## Newsletter No.1



January 2014

Development of Intercultural Competence of Students and Trainers in EU VET institutions

Project No. LLP-LDV-TOI-2013-LT-0145



## Project consortium:



















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### What does INCOM-VET stand for?

The economic success of the European Union in the global arena increasingly depends on individual and collective abilities to communicate competently with people from other countries. Economic relationships require global interdependence and intercultural competence, since economic growth or retrenchment in one part of the world now reverberates and affects many others.

European Union's vocational education is also a service-sector export. Corporations can also move people from one country to another, so within the workforce of most nations, there are representatives from cultures throughout the world. Despite of culturally diverse student and staff populations throughout the European Union countries educational system, however, it should equip them with knowledge about the role and working of societal institutions and regulations, as well as the norms and values that form the binding element in the functioning of society.

The main idea of the Project is to encourage VET trainers and students to develop their intercultural competence as a means to increase employment possibilities for the students, encourage social cohesion, eliminate obstacles for international mobility and improve the quality of the trainers' work.

The Project will be based on the theoretical knowledge, practical skills and competences recognized by European scientific research organizations, methodical centers of universities and VET institutions.

#### Partners of INCOM-VET project:

- Vilniaus statybininkų rengimo centras (VSRC), Lithuania
- Lietuvos edukologijos universitetas (LEU), Lithuania
- Panevėžio kolegija (PANKO), Lithuania
- Università della Valle d'Aosta (UNIVDA), Italy
- Institute for vocational training, continuing education and research (ECAP), Switzerland
- Ida-Virumaa Kutsehariduskeskus (IVK), Estonia
- Bildungszentren des Baugewerbes e. V. (BZB), Germany
- Satakunnan koulutuskuntayhtymä (Sataedu), Finland

Tangible outcomes of the Project will be development of intercultural competence of VET trainers and students through publishing of the Handbooks with examples of methodological material, practical tasks, videos; creation of the project website for spreading the knowledge, developing skills and forming attitudes; conducting living labs. Intangible outcomes will include the establishment of a lively community of practice across a number of European countries that can be further rolled out in the future.

#### Foreseen outcomes of the Project:

- 1. Methodological material for Development of Intercultural Competence.
- 2. Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students.
- 3. Examples of learning material, practical tasks, case studies, videos.
- 4. INCOM-VET website.

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## Kick- off meeting in Vilnius, LT

The kick-off meeting of the Project INCOM-VET Development of Intercultural Competence of Students and Trainers in EU VET institutions No. LLP-LDV-TOI-2013-LT-0145 was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on November 7 – 8th, 2013. 1st SESSION took place at Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences on the 7th of November.

After welcome and greeting speeches by Prof. Ona Monkevičienė, Ms. Aleksandra Sokolova and Mr. Juozas Baranauskas, overview of INCOM-VET project was given by Mr. Ivaras Giniotis and Ms. Renata Černeckienė Prof. Maria Giovanna Onorati and Mr. Furio Bednarz made a detailed presentation of the Handbook "Building Intercultural Competences", the model developed in which will be used as a transfer product in LT, FI, DE and EE.

Each partner briefly presented their organization and then made an overview of the work package (WP) they are responsible for. The presentations of WPs activities were followed by a discussion.

At the end of the 1st day session the round tour in Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences was organized.

2nd SESSION took place at Vilnius Builders Training Centre on the 8th of November. Prof. Maria Giovanna Onorati proposed a model for Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) (WP 5).

Ms. Inga Korlienė made presentation of the planned Project website www.incom-vet.eu, INCOM-VET website (Creation of the Project website, its testing, improvement, presentation) (WP 7).

Ms. Sigita Remeikienė, representative of Education Exchanges Support Foundation (Lithuanian National Agency), made an explicit presentation on the administration of the Project activities and its finances. Also Ms. Sigita Remeikienė answered all the questions by Project partners.

Mr. Ivaras Giniotis presented the time schedule for the Project activities which was confirmed by all partners. The most importance was given to the following issues: Contractual issues, Payment arrangements, Steering Group, Timetable for Consortium meetings, Dissemination. Minutes of the kick-off meeting can be found at the internal Partners' area of the INCOM-VET website.

## Progress of the project

- Quality Assurance of Deliverables (Quality assurance plan) QAP guideline EN
- > Adaptation of transfer material and production of Handbook
- Living labs for the interactive development of intercultural competence
- > The methodology of how to work with living laboratories
- Dissemination of Project information via all available communication channels















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## Related projects and news



#### Skills Alliance: Energy Saving and Sustainable Construction in Baltic Sea Region

The Project aims at adressing a strong demand for action within the the field of "Energy saving and resource-saving and sustainable construction". A new Skills Alliance on technologies of energy- and resource- saving oriented at SMEs has been formed with partners from 5 countries (DE, PL, LT, LV, FI), and this Alliance will be extended to 11 countries with 60 players and will devote itself to urging educational issues in the energy field. For more information visit: <a href="http://www.skills-energy.eu/">http://www.skills-energy.eu/</a>



# PROFESSION PROFESSION - Protection against Fire & Energy Saving: Sustainability, IT & Impact

Due to new and fast innovative materials, technologies and processes for fire prevention and energy saving, many small and medium sized companies are not well informed and trained on this area how to come along with new challenges. PROFESSION is going to develop pilot web based modules which will be addressed to relevant qualification levels and their fields of responsibility. Due to harmonized EU-regulations along the project topics, there is the need for products to be used in as many countries as possible to cope with EU-Standards, e.g. Energy Efficiency regulations or Common EU Fire Protection standards.

The project will produce two outcomes:

- a) SQF-/EQF-qualification matrices regarding fire prevention and energy saving on the basis of SQF-CON; the matrices will all be available in English language;
- b) 4 interactive multimedia pilot web based trainings of approximately 20-30 minutes duration to increase the acceptance and integration of modern learning within the construction branch. All scripts and modules will be available in the six partner languages.

Involved countries: Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey.

For more information visit: <a href="http://www.profession-cpd.eu/">http://www.profession-cpd.eu/</a>

## Coming soon

#### Project events:

2<sup>nd</sup> Consortium meeting - Valle d'Aosta, IT, 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

The meeting will be devoted to summarize and to review the overall progress towards the aims/objectives and to review in detail specific Work Packages and next steps. All INCOM- VET partners will be attending the meeting.

#### The tasks to be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Consortium meeting:

- Methodological material for Development of Intercultural Competence/ EN
- Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students/EN/The initial version of the product.
- Examples of learning material, practical tasks, case studies, videos/ EN/The initial version of the product.
- National events: meetings, seminars, conferences (Lithuania, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Estonia, Finland)
- The methodology of how to work with living **laboratories**
- INCOM-VET website/ EN, LT, DE, EE, FI
- QAP reports Nr.1/EN
- Methodological structure of testing process/EN

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