

## Good practice, Harderwijk, the Netherlands.

### De Techniek Academie, close cooperation between companies and schools.

In the Netherlands, Landstede works close with companies to achieve a high quality of technical education and to make the technical sector attractive to young students so that the companies obtain sufficient and high quality employees. This is extremely important for companies to serve their markets and to realize their strategic targets and commercial goals.

Form more than 10 years we work with schools with secondary education, VET, HEI and companies in the platform Techniek ( [www.platform-techniek.nl](http://www.platform-techniek.nl) ) in this platform we organize activities to promote the technical sector to pupils and students who are 11 to 18 years old and are seeking what kind of school they want to go to.

In 2011 companies and Landstede analyzed that the number of students in secondary school decreased dramatically and also the number of students in VET decreased, for the sector an unacceptable situation. In this period the first ideas for a close cooperation in the execution of education was born.

The companies and Landstede formulated 4 goals to be realized.

1. Develop a learning route which is attractive for young students
2. Realize possibilities for (in company) training of adult technicians
3. Increase the quality of the curricula, by close cooperation between companies and Landstede
4. Help companies in the basic training and education of young employees

We decided that it was necessary that we find ways to seduce young people to choose for a working future in the technical sector. The concept should become better, not more of the same. For that reason we decided to found a company school, the technical academy, De Techniek Academie. It is situated in a building in which the students receive their practical training and theoretical backgrounds, and also general subjects, in an integrated route. It is completely financed by the companies. Landstede provides the necessary teachers and computer systems.

Basically, the school was established for students who choose for the dual system, working and learning. In the Netherlands, the dual system provides students to go to school for 1 day, learning the languages, math, civil ship and theoretical backgrounds of the study.

The practical training via working experience is done within the companies.

The students have a contract with the companies, they become an employee, and they have a education contract with the schools.

In De Techniek Academie, the students receive training and theoretical backgrounds in one route during two days. The students work on technical projects/assignments and receive the backgrounds just in time. The work based training is done "on the job". The program at De Techniek Akademie is a modular system.

The first 6 weeks the students receive an introduction. After 6 weeks they get paid for 5 days. The study is free of costs for the student as long he/she is motivated and obtain a diploma.

The curriculum is based on national standards but is adjusted to the specific needs of the companies.

De Techniek Academie is responsible for the contracts with students and the payment of salary. By this the companies receive an extra service. The companies pay a fee to De Techniek Academie for the students to work in their companies.

The atmosphere in the school is work based. This is very stimulating for the students and bring teachers in a working flow. Students mainly work and learn on their own. Support for both theoretical and practical issues is always available, so each student can make his/her own progress.

We see that the concept is successful. When we started in 2012 we had 20 students, now we have more than 100 students. In 2016 we decided to integrate the practical training for students who follow the school based route (BOL) also in De Techniek Academie. The first results are promising for motivation and learning results.

Our final goal is to have a scale of 150 to 200 students at De Techniek Academie

So what did we realize:

- close cooperation with companies, jointly developed curriculum
- Maximum integration of working and learning
- Ownership for education within schools and companies
- Increased number of students

New ideas will come up, to be continued

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