The "PR.E.S.T.O. - PRomoting pEople with diSability Transnational mObility", is a KA2 Strategic Partnership co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU. Its main aim is to promote the social inclusion and to facilitate the transition to the labor market of people with intellectual disabilities thanks to their involvement in transnational mobilities.

In this framework the project will promote the involvement of people with intellectual disabilities in work-based international mobility experiences by raising awareness among VET managers, operators, NGOs and families, defining a set of standards and tools and updating the skills of the staff of VET providers. The main target group of the project will be VET centers professionals, managers, tutors and SMEs managers.

To achieve these results the project will design and develop a training course for VET operators and an awareness raising campaign to promote the use of transnational work experiences as a key tool to foster the entrance in the labour market.

In doing so, the PR.E.S.T.O. project aims to give a relevant contribution to raise the number and the quality of the opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to undertake international work experiences, overcoming VET managers' and project designers' rooted resistance and wide spreading knowledge of useful tools for the correct planning and organisation of the mobility of people with intellectual disabilities.
THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF PR.E.S.T.O.: PROMOTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY TRANSNATIONAL MOBILITY

by Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET

PRESTO – “Promoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility” kick-off meeting took place on the 15th of December 2020 and brought together 7 partners among VET Colleges and Mobility Institutions in addition to EfVET, as follows:

- Consorzio Ro.Ma (Italy)
- Associazione Italiana Persone Down (Italy)
- International Consulting & Mobility Agency (Spain)
- Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Rozwoju Społeczności Wiejskiej Gminy Przygodzice (Poland)
- Cap Ulysse (France)
- European Education & Learning Institute (Greece)
- EfVET (Belgium)

The KA2 PR.E.S.T.O. project is coordinated by Consorzio Ro.Ma from Italy and, in line with the Horizontal Priority on Social Inclusion, aims at promoting work-based learning in all its forms.

The PR.E.S.T.O. partnership will deliver a Training Course as well as Guidelines aimed at providing tools, knowledge and guidance to VET providers on how to plan and manage quality work-based mobility paths specifically drawn for people with intellectual disabilities.

The work-based learning presents itself as a valuable opportunity to:

- For VET project designers as an opportunity: to test the model studied in the development of the project (design of transnational mobility projects involving people with intellectual disabilities).
- For people with cognitive disabilities as a valuable opportunity: to increase and improve personal, interpersonal and professional skills; development of the sense of initiative and the ability. One of

P.R.E.S.T.O.’s objectives is to promote the involvement of people with intellectual disabilities in work-based internships and international mobility paths.

Developing partnerships supporting the setting up and implementation of internationalisation strategies for VET providers. PR.E.S.T.O. puts in place a training and awareness raising strategy useful to promote quality mobility of VET learners with disabilities and to foster VET internationalisation.

The partnership will identify, test, and evaluate Guidelines and Training tools aimed at enabling VET providers (managers and project designers) to plan and manage quality mobility paths for disabled people and that will facilitate their engagement in international cooperation paths.

The kick-off meeting, due to COVID-19, was held online and it was introduced with a presentation of all the partners followed by the overall presentation of the project, its objectives, target groups, the intellectual outputs, and then the project management and all the implementation activities.

The project meeting was very fruitful and the partnership showed a very high sensibility to the important topic of the social inclusion underlying the level of engagement they expect from themselves and the others for the good outcomes of the project.

THE SECOND PROJECT MEETING OF PR.E.S.T.O.: DISCUSSING THE FIRST SURVEY TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

by Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET

PRESTO – “Promoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility” partners met in a second project meeting held online on the 15th of March 2021 with the presence of all the partners representatives.

The KA2 PR.E.S.T.O. project coordinator Consorzio Ro.Ma from Italy introduced the main topic of the meeting, i.e. a survey conceived in the framework of the Intellectual Output 1. Project Manager presented the aim of the survey which is to identify reasons and/or obstacles conducting VET organisations to underrepresent
intellectual mild disable learners on mobility programmes. These can be represented by internal or external factors.

The direct beneficiaries of the survey will be VET centers committed to Mobility programs (but not with intellectual mild disable learners), and the target will be VET Directors, Mobility Mentors or Coordinators, and ERASMUS+ Project Designers.

The partners also discussed the format and the deadline of the preparation of the survey and questionnaire proposal counting that at least 50 replies will have to be received each 1500 questionnaires sent. Cap Ulysse will design the survey, collect the data, analyse the results, while AIPD will have the role to control the relevance of the questions and answers.

Each partner, including EfVET will spread it among its network. The project meeting was very engaging, and the partnership showed a strong readiness to work on the development of such a survey.

Another important part of the meeting was dedicated to the Dissemination and Communication where partners could be informed on the updates in the work done and to be done related to the website and other dissemination materials.

**PR.E.S.T.O. FIRST STEPS**

*by Marina Camacho, INCOMA*

PR.E.S.T.O. partners have already started to work on the first Intellectual Output named “PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course for VET Providers”. The main objectives of this first step of the project are:

- to define a set of standards and tools for the design of transnational mobility projects accessible by people with ID;
- to update the competences of VET project designers as for what regards the design of transnational mobility experiences for people with ID;
- to test VET Project Designers’ new competences and skills, as well as to assess the validity of the PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course.

The initial point has been the design of a survey, led by the French partner, in order to identify reasons/obstacles conducting VET organisations to underrepresented intellectual mild disable learners on mobility programmes. These findings will help in the development of the guidelines to support VET providers in Europe in the design and implementation of transnational mobility experiences for people with ID. All partners will contribute and work hard with the purpose of obtaining useful data for the implementation of the future activities.

**HANDI’CAP SUR L’EUROPE – WE STILL BELIEVE!**

*by Elisabeth Silva, CAP ULYSSE*

Initially planned for 2020 during the lockdown, the Erasmus+ transnational mobilities of all “Handi’cap pour l’Europe” consortium were postponed to 2021. However, as the COVID is still with us, a large number of members have decided to cancel these mobilities in 2021.

This is not the case for the ESAT Saint Jean, a workshop for disable workers located close to Bordeaux. They will leave for an Erasmus+ mobility
planned for Tarrega in Catalonia next May, “if sanitary conditions allow it”. Seven disabled workers and two social workers will develop their skills during a work experience in the various workshops offered by Alba, an association with a strong local presence and numerous production workshops.

We remain optimistic, in Catalonia, the restrictions and the rate of incidence is under control”, therefore it is a real challenge and sometimes a real headache that these 3 partners are trying to take up at a time when many educational and vocational training establishments have cancelled their mobility until further notice. According “to the coordinator of the Cap Ulysse consortium: “here, the greatest risk could be to postpone again: aren’t we taking more risks if we put all our projects on hold by continually postponing?”. That is the question many of us are asking ourselves.

EXPERIENCES OF MOBILITIES ABROAD OF YOUNGSTERS WITH ID

by Giorgia Scivola, AIPD

The Valueable Network is the European network of socially responsible companies of the hospitality sector coordinated by AIPD which promotes tools for offering equal opportunities. Melià Milano and Axis Hotel are two of its members.

Melià Milano, a hospitality business, hosted two Hungarian trainees, Agnes and Alexandra, for a three-week work experience in July 2018. As a Cook Assistant and a Waitress, they are very committed and passionate about their job. Staff and Management were really proud of them!

Lorenzo and Valerio – both from Italy – worked at Axis Porto for 3 weeks in February 2018: the first week as Housekeepers; the second week as Cook Assistants and the third one taking care of some others hotel's needs.

The experience was tiring but also very rewarding for the two trainees (and their tutor), but also for the hotel. Axis Porto was already employing people with intellectual disabilities at work, but they never tried with people from abroad. The result is incredible!