



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



Lifelong Learning Programme LdV – Partnership Project

“Improving Employment Opportunities in the Labour Market for Marginalised Communities”

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Local Office in Jablonec nad Nisou

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Final Conference in Wroclaw

June 25, 2013

General overview information on the project

- Labour Office in Jablonec nad Nisou (Czech Republic) as a coordinator in conjunction with the other partners submitted a project called “Improving Employment Opportunities in the Labour Market for Marginalised Communities”.
- The decision to realize this project was supported by very bad situation on the labour market in Europe now where a high rate of unemployment exists and it was hoped that the project would contribute for improvement the present situation in the different partnership countries.
- The purpose of the project was to share models of best practice that has been developed across the partnership countries in relation to supporting members from marginalised communities who have difficulties accessing direct employment in the labour market or having poor participation in education and training programmes.



General overview information on the project

The project partners have arranged host seminars/conferences on agreed themes. All organisational aspects associated with seminars/conferences were done by the host partner. This has included arranging the venue, key speakers on the theme, documenting the outcomes of the seminars/conferences and arranging visits to selected local organisations, projects, centres that deal effectively with the agreed themes that are being explored during the lifetime of the project. We expected there will be huge learning within the partnership for all partner organisations. The key themes for the host seminars/conference in the partnership countries were as follows:

- 1) Early school leaving,**
- 2) Minority communities accessing the labour market,**
- 3) Long-term unemployed accessing the Labour Market,**
- 4) Educational programmes for unemployed and quality related issues,**
- 5) Practice firms and activities directing student/learners to the labour market.**



Partners

Labour Office CZ - contact office Jablonec nad Nisou

The Labour Office CZ is a state funded unit responsible for employment, mediation of jobs for applicants, improvement of counselling and educational services, supporting the creation of new jobs, projects supported by EU, state social support benefits etc.



EDUCA - vzdělávací centrum, s.r.o.

EDUCA – vzdělávací centrum is a small private school based and functioning in the field of lifelong adult education provision. Educa prepares and organizes training in various skills: languages, IT, accountancy and taxes, soft-skills etc.



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Partners



Co Clare VEC (County Clare Vocational Education Committee)

Professional Education Committee (VEC) is the governing body of the regional education, which mainly provides vocational education and adult and further education in the Republic of Ireland. Co. Clare VEC operates in County Clare in the west of Ireland.



The Lower Silesian Regional Labour Office

Dolnośląski Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy (DWUP) is an organisational unit of the self-governmental administration. Its role is to analyse the labour market, realise the activities co-financed from the ESF, EURES services, to provide vocational counselling, life-long learning activities and specific employment opportunities in the labour market.



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Trabzon Provincial Directorate of National Education

Trabzon Provincial Directorate of National Education is a governmental public authority. It provides training in the province of Trabzon in Eastern Turkey, where it operates five professional training centers and 13 national training centers.



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Aim of project

- The aim of the project was to find new ways of working with people who are marginalised from society and not engaged in the workforce or in education and training programmes provided in the partnership countries. The project focused on key managers working with the organisations involved in the partnership and as a result of the learning in the project is to share the best practice that will impact on adults and young people from marginalised communities who engage with the services available in the participating organisations.

The project has addressed the following:

- Working with minorities (Roma community, Travellers in Ireland).
- Increasing the knowledge of the participants especially the managers of human resource sections of the organisations involved in the partnership in relation to working with marginalised communities.



Objectives

- Enable the key managers to exchange experiences on aspects of the labour market and the European system of education operating in the partnership countries.
- Examination of career counselling and general educational guidance for those students of marginalised backgrounds was key to the project.
- The outcomes of the project will impact on policy developments within education and training programmes/institutions for people who are marginalised from society.
- The approach that was adopted in the project was be through lectures, general discussion, groupwork, workshops, exploration and visits to centres projects that engage with members of marginalised communities. The seminars/conferences were experiential in nature and provided not only a theoretical framework for key managers in their work in their own organisation but also many practical ideas and experience.



Outcomes of Project for Ireland

- Clear concrete data collated on the themes during the project
- Greater Interagency connectivity between the different programmes services within the organisation
- Greater communication between personnel within the organisation
- Greater level of awareness of the cross cutting issues on the different themes by key people within the organisation
- Opportunity to network for staff at European level
- Another opportunity to see examples of good practice in relation to the themes of the project



Current Context: Role of VET

- Cyclical challenge of the current recession - the over representation of young people among the unemployed and the difficulties in opening up labour market opportunities for them.
- Longer term structural challenge of tackling early school leaving.
- Changing skills needs within enterprises, including those impacted by factors such as
 - technological changes;
 - minimum qualifications requirements introduced through regulation or industry standards and;
 - increasing skills requirements within occupations, even those considered relatively low skilled.
- The need to provide more flexible and diverse forms of provision that enhance access and the learning experience for the individual, in addition to being current and relevant to enterprise needs.



Many thanks for your attention and patience.



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