A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The promotion of inclusive education and lifelong learning for learners with disabilities and special needs is one of the priority areas set up under the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. Moreover, in the Bruges Communiqué the EC proposes to increase the possibilities for disadvantaged learners in VET by offering innovative VET training and more Work-Based Learning (WBL).

For these reasons, VET4ALL project aims at training and providing innovative tools to VET teachers, VET staff and in-company mentors working with the target group to make WBL experiences more fruitful, connecting the VET formal school curriculum to the work based learning pathways.

In addition, VET4ALL aims at increasing the chances for students with disabilities or special needs to participate in EU Mobility experiences.

CURRENT STATE OF THE PROJECT

O2 – VET4ALL TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR VET STAFF is now available for download

Following P1-PGT “D-r V. Beron” (BG), who held its local training sessions in November 2019, all the other partners implemented a local training course to test the VET4ALL Training Curriculum for VET Staff (O2) with VET staff/teachers in the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020.

Reattiva (IT), for instance, involved local VET schools in order to provide teachers with new ideas and an EU perspective on how to deal with WBL experiences for learners with disabilities or special needs. The training course, held in Reattiva’s premises in Campobasso, took place from 16th to 20th of December 2019 and saw the participation of 12 teachers who, among others, shared their experience in supporting job placements for young learners with disabilities or special needs. According to their feedback at the end of the training, this course gave them the opportunity to gain new perspectives and new tools they will apply in their daily work. Also, it was a good opportunity to further reflect on their own practice.

After the local training sessions the VET4ALL Training Curriculum was finalized and translated into all partner languages and now it is available for download into English, Bulgarian, Italian, French, Spanish and Romanian on the VET4ALL project website.
O3 – VET4ALL IN-COMPANY MENTORS VADEMECUM is now available for download

While they were working on the 2nd intellectual output, the project consortium also worked on the 3rd one: the Vademecum to support in-company mentors when hosting students with disabilities or special needs to their enterprises. At the end of November 2019 the Vademecum was ready to be tested through a 4-hour workshop for in-company mentors in each partner country. The end of 2019 and the first months of 2020 were therefore dedicated to the workshops for in-company mentors in all partner countries!

To give an example, the Maltese local testing session for In-company mentors was organized at Hermes’ premises on January 15th. A group of ten company mentors attended a 4-hour training session on how to support students with disabilities or special needs during their work placements and in their transition from school to employment.

The Vademecum was warmly received by the ten attendees. The participants said it responded to a growing demand and met their needs. They were especially pleased with the tools provided (ready-to-use grids, questionnaires, evaluation documents, etc.) and the dynamic aspect of the guidebook. The idea of gathering all the useful information for welcoming a young trainee to a company in one single document was very well received. Some participants were of the opinion that they needed another meeting in the future, to exchange feedback about how they used the Vademecum with their young trainees with disabilities or special needs.

O4 – VET4ALL MOBILITY VADEMECUM FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

From December 2019 the consortium has been working on the last intellectual output of the VET4ALL project: a Mobility Vademecum for Accompanying Persons of Students with Special Needs. The aim of this innovative product is to provide a very practical tool to teachers/VET staff who organise and lead mobility experiences for students with special needs, with the aim to help them to plan a flexible and tailor-made international mobility path for this target of learners.

The Vademecum will contain 8 chapters, each one developed by a specific partner organisation according to its staff expertise. The topics covered are:

1) The information/communication in class provided by the teacher/accompanying person to introduce the mobility experience to students with SEN and their parents;
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2) The pre-departure preparation;
3) The elaboration of a personal, professional and tailor-made learning plan for mobility (LOs-oriented);
4) The application of quality assurance measures for the acquisition of agreed LOs;
5) The tutoring of the mobility experience;
6) The direct coaching inside the company;
7) The monitoring and evaluation system of the learning mobility experience;
8) The recognition, certification, transfer and validation of LOs achieved by the learner at the end of the mobility experience according to the ECVET system procedures and tools.

Read the next issue of this newsletter to keep up to date with the development of this output!

NEXT STEPS OF THE PROJECT

Starting from Summer 2020 partners will carry out the testing workshops for the VET4ALL Mobility Vademecum for Accompanying Persons of Students with Special Needs in order to finalise it. Afterwards, they will translate the Vademecum into all the partner languages.

From September 2020 onwards each partner will organise the local multiplier events of the project (in presence or online, depending on the Covid-19 pandemic), while the lead partner PGT “D-r V. Beron” will be busy with the preparation for the VET4ALL Final Conference in Veliko Tarnovo (BG), which all partners are invited to. This important final event and the last transnational meeting of the project will take place on January 2021.

Moreover, partners will participate to the VET4ALL Joint Staff Training Event to be leaded by P5-Centro San Viator and carried out on December 2020 in Sopuerta (ES).

You will be kept up to date on progress in the next issue of this newsletter!

Find us on

Project website: www.vet4all.org
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