

Newsletter

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Erasmus+

CONTENT

Time for sharing and learning

European Welfare Systems - a precious analysis

TAP presentation on International Science Conference

What does entrepreneurship training specifically aim for?

Methodology of workshop for social and political decision makers

Attention in 2016 for the project, also at the European level

Together
Against
Poverty



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Short term joint staff meeting in Torino (Italy) September 22-26, 2015 organised by Vol.To was great learning experiences for all TAP project partners. Participants of the training course had opportunity to learn together from each other and about each other, to share best practices from partners' organisations, to discuss common issues and plan future activities.

Different forms of non-formal education were used during this meeting: teambuilding activities and bingo game, presentations on plenaries and groups work, study visit and meeting with representatives of local organisations.

Participants had time for sharing and discussion, we fruitfully spent working and free time together and made step forward for the work on methodologies for the workshops – one for people in the risk of poverty and second for decision makers and managers.



Bingo game helped to learn more about each other.



There was space for discussions.



Spanish team shared best practices from their ongoing projects.



Work in the international groups enrich creativity.



Presentation of “Life Management” from Bert Wissink (LEIDO, the Netherlands) was one of the highlights of the training course.



We learned a lot about entrepreneurship during study visit to the vocational school.



The meeting with the representatives of Italian non-governmental organisations was the time of sharing best practices.

*One of the two main products of the first year of the project is the publication **Social security models in selected European countries**, a document of more than 100 pages written by six partners that aims at analysing the main strengths and weaknesses of welfare systems in the six partner countries.*

The publication is divided into two parts. The first part aims at highlighting the structure of the welfare system and consists of five issues: legal aspects - administrative, social policies, actors, relationships and networking, best practices.

The second part analyses the responses provided by 61 policies, using five key topics that aggregate groups of questions from the questionnaire; the topics are: the role of the institution into the fight to poverty, the networking and multi-agency work, the effective solutions, the obstacles and the entrepreneurship as a means to fight poverty.

The conclusions drawn by the partners highlighted five key points:

1. some organizations are trying to develop innovative ways of supporting people in poverty, even though the approach is often still too bureaucratic;
2. in none of the partner countries the multi-agency collaboration is described as an effective reality, and there is a general demands for greater cooperation between institutions or organizations;
3. training and especially learning are considered the primary means to prevent poverty and social exclusion;
4. many people get out of the net of social security due to the lack of information about their rights as citizens;
5. the majority of respondents were in favour of instruments related to entrepreneurship (development of entrepreneurial skills and attitude) as a means to alleviate poverty and social exclusion.

Satisfaction for the valuable information collected is also underlined by Professor Giancarlo Rovati, director of the Department of Sociology of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, in his commentary on the research he states:

The TAP project is an important contribution in highlighting the need to adopt systems named "plural welfare", based on active partnership between institutions, social organizations and prosocial associations particularly equipped to intervene in a timely and flexible way in situations unpredictable and challenging.

The full version of the research is available in 7 languages in the Repository in the web site.
[Get the files.](#)



Presentation of TAP project to the Voluntary Associations of Turin (25/09/2015)



TAP PRESENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

“Poverty and social exclusion problem in Poland comparing with selected EU countries- findings” report was presented on an International Science Conference in Poland.

The conference on current social and economic changes in the economy was held on at the Carpathian State School in Jasło. The event concerned challenges of social and economic changes and brought in representatives of science from other countries, among others, Ukraine and Slovakia. During the meeting, a report on project TAP – Together Against Poverty was presented. Presentation entitled „Poverty and social exclusion problem in Poland comparing with selected EU countries- findings” was devoted to main conclusions from the project’s research.

The main aim of this report was to explain conference participants specific character of poverty in Poland, when comparing with selected EU countries, that are partners in this project. After presenting theoretical assumptions, concerning the problem of poverty and social exclusion, the participants were introduced to the methodology of the research conducted, as well as with main outcomes, both qualitative and quantitative. Many of the participants were very interested in project’s outcomes and expressed willingness of taking part in the workshops that will be organized within the project in the future.



As we are developing the curriculum of the entrepreneurship training (ET) programme for people in poverty and social exclusion or at risk of becoming poor or socially excluded, we have conducted a document review of European Union and World Bank documents referring to entrepreneurship and ET. The purpose is to inform the decision on the targeted learning outcomes so that we can design a training programme that is firmly rooted in the most recent conceptualisations.

So what is entrepreneurship?

While Recommendation 2006/962/EC, *Key competences for lifelong learning* included ‘sense of initiative and entrepreneurship’ as one of the eight key competences, defining it as ‘the ability to turn ideas into action’, the Erasmus+ programme lists ‘initiative and entrepreneurship’ as a horizontal skill.

What does entrepreneurship training aim for?

According to the publication *Entrepreneurship in Higher Education, Especially within Non-Business Studies* (European Commission, 2008), the aim should be to develop entrepreneurial capacities and mindsets that benefit economies by fostering creativity, innovation and self-employment.

Experts of the World Bank state that the objective of entrepreneurship education and training is ‘to provide the individual with entrepreneurial mindsets and skills to support participation and performance in a range of entrepreneurial activities’ (Robb et al., 2014, p.13). The learning outcomes of entrepreneurship education (Eurydice, March, 2012) used as reference in recent European-level studies are shown below. In our training programme, we plan to target specific learning outcomes that respond to the learning needs of our training participants.

Learning outcomes of ET





METHODOLOGY OF WORKSHOP FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS

Together against Poverty project is going to develop a methodology of workshop for social and political decision makers.

Under this action, a selection and indication of the most necessary subject will take place. They will be picked from the field of practical approach to issues related to poverty, mechanisms of entry and exit, its peculiarities in the country concerned, as well as models of social security. The subjects will be selected for the target group to ensure that the basic aim of the workshops, which is increasing knowledge, exchange of information and development of change recommendations (suggested improvements to each countries social security model). An arrangement of the substantive content will be proposed within the workshops' framework.



During the Short Term Joint Staff Event in Turin a session on the development of output 4 was held and we get some conclusions:

Goal: Developing coaching skills in people working in the social system welfare and to develop institutions capability on developing new methodologies when working with the target population.

Content: Coaching Program will be needed, setting goals: personal and professional, including Case studies, the main competencies we should work on are: Active listening, Problem solving, Learning/reflexive skills, Setting objectives, Anger management, Creating and maintaining relationships.

Methods: coaching sessions / group sessions plus peer learning.

Evaluation: Self-evaluation (on coaching skills), Solved case-studies.



ATTENTION IN 2016 FOR THE PROJECT, ALSO AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

The TAP project is for the Netherlands an interesting one. Of course the problems concerning poverty and social exclusion are less than in a lot of other countries (like we have in our project), but we know that there are also here a lot of people 'in troubles'. There is less money for supporting the poor and the persons in social exclusion, and there is a lot more to pay for some services, renting a house, health care and that kind of cost that are effecting all Dutch citizens. The role of the municipality will be more and more important in the years to come, knowing that the government is not responsible anymore for a lot of regulations related to the support of specific groups - support that will be essential for the persons involved. But of course the government, represented by the Ministry for Social Affairs, is still responsible for the national strategy, for the overall budget and the general agreements with the municipalities about the way they can handle the budgets. That is why ...

we have contacted this Ministry to inform a group of civil servants about the project and the targets we have formulated – based on the research that already has been done and the plans for having courses concerning entrepreneurial skills and competences.

The result of this contact is very interesting for us and for the whole project. In the first place we have been asked to join a working group, led by the Secretary of State for Social Affairs. Members of this working group are organizations that are involved in 'the fight' against poverty in the Netherlands. They have different backgrounds: Charitas, Salvation Army, Association for Foodbanks, and so on. The next meeting will be in December, and the TAP-project will be on the agenda to inform the members of the working group about what we are doing and where we are aiming for.

But besides that we know that the Netherlands will have the presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2016. This means that the Ministry for Social Affairs is willing to organize some international activities with the focus on poverty and social inclusion in Europe. It will also take the lead for a conference in June, in The Hague, organized by the European Social Network (ESN). There will be workshops and we will offer the organizers to take care for one or two workshops about the TAP-project.

In the coming months we will provide more information about this very positive developments, to share the outcomes and the products of our project with Europe and its member states at a high political level.

Oh yes, in the meantime we have discussed in Amsterdam our project also during a conference we had with a group of Americans, in June. They are really interested in what is happening here, knowing that poverty is a big problem over there ...



June Conference – with a group from USA