

## Context/background

The project “Partnerships for lifelong learning in engineering and technology” addresses two different models of cooperation between actors in vocational and higher education providing consistent and permeable educational pathways from initial training to higher educational levels. The schemes to be analysed are

(1) integrated learning opportunities (for example dual study programmes) and

(2) bridging programmes (for example programs, where one institution recognises the learning outcomes of another partner).

In Europe, both types of programs have become more and more popular and attract a growing number of learners. Meanwhile, there is only limited information on factors determining the success and/or side effects of such partnerships in the long run. Such evidence has to be based on information given by all parties concerned, i.e. those offering the programs (educational institutions), those involved in practical training components (enterprises) and finally those enrolled and seeking employment thereafter (learners/students). The envisaged study will take into account all stakeholders concerned and contribute in filling the knowledge gap in the domain of technical professions in five European countries (Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia and Spain).

## Objective

The aim of the project is to study the conditions and design of integrated education and bridging programs in technical occupations as well as their impact on a successful entry into the labour market as well as the development of vocational identity of learners. The project seeks for general conclusions in the respective national context and in a European perspective. Future programs can benefit from the experiences made and documented in cases of best practise which the study aims to identify.

## Expected results

- A comparative analysis of national strategies and expert's estimations on integrated learning opportunities and bridging programmes (IO1)
- A comparative analysis of cases of apparent good practice in partner countries (IO2)
- A quantitative commitment study; target group: learners (IO3)
- A quantitative impact analysis; target group: employers (IO4)
- Quality guide - lessons learned from apparent good practice (IO5)

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## Partners

University Bremen (Coordinator)  
Institute Technology and Education (ITB), DE



Free Trade Union Confed. of Latvia (FTUC), Riga, Latvia



Hellenic Open University (HOU), Patra, Greece



Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin, Ireland



Research & Consultancy SA (IKEI); Donostia-San Sebastian, Basque Country (Spain)



The Machine Tool Institute (IMH), Elgoibar, Basque Country (Spain)



## Contact

Universität Bremen  
Institut Technik und Bildung  
Am Fallturm 1  
28359 Bremen

Ursel Hauschildt, M Phil. (Coordinator)  
Tel.: +49 (0)421 / 218-66325  
E-Mail: uhaus [at] uni-bremen [dot] de

Dr. Klaus Ruth  
Tel.: +49 (0)421 / 218-66322  
E-Mail: kruth [at] uni-bremen [dot] de

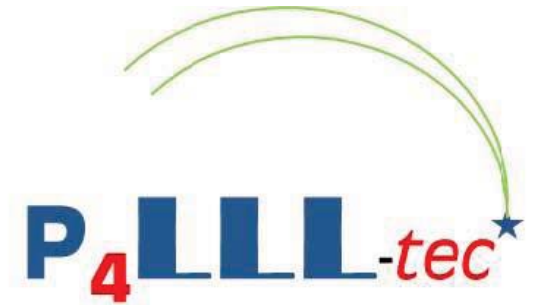
## Project data

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**Partnerships for  
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