www.vicadis.net/

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>ViCaDiS (Virtual Campus for Digital Students) was a EU Project which ended in 2009</p>
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Work in Denmark

www.workindenmark.dk

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Extensivedatabaseof companies Variety of the offered placements (jobs) User- friendly ICT tools development</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <p>This platform does not concern the internships but jobs</p>
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Conclusion

The above analysis present a concise summary of strengths and weaknesses of each platform selected for study based on the criteria mentioned above.

Based on these evaluation criteria, we have singled out three platforms that in our opinion may be a good source of inspiration for our future platform. These are as follows:

- [www://aiesec.be](http://www.aiesec.be)
- www.internship2industry.eu
- www.lykeion.eestec.net/.

Each of these platform possesses similar strengths and weaknesses, however the most successful and broadly recognised is AIESEC, and therefore, this platform should be our main point of interest. The AIESEC platform operates in the environment of only physical placement virtuall. Hence, our platform that is planned to concentrate mostly on fully virtual internships will not overlap. With valuable experience adopted from the AIESEC platform, further complemented by success factosr defined in the previous EU-VIP project, our platform can play a significant role in the field of virtual placements. Based on the fact that none of the platforms above possess all necessary requirements, the PROVIP project will need to look at the development of a separate platform