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Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2018

Project kicks off in London

On November 11th, European partner organisations from six countries attended the launch of a new project, Erasmus Employment Plus, in London, Isle of Dogs.

Across Europe, there is a higher rate of un- and under-employment amongst people who are low-skilled or have limited qualifications. People who work in careers guidance are key to the empowerment of this particular client group, in helping them to face numerous barriers including lack of accessibility, mental health and lower levels of literacy and numeracy. The project will use the expertise of the partners, which include social enterprise organisations, a university and a professional network of careers advisors.

The first conference was a huge success as partners worked together to develop a mission statement and begin to explore the needs of people with limited skills and qualifications and those who support them in a careers context.

'Erasmus Employment Plus equips guidance practitioners with skills and knowledge to provide customised support for sustained progression, empowering those with limited skills and qualifications #itsaboutpeople'



The next planning meeting will be in Sofia, Bulgaria in March. This will bring together research from the partner countries to create the learning objectives for the new curriculum, and to begin planning the content of the Employment Plus course of study, which will eventually be made freely available online.



Getting the most from our collaboration

It was clear from the very start of the meeting that we had a really good range of partners from different backgrounds in the room, who had a wide range of professional expertise relating to the arena of careers guidance; in particular NOLOC who are the professional body in the Netherlands for career counsellors. With some 3000 members, they host 75 meetings per year and also the National Conference. Abif, the Austrian partner also provide training in a wide range of areas and specifically for guidance counsellors. All of the other partners provide training and professional development to guidance professionals and work with the client group of people with limited skills and qualifications.

One of the main issues identified early on by all partners was that, as professionals, career counsellors are not universally bound by a clear set of ethics or professional standards and in some countries they need to be qualified and in others they do not.

As part of the meeting all partners did an exercise to create a joint project vision statement:

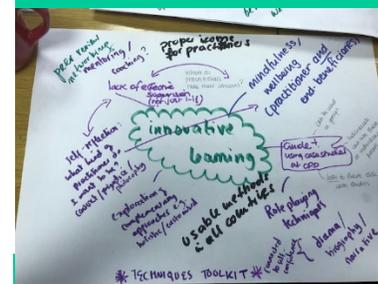
'Erasmus Employment Plus equips guidance practitioners with skills and knowledge to provide customised support for sustained progressions, empowering those with limited skills or qualifications. #itsaboutpeople'

During Day 2 partners tackled the four main themes of the project:

- What do practitioners need to know in terms of **understanding trends**?
- What do practitioners need to know in terms of the **specific needs** of the client?
- What do practitioners need to know in terms of the **significant barriers** facing clients?
- What **innovative learning** can we provide through the project?

Drawing upon their expertise, partners have made a strong start formulating ideas about what should be included in the training programme for practitioners.

EMPLOYMENT PLUS:
#itsaboutpeople



One of the key aims for the pedagogy of the new curriculum is that it will use innovative learning techniques such as action learning, and peer learning in informal group settings.

The first transnational meeting was a great chance to develop a shared vision and work collaboratively.

If you'd like to find out more please visit:
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Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

