



Gender & Diversity in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Materialising gender mainstreaming and diversity issues from theory into educational practice

A transfer system into three different European societies

NEWS

4/2009

Gender & Diversity in VET is a LEONARDO DA VINCI PROJECT that brings together 7 partners from 6 European countries targeted at the TRANSFER OF INNOVATION.
Website:
www.gender-and-diversity.eu

Project promoter:
Fundatia Romano-Germana Timisoara
www.frgtim.ro

Coordinator:
BEST Institut für berufsbezogene Weiterbildung und Personaltraining GmbH
www.best.at

Multiplier conference in Ankara

On October 13th, 2009, the concluding conference of “Gender & Diversity in VET” took place in Ankara, Turkey. More than 50 representatives from 12 countries attended the final event of the LLP transfer of innovation project in order to discuss strategies and practical approaches to multiply the project’s efforts and findings even in other countries that have not been part of the project partnership. Among others, experts from the University of Helsinki (Finland), University of Łódź (Poland), Kastamonu Vocational High School (Turkey), the Business Foundation for Education and Association of Career Counsellors in Bulgaria, ATpeople (Portugal) and the Public Service Language Centre (PSLC) (Latvia) attended the conference.

First, the “Gender & Diversity” coordinator presented in a short film – which can be watched at the project website (www.gender-and-diversity.eu) - the project’s main objectives, approaches and outcomes. In order to give organisations and actors, who weren’t part of the project until now, the chance to learn more about Gender and Diversity the partner organisations then shortly presented results of the starting situation they found in the three target countries of this transfer project, i.e. Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. The partner organisations there engaged in desk and field research to find out what materials have been in use – if any – in the VET sector of their countries and where interested institutions could find supporting teaching documents. Then the three main products the partnership has produced for trainers, teachers and course providers in VET as well as stakeholders were presented in details. These products – which are available for free download at the project website – are:

- Gender and Diversity in VET Manual for gender sensitive education
- Gender and Diversity in VET didactic Guidelines
- Gender and Diversity in VET Implementation Concept.

Since it had been foreseen to elaborate - in the first run within the project lifetime - products VET responsables in Romania, Slovenia and Turkey could use, the manual is only available in Turkish, Romanian and Slovenian language and has been adapted to the educational practices and social requirements of these countries. Still, due to the huge interest the partnership has received when elaborating the above mentioned documents, the didactic Guidelines and the Implementation Concept have also been elaborated in English to encourage other countries in using and implementing gender and diversity issues in their training and educational practice.

The partnership consists of a well balanced team of seven operational partners from six countries supported by a number of strategic partners in the target countries receiving the transferred products.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
2007 LLP-LdV-TOI-2007-RO-016
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Workshops at the final conference

In workshops and plenary sessions European experts, together with Turkish strategic partners and invited policy makers, engaged in vivid discussions about implementation and exploitation issues taking into account the results of country analyses and pilot projects carried out in the project. Unison feedback was that there was great interest in more materials available in English since most of the invitees would like to use all the Gender and Diversity in VET materials within their organisations. The Bulgarian multiplier even pointed out that “(...) the materials help us to work more effective with these countries” as “they help to understand the gender equality culture in these countries”.

Mrs Ilknur Karakas on “Gender & Diversity”

Concluding remarks were presented by Mrs Ilknur Karakas representing the Turkish Ministry of National Education. Confirming her definite intention to further support “Gender & Diversity” in Turkey she assured to take care of the project’s implementation on a national level in Turkey.

Summing up, it can be stated that “Gender & Diversity in VET” has created great interest: All participants of the conference emphasised the usefulness of the “Gender & Diversity in VET” outputs highlighting the practical elements of the products for any vocational education, counselling and training provision.



*From left to right:
Mrs Ilknur Karakas (Turkish Ministry of National Education),
Gender & Diversity conference participants,
Riza Gürbüç (host) and Helmut Kronika (coordinator),
some project partners and multipliers.*



Partner Meeting

Before and after the multiplier conference, all project partners of “Gender & Diversity in VET” met in order to prepare – and then evaluate – the conference and to discuss the prospects of co-operation in the future. The partnership will continue disseminating the products elaborated within the project.

For further information, please visit the project website: www.gender-and-diversity.eu.

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