OPEN ONLINE CATALOGUE OF INTERCULTURAL TOOLS FOR VET TRAINERS

Why this project

Intercultural competencies (IC) are essential to be effective in today's culturally diverse reality. The importance of IC has been recognised by the European Commission and is being acknowledged by more and more educational entities. Nonetheless, the extent to which intercultural competence development is included in education varies from country to country. Many countries still haven't included intercultural education in key education pathways. The situation is even worse when it comes to the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and VET trainers in particular. Interculturality has never been a major concern in vocational training, professional skills have always been regarded as more important. As a result, there are many VET trainers who are experts in their field, but when it comes to knowledge or experience in delivering their lessons to students from different backgrounds, they have to fill this gap by looking for the right tools on their own. Considering that vocational training can be an effective means of integration for people who have migrated to Europe, helping the trainers in their further development also promotes social inclusion.

Project's aim

The project will provide tools to VET trainers for assessing and developing their intercultural competences, and for adjusting their trainings to the needs of culturally diverse groups and work settings. These goals will be reached by the end of 2020. The project will pay special attention to communication with trainers from Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. The project will achieve this through offering easy access to tools in the area of intercultural learning and providing training materials, including instructions on how to apply theory to intercultural training.
In particular, the specific objective is to design and implement an innovative Open Online Catalogue of Intercultural Tools which will be an online application available as an Open Education Resource.

Project's results

o   Database of intercultural tools – collection of tools developed within previous various initiatives and projects as Open Education Resources and that relate to intercultural education.
o   Training materials about culture. Materials in the form of e-learning, with exercises and tests allowing for self-assessment of IC.
o   Guide on how to develop simulations for intercultural training.

Target group

o   VET trainers working with learners from culturally diverse backgrounds.
o   Staff of VET providers who deal with culturally diverse groups of learners and clients.
o   Public officials responsible for VET management and policy-making at the level of VET education.

News

Kick-off meeting

The meeting was held in Paderborn, Germany on 26 and 27 January 2019. After the presentation of the project, the partners agreed on intellectual outputs, discussed and approved the project management and assigned specific tasks for dissemination and evaluation.
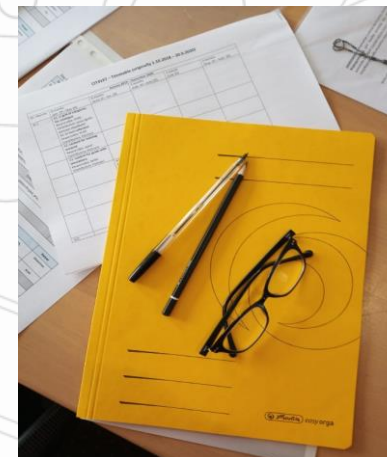
Sharing Knowledge

The Partners, using their knowledge and experience of IC websites and tools, are actively working on the Online Catalogue. Selecting the best ones to offer to VET trainers in an easy and organized way.

Partners activities

During these first 8 months of the project, partners are working in parallel on the database of intercultural tools, on the training materials about culture and the guide on how to develop simulations for intercultural training.

Within the database, the partners' activities are focused on the development of a grid of categories as well as searching for and analysing the tools. The search for tools involves desk and internet search during which partners research areas assigned to them according to methodology.

In parallel, the partners are working on the preparation of training materials and the guide for running intercultural training courses

Next meeting

The second meeting will be held in Torino on 11 and 12 June 2019.

During the meeting the partners will review all work done on the intellectual outputs and will develop detailed plans for the forward planned activities.

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Partners

Project Coordinator : assist GmbH
assist GmbH is a medium-sized private limited company with a Head Office in Paderborn, central Germany. They offer training in the areas of intercultural skills, leadership skills, communication skills and trainer skills.

Institute of Technology Tralee
ITT has been at the forefront of learning since its establishment and has since gained a reputation as a centre of distinction for teaching, learning and research.

Runi Center
The activities of RUNI Center are aimed at developing social skills and personal qualifications by creative thinking, partnership and team work.

Danmar Computers sp z o.o.
Danmar Computers is a private company providing vocational training in the field of Information Technology and developing e-learning and customised ICT solutions.

Centrum Kształcenia Edukator
Is a company operating on the Polish vocational training market. The main thematic areas of training and consultancy are entrepreneurial processes and information technology.

Diciannove Società Cooperativa
Diciannove's vision is to match the need of innovative ICT solutions with free and open source software and social purposes.

Intercultural Business Improvement b.v.
Founded in 1996, Intercultural Business Improvement (IBI) has extensive experience in intercultural training, coaching and consulting.