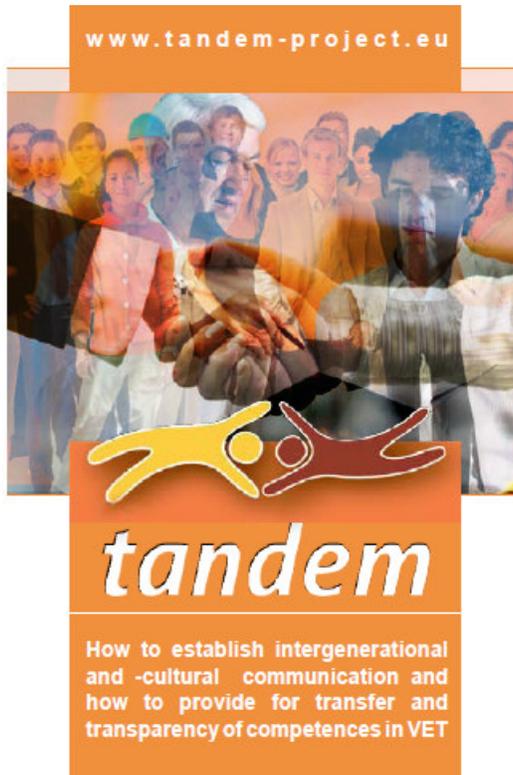


The TANDEM Project - so far

Intergenerational and intercultural learning, that's what **TANDEM** stands for. Since the kick-off meeting in Vienna in January 2010, the project partners apply themselves to the task of bringing young adults without formal vocational education and older people with a migration background together to initiate a fruitful exchange of knowledge, skills and work-related stories.



The stories

In a relaxed atmosphere, the older participants talked about their migration history and personal background, their education and work situation as well as about skills and competences they found necessary in their work. For this, TANDEM focuses on five work sectors: agriculture, construction/building, tourism, manufacturing and retail, health and social services.

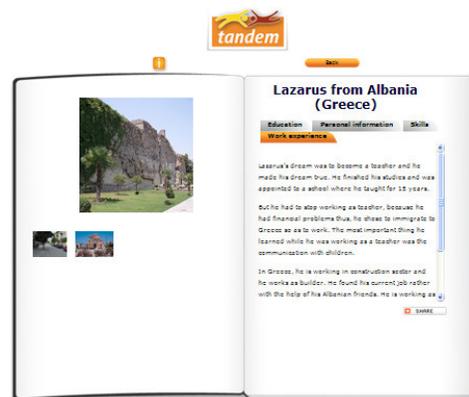
Both social groups are among the most affected by low participation in the labour market and social exclusion. Yet, this doesn't mean that they haven't got any competences or knowledge to share. This becomes clearly evident when browsing the *TANDEM Library*.

The young adults recorded these stories and stored them on the internet-based *TANDEM Library*. Each story in is divided into chapters which are visually represented as pages of a book:



The TANDEM Library

This interactive electronic library contains many work related stories as direct results of the intergenerational and intercultural learning tandems which were formed in Norway, the Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria.



Users can search the *TANDEM Library* according to three main criteria: work sectors, skills and competences and any keywords they want to look for.

An example story from Greece: Lazarus from Albania

Twelve years ago, Lazarus migrated from Albania to Greece. He was born and raised in Elbasan, a historic city in central Albania, 32 km from Tirana. In Albania, he worked as a school teacher and he had a family (wife and two children). The political situation in his country as well as the financial difficulties he had to face were the main reasons for his decision to move to Greece. He came alone, without his family. In Kato Achaia, the town where he lives now, Lazarus works in the construction sector as a builder. He found his job with the help of Albanian friends. His dream, however, is to return to Elbasan one day and continue working as a school teacher.



Elbasan, Albania

Lazarus memories from his arrival in Greece are not very good. He didn't speak the language and struggled to learn it. Today he speaks Greek at level B2, additionally, he has foreign language competences in English (B1) and Italian (A2).

For Lazarus it is not important to keep the tradition of his country, however, it is very important to him to speak his native language and to have contacts with other people from Albania. He also calls his family daily and visits

Elbasan as often as he can in order to see his family.



Kato Achaia, Greece

Lazarus' story is one of many stories in the *TANDEM Library*.

In many similar stories, the reader gets to know many interesting details of a persons' (work) life and learns about the competences which s/he acquired in his/her profession abroad. Skills these people acquired during their private and work life should help when reader start thinking about their own competences. Even if you have not learnt e.g. organisational skills at school or in non-formal training, they can be of value in your (work) life and should particularly be taken into consideration when you want to apply for a new job!

TANDEM products

Apart from the *TANDEM Library*, the project partnership elaborates the following products:

- TANDEM Library User Manual
- TANDEM Didactic Guidelines
- TANDEM Implementation Concepts

Detailed information on the products can be found on the project website: www.tandem-project.eu/en/products



Meetings and workshops

3rd TANDEM project meeting

From September 22th to September 23th 2011, the third project meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium, in order to show the project outcomes and products to VET teachers, trainers, guidance counsellors and stakeholders in Norway, the Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria. At that time, already more than 50 stories of people who migrated to these four countries could be found in the TANDEM Library.

During the workshop, the project partners elaborated an evaluation frame what to consider until the fourth project meeting in the Netherlands, which was held in April 2011. The project partnership agreed on organising even more tandem interviews bringing together young learners who are somehow involved in one of the mentioned work sectors (or want to start their career in) and, on the other hand, elder people showing migration background who now live in Norway, the Netherlands, Greece or Bulgaria.



Young TANDEM interviewers in Stavanger (Norway)

'It was very exciting to hear Jaman's life story. I have opened my eyes for the many stories of immigrants there are in this world', said a young Norwegian learner involved in the pilot phase of this project when we asked about his first impression after having read some stories.

4th TANDEM project meeting

The fourth TANDEM project meeting was held in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, from April 12th to April 13th. The most important concern was to discuss the outcomes and results of the pilot activities which were organised in the target countries. Every partner presented the experience made in these activities.

Finally, the partnership started organising the final conference which will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September 2011. Interested public from other countries than those participating in the TANDEM project will receive the TANDEM products and have the possibility to discuss issues like how the stories can enrich different teaching sessions or how to include stories in the *TANDEM Library*.