



## **European conference Guidance to the labour market**

*6-8 October 2019 's-Hertogenbosch (NL)*

**At the beginning of October, some forty European and twenty Dutch participants joined forces in Noord-Brabant. After two days of intensive brainstorming, seven project plans were presented to each other and to the jury: Zoe Dyson Falconer, project manager of Ecorys UK, Adriana Stel, director of DOORZAAM - the fund for the sustainable employability (DI) of temporary workers - and Lise Weerde, policy advisor at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.**

### **Pitches**

#### **Simulation game**

The first group to pitch their idea on the morning of Tuesday 8 October proposed the development of a script for a simulation or virtual reality game that would allow vulnerable jobseekers to practice for job interviews either at home or together with a coach. The second project plan focused on converting the Learning Cities Platform to create a platform that jobseekers can use for their open batches and to claim their learning track, enabling them to clearly demonstrate the skills they possess. This was another inspiring idea that was greatly appreciated by the jury.

#### **Social inclusion**

The third pitch of the day focused on social inclusion of young adult refugees between the ages of 18 and 29. The main objective of this project is to share good practices between the organisations in the various countries. The next pitch focused on the further development of entrepreneurship skills in order to boost employability. This project group focuses on two target groups: the jobseekers themselves on the one hand and the teachers, trainers and job coaches on the other. This international team wants to develop a workshop for the second target group that will give them a greater range of tools to teach 21st century skills to their clients.

#### **Exchange of good practices**

The subsequent project plan focuses on improving the job prospects of young people leaving the care system. The international project group wishes to share good practices. The main project objective is to improve the skills of professionals working with young people who have suffered a trauma, as these professionals often are not sufficiently equipped to do the



job.

The next project that was presented elaborates further upon an Erasmus+ KA 1 project organised by partners in Norway on the theme of empowered career choices. The goal of this project is to give people greater autonomy in their career decisions: 'to help them play the game rather than letting the game play them'. The group of experts from Sweden, the Netherlands, Estonia and Serbia recognised the potential of a project involving their network. Participants from France, Slovenia and other countries threw their hat in the ring immediately after the pitch was made.

### **Winning pitch**

The pitch that made the biggest impression on the jury was presented by Sabah Göransson from Sweden, among other project partners. Together with numerous experts from many different countries in Europe, she wants to focus on the inclusion of immigrant women with little to no education. The project partners want to make impact on three levels. First and foremost, they wish to focus on the individual level: the women themselves. Secondly, they wish to focus on the group level: establishing a safe place such as a language cafe or library in which these women can meet and take lessons in how to write CVs or apply for jobs. The third level that the project group wishes to address is employers, e.g. making agreements for the women to work three days and go to school for two days, to hold job-related 'speed dates' to help the women find a job, etc. The long-term goal of the project is to promote physical and mental health among refugee women. to ensure they are not dependent on their husbands and to raise awareness of social organisations and government schemes that can help them in their current country of residence. The jury was extremely impressed with all of the pitches, although it selected this one as the winner due to the importance of social inclusion and the focus on language skills.

The TCA meeting facilitated myriad useful connections between experts across the continent as well as concrete plans for further partnerships that will boost employment, equal opportunities and inclusion throughout Europe. Which is exactly what Erasmus+ is for!

***Eunice Eidsen, Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary of Curaçao:***

**'What an amazing experience!'**

Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary of Curaçao Eunice Eidsen visited the TCA meeting 'Guidance to the Labour Market' and is very enthusiastic about the results. 'It's been an amazing experience for everyone to come together and share ideas for concrete projects. This meeting was extremely useful, particularly for Curaçao as this is the first time we've ever taken part in this kind of meeting on adult education. We have already expressed interest in



contributing to various project plans and I am confident that a great deal of action will be taken in the next few months!