



Huawei ICT Academy at ZSL

Promising Practice

Implemented by: Zespół Szkół Łączności

Where: Poland

Status: Started in January 2021

Summary: ZSL partnered with Huawei to open an academy, which brings the latest technology to the school setting and provides more effective learning experiences to students.

Overview

Zespół Szkół Łączności (ZSL) is a secondary technical school which provides vocational education in the fields of ICT, Electronics, Telecommunication, Multimedia and Photography, Programming, Automation and Robotics. ZSL takes pride in 75 years of teaching experience and high places in the national ranking of the best technical schools. Currently, the school has about 1000 students and 100 teachers. Students have opportunities to learn practical vocational subjects in well-equipped laboratories, as well as take part in apprenticeships in different companies in Poznań and abroad (within Erasmus programme). Students have the possibility to join CISCO, Huawei and MikroTik academies.

Description

Developing practical skills for industry and the community

Huawei ICT Academy is a partnership between Huawei and schools around the world. Through this partnership, the academy delivers Huawei ICT technologies training, encourages students to get Huawei certification, and develops talents with practical skills for the ICT industry and the community.

First school in Poland with Huawei accreditation

ZSL is the first high school in Poland with Huawei accreditation. Since the beginning of Huawei ICT Academy at ZSL, more than 1000 students have been trained in the use of the ICT Huawei Talent Platform. In 2022, ZSL was recognized as the best Huawei Academy in Poland, receiving multiple financial rewards and professional equipment for the school. A similar programme is being carried out at the University of Technology in Poznań. Thus, a close cooperation between ZSL and the University of Technology was established.

Preparation for state professional exams

The participation in Huawei ICT Academy resulted in better preparation of students for the state professional exams. Moreover, ZSL set an example and became a role model for other educational institutions in Poland.

Participating in international competitions

ZSL encourages its students to participate in Huawei's annual international competitions and the institution was recognized as the best Huawei Academy in Poland two years in a row. Several of its students were competition winners and two ZSL teachers received best instructor awards.

Objectives

The main objectives of the initiative are developing additional professional skills, preparing students for work in modern ICT companies, setting up a well-equipped laboratory in a state school, and improving students' preparation for external exams.

The target groups are students from IT and ICT classes aged 15 to 19 years. However, students of other professions can also participate in the programme.

Private sector engagement that equips schools with the latest technology

The initiative is concerned with the upgrading of network technologies in businesses and the community. Moreover, state schools are underfunded when it comes to equipping professional labs and the initiative tries to address and overcome this problem, through collaboration with industry.

Thanks to the academy, students have access to the latest advanced technologies in wide area networks, 5G technology, and network security. Students have continuous access to the Huawei training programmes and work on the latest cutting-edge equipment. This is the first Huawei ICT Academy in Poland. Other technical secondary schools have also expressed interest in joining the programme.

Outcomes and impact

Since 2021, more than 1000 students from ZSL have been trained at the Huawei Academy. These students have received certificates, while ZSL has benefited from grants and financial support. Students that are receiving training from the academy are also achieving excellent results in state ICT exams. Furthermore, they are receiving multiple offers of employment and do very well in higher education in ICT. The school has increased its intake of new students and is expecting to further facilitate its cooperation with the Huawei Academy and the University of Technology in Poznań.

Challenges

Offering Huawei courses to all students

Organizing and dividing the available Huawei courses so as to involve every student in the school in the project took considerable effort. Using the Huawei ICT talent platform allowed ZSL to access Huawei's know-how and courses. Through the platform, the school also monitored the students' progress, supported them and celebrated their achievements. Students were divided into appropriate groups according to their skills and knowledge.

Making use of state-of-the-art equipment

Finding the best way to integrate the received Huawei network equipment into school activities proved to be challenging at first. This was addressed by using the equipment in lessons to prepare the highest-grade students for state exams. Students were encouraged to take part in the initiative by including the programme into the school's process of exam preparation.

Insights

ZSL believes that there is added value in combining public teaching with commercial teaching and allowing students to use the latest specialized knowledge. Undoubtedly, students are better prepared for the exams, and they have the possibility to attend workshops at Poznan University of Technology. The cooperation proved to be very successful and useful for the school. Students seem to be satisfied and engaged in their learning, which inspires ZSL to continue the academy programme.

Next steps

In the future, ZSL wants to expand the initiative so that there is even greater access to knowledge for non-IT majors, such as in the field of IoT (Internet of Things), which is important for professionals from different areas. The school wants to continue encouraging students to join the academy so that they can benefit from the whole programme and take advantage of the equipment acquired by the school following the partnership.

Learn more

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To learn more about ZSL, visit:
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