

A NEW DIDACTICAL VET-TRAINING MODEL FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG LEARNERS



First Newsletter • July 2015

NEW-D

The Learners' Needs in VET

All over Europe education drop-out rates indicate that the teaching and training methods being used in our Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems do not meet the needs of all of our learners. The educational models in use widely fail to sufficiently motivate many learners, specifically disadvantaged young people. Teachers, trainers and tutors in VET schools, in training centres and in enterprises receive little support and are often left on their own when it

comes to didactics that would help them with their challenging task of educating their students to become well-qualified employees in the European labour market.

The New-D project aims to develop a new didactical solution to this issue, by creating a VET model which relates to the real-life experiences and challenges of young people, in particular disadvantaged young people, to prevent their exit from education and to help to pave the way for them to return to formal education or VET.



To explore the perspectives of young people NEW-D analysed questionnaires completed by 147 young people, aged 16 to 25. The gender composition of the sample was 74 male, 72 female and one transgender. Eleven focus groups and personal interviews were conducted with 43 young people, aged 16 to 25.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Project No.: 2014-I-AT-01-KA202-000975



Project partners at the Berlin kick-off meeting in Germany

Kick-off Meeting in Berlin

Hosted by Oscar-Tietz-Schule (OSZ Handel II), our German partners, the project kick-off meeting took place in Berlin, DE on 12 and 13 January 2015. Apart from the Slovenian partners, the delegates from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Turkey met for the first time to give the project a brilliant start.

After introducing themselves and clarifying all the administrative matters the project coordinator, Jugend am Werk Steiermark from Austria, gave an in-depth presentation of the project, its aims and planned outcomes.

NEW-D Research

No time was wasted and so the partners started with their work on the first intellectual project output in the afternoon of the first meeting day. Profoundly guided by the Irish partners of Meath Partnership, the participants managed to work out detailed guidelines for the weeks to come: The partners planned the desk research; appropriate instruments were introduced, discussed and created. They agreed on a plan for the empirical part of the research, designed questionnaire instruments and developed interview guidelines.

Before ending the very efficient meeting the 13 delegates agreed on communication rules, next steps and dates. All the partners were well prepared to fulfil their individual tasks.

Second Partner Meeting in Kranj

The second partner meeting was hosted by Gospodarska Zbornica Slovenije, our Slovenian partners, on 18 and 19 June 2015. All the partner organisations were present and spent two intensive days with a lot of work in the small Slovenian town of Kranj.

NEW-D OBJECTIVES

Understanding better the needs, requirements and life realities of the target group: learners in VET who are disadvantaged because of their ethnic, social, economic and religious background; and deducting implications for an appropriate didactical response.

Developing a didactical model on the basis of an initial research and exploration work and on the basis of findings from the field of development psychology and neurophysiology.

Developing guidelines for a didactical model and a training curriculum for VET teachers, trainers and tutors in schools, training organisations and enterprises.

Piloting a training programme for VET teachers, trainers and tutors from schools, VET organisations and enterprises on the basis of the developed material. Implementing a multiplication and sustainability strategy and measuring the impact of the project on drop-out and failure rates in VET.

STUDENTS NEED...

- training in the form of practical workshops, excursions, field trips and group-work activity;
- smaller groups to allow all participants to have their say and feel involved;
- adaptable, flexible, friendly and approachable teachers;
- bright, airy and comfortable classrooms and alternative layouts;
- a range of modern technologies such as computers, laptops, smart devices and interactive whiteboards;
- labour market-oriented and industry-savvy career advice;
- respect and consideration by teachers/trainers/tutors.

- NEW-D Research

Research Results

In addition to the presentations on the dissemination and exploitation strategies by E.N.T.E.R. GmbH from Austria and on the quality management handbook by FormAzione Co&So Network from Italy, the first part of the meeting focussed on the first intellectual project output. The partners had been working hard and the Meath Partnership (IE) was able to present the results of the research phase. The partners agreed on some minor changes and amendments to be implemented, thus clearing the way for the next big step in the project.

NEW-D Guidelines

Based on the research conducted by the partnership, the focus now lay on the NEW-D Guidelines. Jugend am Werk (AT) had prepared the basis for the partners' work on the second intellectual output.

'Pre-drop-out support' was the commonly agreed catchphrase, and in work and discussion groups the participants came up with four topical areas. Finally, seven guidelines were defined. They include the learning process and the learning environment, classroom- and non-classroom-based work, the teachers'/trainers'/tutors' roles, and a focus on learner-learner conflicts.

With a solid basis in their suitcases, the partners left Slovenia. Over the summer, they are working on their tasks so that the second intellectual output, which will be published in hard-copy and online in the partner languages, will be ready to be finalised at the beginning of autumn.

NEXT STEPS

Autumn 2015 • Presentation of NEW-D at international NetWBL conference in Vilnius, LT

Autumn 2015 • Multiplier event in Graz, AT

Autumn 2015 • NEW-D Guidelines, a compact presentation of didactical possibilities in working with disadvantaged young people in VET

Autumn 2015 • Third partner meeting in Florence, IT

Autumn/Winter 2015/16 • NEW-D Curriculum for a seven-units' training programme for teachers, trainers and tutors



Project partners at the Kranj project meeting in Slovenia

The NEW-D Partnership

The New-D project partners belong to a network of experienced and expert organisations with the potential to introduce creative and inter-disciplinary innovations into VET. The project team comprises representatives from initial and lifelong VET training; corporate VET training; VET networking and pedagogical development. Organisations from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, and Turkey are involved in this project; they are highly experienced and specialised in their fields and bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the project. The consortium represents an appropriate geographic and European balance, and therefore the project team can capture an accurate snapshot of the different approaches to VET for disadvantaged youth, and the different challenges and needs of disadvantaged youth, across Europe.

CONTACT US

Get in touch with the project representative from your country or the project coordinator for more information on the topic and the project.

Visit our website at
www.new-d.eu

Join us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/newdproject

Follow us on Twitter at
twitter.com/NEWDproject

COORDINATING PARTNER



Jugend am Werk Steiermark GmbH
Mr Robert SCHUEN

Lendplatz 35, 8020 Graz, Austria
robert.schuen@jaw.or.at

PARTNER



FormAzione Co&So Network
Ms Patrizia GIORIO

Via Val di Pesa 4, 50127 Florence, Italy
giorio@formazione.net

PARTNER



Oscar-Tietz-Schule (OSZ Handel II)
Mr Dimitri LIVADIOTIS

Marzahner Chaussee 231, 12681 Berlin, Germany
livadiotis@osz-handel-2.cidsnet.de

PARTNER



Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije
Ms Mojca UMEK

Bleiweisova 16, 4000 Kranj, Slovenia
mojca.umek@gzs.si

PARTNER



Fritid&Samfund
Mr Steffen HARTJE

Skt. Nicolaus Gade 2, 8000 Aarhus, Denmark
fritid@fritid-samfund.dk

PARTNER



EGECED
Mr Emin BAKAY

Kasimpasa Mah. 228, Sok. no. 16, 35470 Izmir, Turkey
eminbakay@gmail.com

PARTNER



Meath Partnership
Ms Jennifer LAND

Unit 7 Kells Business Park, Cavan Rd, Kells, Ireland
jennifer.land@meathpartnership.ie

PARTNER



E.N.T.E.R. GmbH
Ms Daniela MARESCH

Geidorfplatz 2, 8010 Graz, Austria
daniela.maresch@enter-network.eu