**Orientation to the engineering sector in UK**

**Typology:**

Method to stimulate and motivate the low skilled people around jobs in the industry

**Organisation responsible:**

Kent County Council <https://www.kent.gov.uk/>

**Objective:**

The students on the programme will have a better understanding of industrial workplaces, including the noises, smells and scale. They will feel less intimidated to enter the workplace for their work placements.

**Target group (age, social background …) on which thiis methos was used:**

Young people from 18 to 30 years old, low skilled people

**Description of the approach/methodology (what does this practice actually consist of?):**

An afternoon each week of the three-week intensive training programme was timetabled for ‘Orientation to the Engineering Sector’:

* In week 1 the variety of engineering disciplines, job roles, qualification structure and salary levels were explained to the students.
* In weeks 2 and 3 visits were made to three very different industrial settings: EAP Ltd (a ship repair company), GEKU Automation (a robotics company) and H&E Equipment Services (producing hydraulic equipment). The industrial visits were part of a process of ‘orientation to the engineering sector’ recognising that students have a limited understanding of engineering processes, jobs and roles.

**Experiences of the LSP and trainers with running this method**

Young people or people without work experience in the industry can get intimidated by unfamiliar work settings, large open spaces, sometimes very noisy, large heavy equipment, complicated processes, industrial smells, sometimes dirt and grime... Our intention was to reduce the anxiety of the trainees and expose them to the workplace before embarking on their placements and to address any concerns they might have.

The participants were enthusiastic and pleasantly surprised at the variety of roles and how they might ‘fit in’. The employers were very welcoming and friendly.

**How would you improve your method?**

Increase the number of visits (shorter more intensive) and ask trainees to do some research on the companies beforehand (internet search)