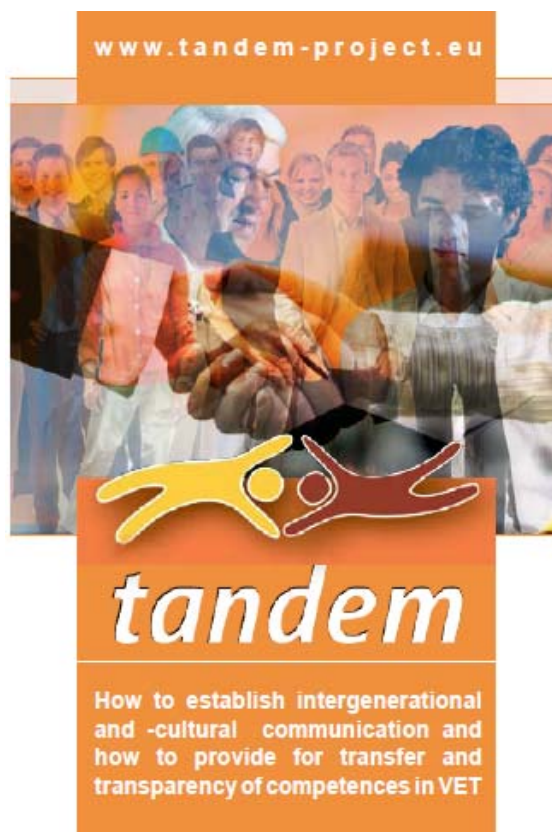


The TANDEM Project - so far

The project: "TANDEM - How to establish intergenerational and intercultural communication and how to provide for transfer and transparency of competences in VET" was first introduced in Vienna at a kick-off meeting held by BEST between January 7th – 8th, 2010.



The original project "European Generation Link"

"European Generation Link" is the initial project which ended in September 2008 that promoted European Citizenship through intergenerational and intercultural learning.



Helmut Kronika, the coordinator of both the original Grundtvig project "European Generation Link" (www.european-generation-link.org) and the current transfer project, welcomed all participants to discuss the key aspects of the work plan and the foreseeable integration of the original products. The partnership of the TANDEM project consists of Austria, Germany and Belgium who were involved in the original project and who are also involved in working with VET providers, consulting and research organisations, public bodies from Norway, Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria. All participating countries gave input about the concepts and initiatives already present in their country and how the current situation could be improved.

The idea here being that older people pass on their stories and experiences from when they lived in different European countries to young people who consequently document these encounters within an interactive electronically library: www.european-generation-library.org. One of the main impacts envisaged was to increase tolerance and reduction of prejudices and xenophobia among different cultures and generations.

The TANDEM project will adapt the original products, models and materials to make them suitable for the incorporation within vocational training in the selected target countries: Norway, Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria. Something which



distinguishes the TANDEM project is its large focus on work related aspects especially, and not just the general day to day life situations of young low-level educated individuals and older migrant people. Through this project the importance of appropriate and consistent vocational education training materials is stressed but also that competences and skills should become more transparent for transfer into other education and labour systems.

The aims and the developments

The main focus of this project consists of bringing together low-level educated young adults and people with migration background, both of which, at times, struggle to demonstrate high educational course completion and can show a lack of enthusiasm in learning. The path which has been chosen to put this idea into effect is to help teachers, trainers and guidance counsellors within Vocational Education Training by developing training materials which will aid them in motivating and teaching young and old Europeans. Through the help of these training materials the participating European target countries will be able to simplify their approach to developing fresh, new and innovative ways of teaching intergenerational and intercultural vocational competences and skills, including those of “dying trades”.

One of the main developments in the pipe line is the interactive electronic library concept previously mentioned when talking about the “European Generation Link library”. This idea will be adapted – www.tandem-library.eu under construction at present - making

it possible for didactical teaching methods to be easily available through the click of a button. The concept is straightforward and makes the process of accessing training materials and information regarding VET fast and efficient. It will be possible for individuals to access information specific to one partner country and enter relevant search terms to select interesting work life related information.

The “Europass” concept

The structure which this internet - based library, as well as the other main products related to it will assimilate, is that of the “Europass” (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>) concept. This is an EU initiative that aims at increasing the European wide acceptance and understanding of European citizens` qualifications; and therefore increases mobility and freedom.

Enhancing transparency by elements based on the EUROPASS, in a similar way, it should be easy for all European VET teachers, trainers and counsellors involved to utilize the *TANDEM internet-based library* through reading various experiences and “work life stories” documented as text and pictures, films and/or audio files from older migrants documented by young adults.

Along with this library there is also the *TANDEM Handbook* which acts as a user guide to answer any questions library users may have and to explain the organisational aspects as well as the way one should upload and edit



texts and recordings. Having an information port such as this one available will allow more VET teachers, trainers and guidance counsellors to motivate young low-educated adults to use the internet and modern electronic facilities which are widely available across Europe these days and in use at many workplaces.

Along with the “*TANDEM Implementation Concepts*” which will be available to education providers, policy makers and stakeholders in Norwegian, Dutch, Greek and Bulgarian, other products which will be available are the *TANDEM didactical Guidelines* made for VET teachers, trainers and counsellors to enable them to feel confident when motivating and encouraging young low-educated adults to form tandem partnerships with older migrants, conduct interviews, share experiences and make them aware of their proficiencies.

Thus innovative materials both to transfer vocational knowledge acquired in different geographical contexts and to provide intergenerational and intercultural learning environments will be made available by this project.

Meetings and work shops

After the kick-off meeting in Vienna, partner countries organised national workshops to deliver a structured basis for the adaptations and amendments recommended in the transfer of innovation products. In Norway, a conference on competence sharing for employees was organised March 19th. At this occasion, TANDEM was

presented to stakeholders and VET organisations. Some 700 VET representatives, stakeholders and policy makers were addressed.



Stavanger Kommune's representatives providing information material

In Bulgaria, different types of organizations and specialists like the Association of Career Consultants, the network of university career centers, the Pedagogical Faculty of Sofia University and the network of pedagogical advisors from secondary and vocational schools a. m. m. have been contacted in order to prepare a comprehensive overview of the situation in the country. All of these institutions have shown interest in the TANDEM project and will support upcoming activities – especially when the selection of young people for the participation in interviews and the preparation of Europass CVs to transfer knowledge to older people will soon start.

To discuss the initial progress and further developments of the TANDEM project, a second plenary meeting has been announced for the first week of April 2010, where partners will come together once again; this time the meeting will be held in Norway.

The next TANDEM newsletter will be published July/August 2010.

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