

# LEONARDO DA VINCI/Grundtvig PARTNERSHIPS

## PROGRESS REPORT For Partnerships approved in 2013



### August 2014

<b>Grant Agreement No.:</b>	<b>2013-1-NL1-LEO04-12585-1</b>
<b>Partnership title:</b>	<b>Way to Learn to Work</b>
<b>Partner countries:</b>	P1:Dutch Foundation of Innovation Welfare 2 Work; P2: Stichting Stimulansz (both Netherlands); P3: Scottish Government; P4: Quarriers (both UK); P5:Ballymun Job Centre (Ireland); P6: U.bus GmbH; P7:Diakonie Michaelshoven (both Germany);P8: SOLCO Brescia Solidarietà e Cooperazione (Italy); P9:Universitatea POLITEHNICA di Bucuresti (Romania); P10:Organization for civil initiatives (Croatia);P11: Mentor vzw( Belgium); P12:Gobierno de Canarias Dirección general de formación profesional y educación de adultos (Spain)
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## **2.1. Please describe briefly the Partnership activities undertaken and the results achieved so far:**

The aims of the partnership are:

- to explore the use and possibilities of short term educational (VET-) programs to improve the skills of young adults in order to participate in the labour market.
- to explore the differences, obstacles and similarities of current employment strategies focused on young adults in each partner country -looking at policy, organizational and individual staff competences
- to explore and compare local and national educational VET- programs focused on (long term) unemployed young adults and to consider the viability of adapting them for other countries' use or adopting a Work first (e.g. Werkcenter Model) approach.
- To explore the barriers to starting a Work First model with VET-programs that operate within the framework of the local, national social system and laws of each partner country.
- To create new ideas for labour market policies and instruments in the participating partner countries; The Netherlands, U.K. (Scotland), Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Romania, Croatia, Spain and Italy.
- To look at how young people excluded from the labour force for long periods are encouraged to (re)engage with learning so as to be able to undertake and complete VET courses (gaining work experience) in one form or the other

To date (August 2014) the Way 2 Learn 2 Work partnership has visited 6 countries: Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany, Romania & Croatia. Through these visits we have gained a unique insight into the situation of youth unemployment in these countries, the related policy, laws & regulation, vocational education and the wider support services and interventions to battle youth unemployment and to support youth employment. As part of these visits we have discussed similarities and differences, obstacles and challenges of the education and employment strategies aimed at young people (and specifically young jobseekers) and explored the possibilities for improvement and adaption to our local contexts. At each country we have secured that the partnership engaged with young people in a local context (to tell the tale: Often the input from young people can offer unique and honest insight into the practicalities surrounding policies or service provision) as well as facilitated transnational networking with key stakeholders working in the area of (vocational) training, education and employment.

At the kick off meeting in The Netherlands we started with giving more in-depth understanding into the project and discuss its aims and objectives. We started with giving a frame work of how a meeting could be organized and structured by disseminating the Dutch Welfare system, programmes and interventions tackling youth unemployment. The Werkcenter Model is used as a example for Dutch/EU Good Practice. During the partnership sub-groups have been established looking at E-Iearning, vocational orientation, social Innovation & disadvantaged people. DFOIW2W coordination has helped to deliver a clear structure to the project, working with partners to determine what the outcomes of each sub-group should be, and setting the direction for the final report and its findings.

Key Messages, learning points and results achieved so far:

- Development of country comparator template: Partners have developed a template to provide a uniformed approach to gathering information and related data for each partner. The template covers employment rates, structures, policy development and service delivery routes. Having this information ahead of a visit it allows participants to understand the challenges facing the host country and an outline of the interventions and delivery mechanisms being used or developed. This allows participants to compare different partner systems, prepare in advance of the visit for areas which are of particular interest.

- Project Website and Forums: The project website [www.way2learn2work.eu](http://www.way2learn2work.eu) is a useful dissemination tool and the private partner section allows for easy access to information gathered at country visits, including presentations, video's and minutes
- Sharing of insights into policies and practice related to youth employment in all countries visited.
- A dynamic interaction and flow of ideas between all partners which included Universities, business, public and third sector organisations.
- Cross Country and Cross Sector Networking opportunities; The project partners are a mixture of local and national government, NGOs, Educational institutions and service providers. Each offers a differing view point which has allowed a much more well rounded discussion at each visit. This has allowed connectivity on issues far wider than just partner organisations, and opportunities for further work and co-operation beyond this project and beyond the current partnership are being pursued. The Sub-groups have been established in Bucharest (by themes identified at the Cologne meeting) looking at E-learning, vocational orientation, social Innovation & disadvantaged people.
- Identification of barriers in countries visited and discussion of potential solutions
- Wider dissemination of knowledge through use of the website and posting of minutes and presentations
- Demonstration of successful effect of greater employer engagement on young person's chances of successful transition to work
- Increased knowledge and insight of the needs and circumstances of young people in the EU
- An opportunity for DFOIW2W and its W2L2W-partners to improve its capacity to work with other organisations across Europe

**2.2. What problems/obstacles, have you met in the implementation of the Partnership, if any? How have these problems been solved?**

A template of risk was developed which highlighted risks, which might be encountered and potential mitigating factors.

The partnership has experienced the following minor difficulties:

1. The partnership Size: Due to the partnership size (12 partners) sometimes 30+ people have attended the meetings, so that can be difficult to coordinate. The excellent organisation and coordination of the host organisations in collaboration with lead partner DFOIW2W and the use of small groups for discussions helped to overcome this issue
2. Continuity of Personnel: There was concern that there would be a lack of continuity of personnel at meetings. The partnership has agreed that at least 1 person attends all meetings (when possible)
3. Some partners have been unable to attend to some meetings due to the difficulty to reach location, holidays, delays with flights. The partnership has successfully overcome this issue by using very detailed minutes, slides of presentations, video's, Skype & conference calls