E-Booklet: Raising Together

This Ebook is a product of the Partnership Building Activity "Raising Strengths for Future Projects Together" under the Erasmus + Program

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"Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience" (Kolb, Experiential Learning, p. 38).

INTRODUCTION

A good network is an essential vehicle for proper implementation of viable international projects, able to respond to the real professional and social needs of the European   citizens.
Thus, we present this E-book as a facilitating tool for good communication practices between international organizations. It aims to stimulate the creation and implementation of innovative projects in the field of youth and to empower organizations to develop an ever more Professional Work, at international level, in the field of Youth.
This E-book results of the activities carried out under the Raising Together Project, in particular the training activities about "Establishment and International Partnerships Maintenance" and "Good Communication Practices between international partners".

SYNOPSIS

Raising Strengths for Future Projects Together - Partnership Building Activity - was a Youth Worker's Meeting focused on developing new Partnerships between European organizations. This meeting was attended by 14 Youth Workers from 7 European countries and took place in the West Zone of Portugal, at the Arts Centre of Caldas da Rainha city, between 16th to the 22nd November 2015.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

CoopCASA, Portugal; Cherry Group, Netherlands; Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo, Spain; Hellenic Youth Participation, Greece; JASA Association, Slovenia; Pomerium Onlus, Italy; Repatria Foundation, Poland.

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1. ESTABLISHMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MAINTENANCE

To create a consistent project in Erasmus + you need to know:
- What social changes the project seeks to achieve;
- What is the impact generated by the project;
- Respond to Erasmus+ Program objectives so that the project is consistent with the same objectives;
- The project must be specific and simple (KISS - Keep It Simple and Specific);
- Ground the project with statistically processed data.

What are the benefits for the organizations, the participants and for Europe?
The Erasmus + activities promote, to their participants, the acquirement of new social, communicational, civic and technical competences. The youngsters and youth workers have the opportunity to improve their performance at social but also in a professional level. Therefore they improve their organizations and communities, back home, with their knowledge. This way Europe grows on social and technical develop and promote a more equal and strong bound between the different countries, promoting social cohesion and a more stable economy.

How to apply to Erasmus + Youth in Action?
One of the best tools to start with are the MOOC (*Massive Open Online Courses*) videos. They combine a very structured information with dynamic presentation of the information. This way you can start by exploring the Program in a easy way, before getting to read the Erasmus + Program Guide.
NOTE: When writing the resume of a project, make it very clear, easily understandable, in one minute by an external listener. You can add references or links that support your choices.

★ MOOC - MOOC on Erasmus Plus

MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) are online courses aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. They are designed to provide the opportunity to expand the knowledge of its users, based on co-production process.

MOOC about Application Form: www.youtube.com

MOOC about financial support: www.youtube.com

What's the importance of the Non-Formal Education in Erasmus + Program?

The Youth In Action activities, promoted under Erasmus +, are widely based on the Non-Formal Education Techniques.

This kind of techniques allow youngsters and youth workers to acquire new knowledge through experience. The non-formal education respects the different kinds of people and learning processes, for this there are different techniques. The development of a program of activities must always take into account the coherence of the Non-Formal Education to be used and to justify them properly.

MOOC about non formal education: www.youtube.com

Tutorials on Non-Formal Education: www.salto-youth.net

Non-formal Games to improve communication: Abigail's Tail | Backpack Expectations

PARTNERS CHOICE

The development of international partnerships is a key element for the success of any project under Erasmus +. Usually the organizations seks for partners who have experience, who complement the project, who share common goals, who are interest and add value to the project, who are trustable. The choice of the partner entities is an important choice for the evaluation of your project, so you must always keep in mind that you have to justify your choices. So, one should choose partners who already have developed work related to the nature of the project.

The involvement of the whole partner network in the development of the project is an added value to your project.

NOTE: By establishing commitments, like meetings via Skype, chat on Facebook or sending emails, you can determine whether the partner is or isn't reliable and fulfills the tasks that are proposed.

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II. GOOD COMMUNICATIONAL PRACTICES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

WEB BASED SOFTWARES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE NETWORKING BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

★ TRELLO

Trello is a collaboration tool that organizes your projects into boards.
What is Trello? www.youtube.com

★ ASANA

Asana is web based software-as-a-service designed to improve team collaboration.
What is Asana? www.youtube.com

★ SLACK

Slack is instant messaging and collaboration system on steroids.
What is Slack? www.youtube.com

★ GOOGLE DRIVE

Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service.
What is Google Drive? www.youtube.com

WHERE TO FIND INTERNATIONAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

★ OTLAS - The Partner Finding Tool

Otlas is an web based platform that helps looking for future strategic partners for international partnerships within the Erasmus+ Program.

★ SALTO YOUTH - www.salto-youth.net

Salto Youth provides non-formal learning resources based on the activities organization aimed at youth workers in order to foster the contact and support to organizations and national agencies under the Erasmus+ Program. Salto Youth is an essential tool to search for good partnerships and projects under the youth scope, striving to create new synergies between international partners or complementing existing initiatives.

DISSEMINATION OF THE RESULTS

The Dissemination Plan of the Results, it is a plan within your project, that should be carefully designed. Is a key element in your the project, as it demonstrate the achieved results. The results can be either something concrete (material that can be shared and distributed), or abstract (the learning outcomes of your participants). Both content can be made in physical format (book) or digital (web site, cd). These contents will have to be proportional to the project scale.
The project dissemination plan should be clear and concrete, and to have tangible goals to dissemination of the results at local, regional, national and international level.

CERTIFICATION OF THE LEARNING OUTCOMES

One of the Erasmus + Program objective is the development of the participant's social and professional skills. Thus, it is important to know what are the capabilities that are intended to stimulate and to determine the measurement of the learning outcomes. One of the instrument used is the Youthpass .This is a European recognition tool of non- formal and informal learning in the youth field. Youthpass is useful at the end of the meetings as it encourages participants to reflect on the acquired knowledge and experience during the meetings.
Youthpass - www.youthpass.eu

FOLLOW UP

At the end of each international activity, and after the return of the participants to their homeland and entities, it takes place the Follow Up Activities. This is the time to reflect on the learning outcomes and afterwards to promote the dissemination of the learnings amongst other youngsters and/or co-workers of each organization in order to contribute to the development of the region of each organization.

IMPACT

The impact of the project must be shaped from the start in the application of the project, and afterwards, must be measured in three different levels, namely: in the participants of the project and of the activities, at organizational level between the partner organizations and finally concerning the target groups of the different participating organizations.

THANKS

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