

October 2014

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

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



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Project consortium:



BZB
Bildungszentren des
Baugewerbes e.V.



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OVERVIEW ABOUT ONE YEAR PROJECT PROGRESS

The first year of the INCOM-VET project has been marked by productive and active input and developments by all project partners. The project partnership prepared the necessary background for the adaptation of the transfer material and production of handbooks for development of intercultural competence.

The draft versions of the project's products have been developed including the *Methodology for development of intercultural competence* and *Handbooks for VET students and teachers*. The drafts are now being tested in VET institutions in Estonia, Finland, Germany and Lithuania, involving students, teachers, trainers and management staff. The participants of the testing are asked to complete the specially designed questionnaires. The draft products will also be evaluated by the internal experts from Italy and Switzerland and by external evaluators from Estonia and Lithuania. The feedback and recommendations received will be very valuable while preparing the final versions of the project's products.

Another important step in the project was setting up the *Living laboratories (LivLabs)* in the participant VET institutions of Estonia, Finland, Germany and Lithuania. Delivered according to the predefined methodology, the LivLabs aim at having a closer look at the significance of the intercultural relationships in the today's labour market in EU.

The official INCOM-VET website has been launched, presenting information and updates on the project in the languages of all partner countries (English, Lithuanian, Finnish, German, Italian, Estonian, French): www.incom-vet.eu The website has been actively used not only as a working space of the partnership, but also as the medium to spread the information and news on the intercultural issues.

In all their activities project partners are closely following the developed *Guidelines for the quality assurance plan* in order to ensure an efficient performance and high quality outcomes. *Quality Assurance Plan Reports No1 and No 2* have been very helpful in this respect, outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the project performance and indicating the partnership the direction to be followed.

The INCOM-VET project has already been widely presented to the target groups and sectors as well as the general public during numerous national and international dissemination events organized or attended by the project partners.

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2nd Partnership meeting in Aosta, IT

2nd INCOM-VET project partnership meeting took place in Italy, Aosta city on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2014. Venue was in University of Valle d'Aosta, institution of partner number three, organized professionally in mesmerizing ancient alumni hall, once chapel of monastery, in which now university building is established. Prof. **Serenella Besio** (Head of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities of University), Prof. **Maria Giovanna Onorati** (UNIVDA/ Italy), Mr. Silvano Torreano (Assessorato regionale Sanita, Salute e Politiche Sociali) and Ms. **Ester Genero** (C.T.P (Centro territoriale permanente)) welcomed the INCOM-VET consortium. After welcome speeches project manager Ms. **Renata Černeckienė** and project coordinator Mr. **Ivaras Giniotis** explained aims and objectives of the 2nd Partnership meeting in Italy. All partners of this Project made detailed presentations on their work packages: exploring interim results, foreseeing future work, solving problems:

(P1) **Assoc. Prof. Julita Navaitienė**, WP1: Adaptation of transfer material and production of methodological material "Development of Intercultural Competence";

(P2) Ms. **Deimantė Končiuvienė**, WP2: Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students.;

(P6) Mr. **Frank Bertelmann-Angenendt**, WP IV. Living labs for the interactive development of intercultural competence;

(P0) Mr. **Ivaras Giniotis** made presentation about the external experts of INCOM-VET Project;

(P5) Ms. **Helju Virunurm**, WP VIII. Dissemination. Valorization: transferability and recognition;

(P0) Ms. **Inga Korlienė**, WP VII. INCOM-VET website (Creation of the Project website, its testing, improvement, presentation) www.incom-vet.eu;

(P7) Mr. **Marko Kempinen**, WP VI. Development of testing structure, performance of testing and generalization of the outcomes;

(P3): Prof. **Maria Giovanna Onorati**, WP V. Quality Assurance of Deliverables (Quality assurance plan);

(P4) Mr. **Furio Bednarz**, WP3: examples of learning material, practical tasks, case studies, videos.

The presentations of WPs activities were followed by a round-table discussion to answer all important questions, solve ongoing work problems and to share experience, insights and thoughts. At the end of the 1st day session the round tour in University of Valle d'Aosta was organized as well as traditional Italian dinner giving a better understanding of Italian culture.

On the second day session Mr. **Ivaras Giniotis** overviewed completed activities and interim results of INCOM-VET project and presented INCOM-VET Progress report No 1.

Second day was finalized also by round-table discussion for all final questions to be answered.

Minutes of the second meeting can be found in internal work environment of the incomvet@gmail.com 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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3rd Partnership meeting in Lugano

3rd INCOM-VET project Development of Intercultural Competence of Students and Trainers in EU VET institutions partnership meeting took place in Switzerland, Lugano, on the 08th and 09th of September, 2014. Venue of the both days of the meeting was in ECAP Ticino.

After the welcome speech of accepting partner P4 Mr. **Furio Bednarz** (ECAP/ Switzerland) coordinator of this project Mr. **Ivaras Giniotis** (Vilnius Builders Training Centre/ VSRC, Lithuania) explained aims and objectives of the 3rd Partnership meeting in Switzerland. All partners agreed to present and discuss draft products of packages WP1, WP2, WP3 and the website, analyze and approve future testing process and living labs interim report, recommendations on how to improve the work of LLs during first session day, leaving analysis of interim results and planning visits to Germany and Estonia for the next session day.

Partners of this Project made detailed presentations on their work packages presenting the draft for testing:

(P1) **Assoc. Prof. Julita Navaitienė**, WP1: Adaptation of transfer material and production of methodological material "Development of Intercultural Competence.

(P2) Ms. **Deimantė Končiuvienė**, WP2: Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students.

(P3) Mr. **Furio Bednarz**, WP 3: Examples of learning material, practical tasks, case studies, videos.

(P7): Ms. **Susanna Kyösti**, WP VI. Development of testing structure, performance of testing and generalization of the outcomes.

(P0): Ms. **Inga Korlienė**, WP VII: INCOM-VET website (Creation of the Project website, its testing, improvement, presentation) www.incom-vet.eu. Presentation of the draft for testing.

(P6) Mr. **Frank Bertelmann-Angenendt**, WP IV: Living labs for the interactive development of intercultural competence. Interim Report, recommendations on how to improve the work of LLs.

Finalizing presentations partners had a discussion and summary of the results of the first day. At the end of the 1st day session the welcome cultural dinner in Lugano was organized.

Second work session started by presentation of (P5) Ms. **Helju Virunurm**, WP VIII: Dissemination. Valorization: transferability and recognition: interim results, future work, problem solving, the newsletter No.2 of this INCOM-VET project. (P3) Ms. **Emanuela Sebastiani**, presented WP V: Quality Assurance of Deliverables (Quality assurance plan) interim results No.1, future work, problem solving.

Manager of this Project Ms. **Renata Černeckienė** presented requirements and deadlines for submitting financial documentation for Interim Report. Coordinator of this project Mr. **Ivaras Giniotis** presented Requirements and deadlines for submitting activity reports for Interim Report.

After commonly agreeing on tasks to be completed by 4th Partnership meeting the second working day was finalized by a discussion of all final questions and clarifications. By the common agreement the third INCOM-VET project partner meeting will take place in Finland on 9th and 10th of February, 2015. Minutes and full presentations of the partners of the 3rd partnership meeting can be found in internal work environment of the incomvet@gmail.com website.

Progress of the project

- Adaptation of transfer material and production of Handbook
- Living labs for the interactive development of intercultural competence
- Dissemination of Project information via all available communication channels



Overview about WP progress after one year of the project

WP I Adaptation of transfer material and production of Handbook for Development of Intercultural Competence - P1 LEU

The 2nd draft of "Handbook of methodology for development of intercultural competence" was created and provides structured holistic approach on how intercultural competence could be developed in VET system. It offers the detailed information about a paradigm of intercultural competence, reveals the significance of intercultural competence for job market and its influence to learning and working processes, describes three theoretical models and the set of methods and tools for development of intercultural competence. Some specific recommendations are presented in the Handbook for VET trainers to be successful in development of intercultural competence.

WP II „Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students“- P2 PANKO

During the first year the first draft of handbooks for VET trainers and students was developed. The handbook was divided to main 3 sectors: 1. Global world (What Europe stands for and where does it go?, Conception of European diversity, European values) 2. Youth and intercultural learning (What is culture and what does it mean intercultural? Model of culture as an iceberg, Formation of the stereotypical attitude „Cultural glasses“.) 3 Intercultural communication practice (Usage of language in communication process, Communication difficulties, Listening habits; Posture seeking to achieve understanding with different the representatives of different cultures, Solution of intercultural conflicts).

In the Handbooks for VET trainers and students call material is divided to different learning methods: It is important, Time for discussion, Time to play, Facts box, and questions for self-control.



WP III Examples of learning material, practical tasks, case studies, videos -P4 ECAP

During the first year ECAP designed a series of didactical methods and tools, including examples of training activities, thought to be integrated in the handbooks for VET trainers and students. The overarching idea at the basis of WP3 is to provide teachers and trainers with general Guidelines in order to let them produce and exploit learning materials and tools addressed to the development of intercultural competences in VET and continuous vocational training settings, aiming at:

- fostering through adequate active learning strategies the actual experience of diversity
- fostering interactions between people belonging to diverse cultures
- enhancing the cooperation between people belonging to different cultures, in problem setting and problem solving
- creating disjunctural experiences, challenging mental schemes, provoking reflection, fostering transformation and change.

Examples are structured into 3 sections:

- **preparing a learning unit or a training session:** from needs' analysis, under the lens of a specific approach taking in charge the interconnectedness between Knowledge, beliefs and values in determining practices and behaviors, to didactical planning, according to the characteristics, resources and expectations of the learners
- **managing intercultural learning**, which focus on how to build a performing group, ready to work in an experiential and reflective learning setting, exploiting group dynamics in a cooperative way; a specific interest is devoted to the role of disjunctural experiences as learning triggers and to Problem Based Learning, as an effective methodology of active learning;
- **accompanying and assessing intercultural learning**, dedicated to the useful methods and tools for consolidating and assessing learning outcomes.

WP IV Living labs for the interactive development of intercultural competence - P6 BZB

After BZB's basic and structural development of the model of Living Laboratories in Vocational Education and Training centers, partners from Estonia, Finland and Lithuania as well developed the shape in which the LivingLabs might be performed in their respective countries. As the starting situations are different in all these countries, the model proved that it is adaptable in different countries.

As the second practical step all LivingLab partners conducted a questionnaire process with the target groups to get to know basic knowledge related to computer skills, social media use and general intercultural competence. This is important for the further designing and conducting of LivingLabs.

Partners have already started LivingLab or will do so until end of 2014.

Contact for this work package: frank.bertelmann@bzb.de

Overview about WP progress after one year of the project

WP V Quality Assurance of Deliverables - P3 UNIVDA

WP V is concerned with the Quality Assurance of Deliverables (Quality Assurance Plan) of the whole Project, and to that purpose it works at the following tasks: draw up QAP guidelines in English; launching internal web surveys after each meeting in order to monitor the progress of the activities and the partners' self-assessment about them; delivering periodical reports about the web surveys outcomes; providing midterm overviews for the INCOM-VET website.

The *Guidelines for the Quality Assurance Plan* have been delivered by November 2013 (2nd month of the Project) and, according to them, the evaluation consists in three main phases: 1. *Ex-ante Self-Assessment*; 2. *Ongoing Self-Assessment (monitoring)*; 3. *Final Assessment*.

The *Ex-ante* assessment was included in the first web survey launched soon after the meeting in Vilnius in November 2013 and a report was provided by February 2014 and presented during the meeting in Aosta in May 2014 (month 8th of the Project).

At the present date, we are in the second phase of the QAP, namely the *Ongoing Self-Assessment*, consisting in a formative feedback to the partnership's action, which takes place throughout the running of the WPs, implying periodic internal reports. A second internal web survey was launched in May after the meeting in Aosta (Italy the 22nd -23rd May 2014) as integral part of the *ongoing monitoring* and the report was presented in September 2014, during the meeting in Lugano. In such a web survey, a part of the questions shifted their focus from the partners' expectations (mainly inquired in the *ex-ante* evaluation) to their perception about the ongoing project fulfillment and execution, the carrying out of fixed priorities and aims and the first dissemination actions. A certain attention was also devoted to the interest shown by the stakeholders towards the designed learning model and by potential further subjects who might be eventually involved in the dissemination phase as well as in the transfer of the created model.

In general, the results of the second web survey show a *good level of satisfaction and enthusiasm*.

Very positive remarks are also particularly spent on the project's excellent capacity to meet the main Priorities fixed by the partners, that is: *To improve the quality and to increase the volume of transnational co-operation between institutions or organizations and to facilitate the development of innovative practices in the field of vocational education and training other than at tertiary level*. Positive remarks are also spent on the *dissemination phase*, in fact it seems that the majority of stakeholders responded positively to the overall presentation of the project, and this is a good indicator of the Project's potential in terms of impact and effectiveness.

WP VI Development of testing structure, performance of testing and generalization of the outcomes - P7 SATAEDU

Development of testing structure has been an instructive and improving learning path for Sataedu. Luckily we have had a chance to work quite intensive together with the project coordinator, who has helped us a lot.

Performance of testing and generalization of the outcomes is taking place on the second year.

WP VII Dissemination. Valorization: transferability and recognition - P5 IVKHK

At the beginning of the project every partner country developed dissemination and valorization plan. On bases of those plans the common plan was created. Partners have disseminated information about the Project activities to the target groups, beneficiaries through different media such as the project website, newsletters, bulletins, leaflets, social networks, blogs, etc. The project has been presented at national and European events of each partner countries.

Every partner has used its website to disseminate the project and provided the website link and a short abstract. All partners have sent periodical information through its own channels, bulletins, radio, TV and other media agencies. 2 official newsletters have been produced during the first year of the project execution.

The newsletters are translated in the national languages of all the partners (LT, IT, DE, EE, FI) and uploaded in to the project website <http://incom-vet.eu>.

Also the project leaflets and templates were produced to disseminate the project information possibly wider among the communities.

WP VIII INCOM-VET website -P0 VSRC

During one year of the project, Development of Intercultural Competence of Students and Trainers in EU VET institutions Project No. LLP-LDV-TOI-2013-LT-0145, INCOM-VET website was created. Main aim of this website is to deal with intercultural issues and target VET community. INCOM-VET website is dedicated to potential audience and project target groups. It is also translated to all official languages of project partners: EN, LT, EE, IT, FI, DE. Structure of the INCOM-VET website is suitable for all internet browsers and also has mobile version. The website was created and improved with the regard to the comments and recommendations of the Project partners. Website is used by Consortium members (closed-working website registered private area) for sharing project development information with details on completed and planned activities. INCOM-VET website also is used by target group, interested society (open and accessible public area), and also is prepared for use in educational purpose and during living labs performance. Website is uploaded with the outcomes of the Project activities and latest versions of the Project products in private and/or public areas. INCOM-VET website will be continuously created, developed, tested and improved not only by Project partners, VET sector, living labs users, but also external experts. For further information, please, visit us on: <http://incom-vet.eu>.

Related projects and news

Social Media in Exchanges – **SoMEx** – is a new ERASMUS+ project, which started on 1st of September 2014 with 36-month life cycle. Promoter is **Formation PME** based in Liege/Belgium; **BZB Krefeld** is active partner.

The project deals with international VET exchanges being supported by Social Media use within the phases of preparation, operation and post-processing. This should cope with the current situation of media use of the young people to design international mobilities more attractive for youths and thus increase the number of mobilities like intended by the ERASMUS+ program among others.

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Transferring Open Content on Energy-efficient Buildings - TOCEB, No 2013-1-AT1-LEO05-09494

In the national VET systems in Europe there is a lack of open content teaching and learning materials on the topics of energy-efficient and sustainable construction. Available materials do not take into account the immense scientific research results of the last years. In Austria a very successful open content learning platform named e-genius (www.e-genius.at) on energy-efficient buildings has been developed by the Center for Appropriate Technology (GrAT) based at the Vienna University of Technology. The TOCEB project aims to contribute to innovative and sustainable solutions in the building sector of the project partner countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Poland), to enhance the qualifications of VET teachers and apprentices/students and deliver core competences, such as technical and language skills as well as skills in media use during the learning process. The project partners will transfer the core elements of the open content platform e-genius by developing 4 modules on:

- Energy-efficient buildings
- Basics of Thermal Building Refurbishment
- Insulation Materials
- Façade Systems

For more information visit: <http://toceb.eu/>



Transfer of Building Information Modeling Training Tool for Increasing Competence of Building Sector Competence - BIMTRAIN, No LLP-LdV-TOI-2013-LT-0133

Building information modeling (BIM) is the process of generating and managing building data during its life cycle, including the processes of construction and facility operation. The main outcome of BIMTRAIN project will be a created and adapted English, Lithuanian and Latvian version of www.smartrevit.com tool, aimed at the provision of training in BIM used both by educational institutions and private companies. Participant countries: Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands. More about the project: <http://www.darombim.lt/pradetas-projektas-bimtrain-baltijos-rinkai-bus-kuriamas-bim-metodika/>

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Project events:

4th Partnership meeting in Finland 9th-10th of February, 2015

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 4th Consortium meeting:

- Methodological material for Development of Intercultural Competence/ EN
- Development of Intercultural Competence. Handbooks for VET trainers and students/EN/



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