



European conference Guidance to the labour market

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

Interview *with participant Sabah Göransson of Swedish adult education Vux Huddinge*

‘Social inclusion is vital at so many levels’

Initially, the main goal that Sabah Göransson of Swedish adult education Vux Huddinge set for herself while travelling to Den Bosch was simply to exchange experiences with her European colleagues. However, at the Erasmus+ TCA meeting ‘Guidance to the Labour Market’, she and her new-found partners would eventually present the winning project plan!

‘My role at Vux Huddinge is school development: I observe classes, survey students’ needs, develop lessons and initiate projects for a wide variety of groups, and my mission is to make our school of adult education more inclusive. I visited the Erasmus+ TCA meeting to find out what is going on in other European countries, as by sharing good practices, we can all help to make each other better. Ultimately we all face the same challenges and we’re all looking for new ways to help our students to participate in society.’

Gap

Göransson briefly summarises the challenge that adult education all around Europe is currently facing. ‘There is a significant gap between adult education and the rest of society. Our mission is to boost connection in our country between adult education on the one hand and the labour market and social services on the other. No man – and indeed no school – is an island, and I believe adult education truly needs to be part of society for it to succeed.’ During the meeting, she noticed various contrasts between the different adult education systems across Europe. ‘There are always differences between systems and you can learn a lot from them. One aspect that I think we all could improve is the fact that adult education is currently too individually oriented, with too much focus on the students’ individual limitations and how to resolve them. In my opinion, we should focus more on how the labour market can contribute to the inclusion of students. Employers have a responsibility to adapt more to students’ needs. Social inclusion is vital at so many levels: individual students, the workplace, the community and society as a whole.’

Empowerment

Göransson says she learned a great deal at the TCA meeting in Den Bosch: ‘Not only did I



gain valuable new contacts but I'm also going to set up a project with experts from many different countries, focusing on social inclusion for immigrant women with little to no educational background. During the Erasmus+ meeting, I made connections with people from eight different countries who want to work together to achieve this ambition.' The newly formed team presented this project plan to the jury, who declared it the winner. 'Our long-term goal is to promote physical and mental health among refugee women, to ensure they are independent and to raise awareness of social organisations and government schemes that can help them in their current country of residence. The keyword is empowerment, a goal that I, together with my European partners, will tirelessly strive to achieve!'