Newsletter #6: Assessments & Mobility

This time we cover three broad topics: 1) We remind you to save the date of our Final Conference in Brussels on Thursday, 23rd of June; 2) We introduce you to the new Teacher Assessment function; and 3) Summarize our experiences of the mobility trajectories undertaken as part of this project. Reinhold Schiffers is offering another webinar, this time: how to handle misbehaving learners.

Reminder: Final Conference

Final conference
Brussels
Digital opportunities in second chance education
Thursday, June 23rd
Upcoming Final Conference for the www.SecondChanceEducation.eu project

A reminder that the Final Conference of the SecondChanceEducation project will be held in Brussels on Thursday, June 23 from 9.00-12.30. The event is free to attend, but please register your interest directly with Ms. Alessandra Tella (a.tella@efvet.org)

Assessments Available
Validation Assessment function at SecondChanceEducation.eu

The Self- and Peer-assessment system for teachers and trainers in second chance education makes it possible for teachers and trainers to assess their competencies and capabilities. Strong and weak elements in their professional behavior can be explored and areas for development identified: a personal SWOT-analysis. When completed the assessment advice will be given and you will be given the option to request a peer-assessment. This should lead to an open learning culture in which individual teachers and trainers support each other in their development, assessing one another in a spirit of mutual respect and professionalization.

We developed a three-step-approach: self-assessment, report with feedback and guidance, peer-assessment. Validation takes place either via the peer assessment or the teacher/trainer uploading evidences. Via this validation a more comparative and more objective view on teacher’s/trainer’s possibilities is given.

Feedback and guidance is given with reference to professional development offers and good practices. These professional development offers support teachers, trainers, mentors and other educators working with NEETs to develop and grow. Excellent and effective continuing professional development (CPD) raises standards in your schools, shifts practice, gives constant support and reinforcement, and is the key to sustaining change. View all trainings, both activities and continuous offers, here or contribute with your own example. It helps to realise your own potential and improve the life chances of all the children, young people and adult learners you work with.

Mobility conclusions
The mobility experience within the DISCO project has been highly educational on many different levels for our partners: on the one hand, the participants were able to perform professionalizing internships, thus improving their professional competences and discovering future working fields. On the other hand, they were able to improve their social, relational and linguistic skills. The four organisations involved also developed new skills/competencies.

In retrospect and in view of the visit of the CESIE group in Mönchengladbach, organisers from WBK state that the use of social work fields is best suited for our target group disadvantaged youngsters. Here they can build up a positive emotional relationship in a short period of time, and they immediately have the impression of doing something meaningful. These experiences strengthen their self-confidence and conclude the mobility with sustainable results. CKU Sopot organisers noted that an individual approach to each candidate is very important – time for this is absolutely crucial. Good and efficient collaboration between SO (sending organisation) and HO (hosting organisation) likewise is an absolute must.

Phoenix Enterprises: I hear regularly from placement providers and participants about how they have been helped to build either their organisational capacity or to overcome barriers to entering work - be that simply gaining valuable experience and enhancing their CV, or more broadly gaining confidence and belief in themselves.
“My Mobility Handbook” has proven to be a valuable resource, especially to support teachers and trainers who work with NEETs and disadvantaged target groups. In preparation for the visit and the activities abroad the materials in the DISCO Mobility Handbook offer a meaningful choice of materials. It is easy to adapt these materials to the target group. The DISCO platform has potential and provides support to both hosting and sending organisations by offering practical tools which can be adapted to the specific needs.

There is something brilliantly refreshing about DISCO’s collaborative approach to formal learning and discussions across borders as well as the informal social events, the opportunity for benchmarking and reflecting upon and developing one’s own practice. Having the right tools are highly important in helping the DISCO partnership create important channels for learning and developing new ideas.

The DISCO platform is a one-stop-shop for teachers/trainers, educators and mobility participants alike. Here we provide the necessary tools and documents to make your mobility experience seamless; your training and development in second chance education settings worthwhile and the sharing of knowledge, understanding, good practice, ideas and future development invaluable. The platform represents a true European collaborative second chance educational partnership.

**Join our Webinar: 21 June, 19:00**

Reinhold Schiffers is offering another Tuesday evening Skype lecture on **21 June 2016 at 19:00** to interested participants. This edition focuses on how to handle misbehaving students by delving into the topic: "**What to do to strengthen their intellectual flexibility.**" Please register your interest by email directly with Mr Schiffers: rschiffers@arcor.de.

**Next time...**

...we explain the second part of the Assessments function and look back at the Final Conference. In the meantime, don’t be a stranger: join us on social media and receive hand-picked education news and training opportunities: we are on Facebook and
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