

## Common labour market – Becoming reality in Europe

The close cooperation between the Ministries of Education of Andalusia and Lower Saxony was one of those which led to the network EREIVET. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hannover used the existing contacts to attract young people from Andalusia to come to Lower Saxony because here qualified workers are needed because of the demographic change.

In Spain most of VET is implemented in fulltime schools. To get the diploma the students have got to realise an internship in an enterprise. The Ministry of Education of Andalusia is organising mobility projects for young people in vocational education and training (IVT) to facilitate to realise these internships also abroad.

One of these young persons, is Miguel Torrubia Moya from Andalusia, Spain.



Barbara Paulmann: Miguel, please introduce yourself.

Miguel: In Andalusia I lived in a small village called Arcena, which is in the Northwest of Seville. I visited there the school until the bachillerato (A-level) and then I visited the vocational school I.E.S. Heliopolis in Seville where I got the Higher Technical Certificate in Electronic Products Development. Afterwards I couldn't get a job and so I went to the University of Seville for one year. But I prefer to learn in a more practical way and so I studied in another vocational school in Seville, in I.E.S. Politecnico electricity. There I've got the offer from my teacher to realise my internship – which was necessary to get the diploma – in Germany.

Barbara Paulmann: So, you came to Germany. Did you get your diploma afterwards?

Miguel: Yes, I realised the internship in the enterprise Avacon and then I've got the diploma in Spain. I also implemented in the enterprise a two years apprenticeship as Electronics technician for industrial engineering so that I now have two Spanish diploma and one German.

Barbara Paulmann: And you are speaking 3 languages, Spanish, English and German, good conditions for the labour market.

When did you come to Hanover, how old were you and how was it organised?

Miguel: I came in April 2013 and I was 24. In the first week we – a group of 17 young Spanish people – had a language course and we lived in the Don Bosco House in Hannover, a house of Caritas. A Spanish woman of the Caritas cared about us. In the first week I also had an interview with the enterprise Eon-Avacon, where I was accepted for my internship.

Barbara Paulmann: And afterwards they offered you to realise an apprenticeship in the dual system there?

Miguel: Yes I got the offer during the internship. Originally I wanted to get a job but because I started only 3 months before to learn German I got the chance to make the apprenticeship which normally lasts 3 ½ years in two years. And I made the practical exam with a good grade.

Barbara Paulmann: And you also visited a vocational school in Hannover, wasn't it difficult with only a few language skills?

Miguel: Yes it was very difficult when I visited the BBS ME in Hannover; the German apprentices were also a lot younger than I was but with the knowledge I've got in my two vocational courses in Seville I was able to follow and step by step and with another course in a language institute my German improved.

Barbara Paulmann: Miguel, what could you tell us about the difference between vocational education and training in Spain and in Germany.

Miguel: Ok, everybody knows that in the dual system of vocational education and training the practice is the majority. For me, even if I prefer learning with a practical approach, it could be taught more theory in the German vocational school, but all in all it's good that the young people get a lot of practical experience during their vocational education and training.

Barbara Paulmann: And what are you doing now?

Miguel: I've finished my apprenticeship in July and I've got immediately a job in Haste where I'm working now. Most of the workers are older than I and they are supporting me a lot. I live in Hannover. At the moment I'm living together with Spanish people even if I think it's necessary to learn the language in the country where you are living and to integrate. But on the other hand it's not so easy to get to know young people in Hannover. I've often been refused. It's easier to get in contact with people in Cologne or Berlin.

Barbara Paulmann: Yes, the mentality of people from Northern Germany and Andalusia are quite different, aren't they?

Miguel: Yes, we are living much more outside of our houses, meeting friends and family just for communicating. Here in Hannover you always need a reason for meeting making sports e. g. making sports or music together. In Spain we enjoy more our life and are more relaxed; here everything is ruled. But I'm sure that our way of life in Andalusia is very influenced by the weather and the sun. I'm missing this and my family in Aracena, the family is very important in Andalusia. I also wish to have a family, but I don't plan: It could be also possible in Germany as in Spain.