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University Lifelong Learning to Live a Better Life – Continuing Education for Sustainable Quality of Life in Europe

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Strand: Enabling Livelihoods

Linking vocational and academic education - Securing one's livelihood through part-time studies

This presentation shows the concept of a business/economics degree designed to be taken by students in parallel with vocational business training courses. The degree course was developed in cooperation between vocational schools and a university of applied sciences. First, the paper presents a brief preliminary study of people already enrolled on business training courses (n=40), whose expectations and concerns with regard to taking a university degree are analysed. There follows a best-practice analysis of similar course models.

The main part of the presentation concerns the following: the influence of regional factors on the design of the degree; the analysis of nationally standardised course content by vocational school teachers and university professors working in tandem; and the development of a degree curriculum that takes into account what has already been learned on the training courses.

The summary discusses the separation of the two educational systems and the need of future to bring them together. The cooperation concept of vocational schools and universities shows a further vocational development path in rural areas as well as the local anchoring of part-time studies.