



## CHAIN – Cooperation Holland and Austria Improvement Networking

### Background

The published indicators of the European benchmarks claim that the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10% in 2020. Although the project partners show early school leaving rates below the European 27 average rate the development in the countries has slowed down for various reasons. The figures of the partner countries Austria and the Netherlands show, that there is still a need to improve in the above mentioned benchmark area.

Vocational education training has an important role in the fight for reducing the share of young people who tend to become early school leavers. It provides not only information on the job market and job descriptions but it enables and supports the contact to the world of work. Through different kind of measures – varying in the two partner countries – between school and enterprises, supported by different network partners and stakeholders, young people’s employability is strengthened. Direct contacts to the world of work and “first hand experiences” support their integration into the labour market. Initial vocational education and training is a preventive and successful tool helping to reduce early school leaving

### Aims of CHAIN

Both partner countries want to support and strengthen the cooperation between schools and companies and thus – in an indirect way – contribute to the reduction and prevention of early school leaving by different activities. The municipality of ‘s-Hertogenbosch has a great expertise in this working field through different projects and is strongly involved in the cooperation between education, municipality and entrepreneurs. Graz has also great expertise and experiences in vocational education and training and measures connecting schools and the world of work.

#### Topics of the project

1. How to increase the involvement of companies for education/cooperation with schools?
2. Lifelong learning (is there any policy on this in the involved companies in this Comenius project)?
3. Leading role local government; to stimulate that companies start their company, that companies stay in Graz / ‘s-Hertogenbosch (good entrepreneurs-climate), to stimulate a better connection between unemployed people and actual and future jobs?
4. Demand orientated approach by local government, labour office, schools. Basis is the demand of the labour market; schools, labour office, local government take this as a start for their work/approach?
5. Tailor-made arrangements (develop innovative instruments, flexible structures)?
6. Career orientation and career guidance (again demand of the labour market starting point for activities by schools/STVG etcetera)?
7. Labour market information; only by good knowledge of the local/regional labour market you can prepare young people to the right jobs/companies?
8. HRM-policy; important to know what HRM-policy is made by the involved companies. Schools and local government can focus on a better way to realise a well-functioning labour market!