Welcome to our third newsletter!

This newsletter contains the latest news about the MOBILE Project. It also keeps you informed of all our upcoming events and activities so you never miss out.

Latest news from MOBILE

Since our 2nd newsletter was published, there were many activities going on within the Project in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

- Mini conferences were organized,
- Training Programmes for learners, teachers and work based mentors were tested,
- On-line toolboxes were uploaded on the project website,
- Personal diary for learners participating in mobilities was printed,
- Young people took part in mini-mobilities in Italy giving their feedback to the Training Programme for Learners…

Learn more about it!

We are slowly approaching the project end…

But this just means the materials will soon be ready and available for all!

About MOBILE

MOBILE - MOBility In Learning in Europe (2013-2015) is a European funded international project promoting European work exchange experiences for young people and providing training and support for teachers and enterprises. The aim of the project is to create useful tools to improve the development, implementation and follow-up of work experiences across Europe.
MOBILE Mini-conferences for teachers and employers

There were several events organised to generate enthusiasm and awareness of the MOBILE Training Programmes, to discuss the present situation and the need for organising international mobilities in EU, to gather feedback and opinions from different perspectives and finally to make networking of different actors involved in mobility a reality...

Linköping, Sweden

The mini-conference had 17 participants from different areas, teachers, working consultants, employers and experts in the field of education from the municipality of Linköping. Regardless of group and profession, the participants mentioned essentially the same things of importance in preparing the students before the mobility (work placement). They talked about the aspect of cultural differences concerning, for example, time perception, dress code etc. They discussed what basic facts were needed in a manual that prepared students to go on mobility. They mentioned e.g. security aspects and information if an accident occurs. Other important things were discussions with the students before mobility about humility, sensibility, initiative, gender, treatment and endurance etc. Other aspects was the importance of evaluating after the mobility (work placement) had taken place.

by Carina Petersson (Utvecklingsledare Second Chance School, Anders Ljungstedts gymnasium Linköping)

Aachen, Germany

For the mini-conference organised by the VHS College, stakeholders from businesses and schools were invited. After some general information about the approach of the MOBILE project the Learner, Teacher and Mentor Training Programmes were introduced.

On completion there was a profound discussion between the members of the conference - among other things concerning especially two questions:

- How can the Teacher Training programme can be made an attractive for the schools in city region of Aachen?
- How can the Mentor Training Programme be executed in cooperation with utilities of the municipality of Aachen?

Particularly the involvement of mentors who don’t speak English very well was discussed. A close cooperation was agreed.

by Carsten Freiberg (VHS Aachen)

Palermo, Italy

Teachers, trainers, mentors and employers were invited for the mini-conference held in Palermo. After registration a presentation of Mobile project, its objectives and activities was given. Different roles in mobility, guiding disadvantaged learners in international work exchange, supporting needs of mentors, trainers/teachers and disadvantaged beneficiaries were also subjects of presentation. Then the discussion was focused on the importance of the mobility, different actors and roles in the mobility, as well as necessary support tools for tutor, trainer and young people. Every participant shared his/her experience and gave feedback about MOBILE. The participants were divided into 3 groups: learners, mentors and teachers. Each one carried out a small activity on the respective training programme, presented in a plenary session. All participants gave positive feedback on the training programmes. They expressed their appreciation for the contents and the structure of the training programme. Also the resources provided to the training were considered very useful in supporting the learning path and the involvement of participants in the sessions.

by Giovanni Lo Biundo (CESIE)
Sopot, Poland

In Poland, 3 different meetings were organised. The first one was organised for nine students from CKU Sopot and was rather informal. It was delivered by student Maciej Wiśniewski with a small support of teachers, both participating in the project mini-mobility in Palermo on 4th & 5th May, 2015. The main mini-conference in Poland was organised in June 2015. Nine representatives of employers and teachers participated in the event, additional 4 them participated in the meeting online because of distance and busy period. A few of them had also previously participated in the MOBILE public event in Sopot in November 2014. Additional meeting was organised for eleven employees of CKU Sopot to update them about the project progress about developing the final version of the project products. Some of them are also representatives of other schools. During all these 3 meetings MOBILE project ideas and products were discussed with a different perspectives. All participants were familiar with all three programmes. Merchandise such as leaflets, a paper version of the newsletter, backpacks, a MOBILE diary and MOBILE branded umbrellas were distributed.

Fig. 7-9. Mini-conferences in Poland: for Learners, 23-05-2015; for Teachers and Mentors, 19-06-2015 and for CKU Sopot Teachers, 24-06-2015

by Sylwia Kurszewska (CKU Sopot)

Doncaster, The United Kingdom

Doncaster College held a Mini-Conference on June 18th, 2015, which comprised 18 people including MOBILE project participants, learners, workplace mentors, and teachers, as well as University research students staff, specialised in Intercultural Communication. There was a balanced mix of those who have previously been involved in international mobilities, as well as those newer to such projects and experiences. This provided an opportunity for, among other things, best practice sharing on a peer-to-peer level.

Aliya Sorgen and Tina Harrison first presented an overview of the project, followed by in-depth roundtable discussions of each of the training programmes. The participants were divided into three smaller groups to discuss the Learner, Mentor, and Teacher training programmes in more depth, before feeding back to the group as a whole. This was useful as by the end of the conference, all participants were familiar with all three programmes, based on individual/group work and then feeding back to all participants.

A group of students who took part in the learner training programme before their 2-week mobility to Sweden gave an outstanding presentation of their experience working in nurseries and day care settings in Linköping, Sweden, and how the training programme specifically helped them prepare for the adventure. It was very helpful for other participants to hear directly from the students about their experience with both the training programme and their international work placement.

The success of this mini-conference was due to the varied backgrounds of the participants, and their abilities to provide useful and anecdotal feedback to the training programmes, based on their own experiences.

by Aliya Sorgen (Doncaster College)

News From Italy…

4th Partner meeting in Palermo and 1st international work placement for students, 4th-5th May 2015

The 4th meeting of MOBILE Partners was held in Palermo by CESIE. At the same time a 2-day mini-mobility was organised for a group of 8 students from the different project partner countries. Students had the opportunity to participate in workshops focused on several key issues that needed to be resolved in international work placements. They enjoyed it a lot!

by Aliya Sorgen (Doncaster College)

Fig. 10-11. Workshops for young people during mini-mobilities in Palermo
**News from the UK...**

**2-week mobilities for German student**

**Marco**, who undertakes a very special placement in the kitchen of 4-Star Hotel, Mount Pleasant in Doncaster

In July 2015 Marco Schmidt – a student at the Second Chance School of VHS Aachen – had his first chance in his life for an international work placement and went to Doncaster (UK) as part of the MOBILE project. Before joining the VHS Aachen, studying his intermediate degree, Marco had worked as a cook.

Marco rated the work placement (Mount Pleasant Hotel) as the "high point of my vocational career". In addition to the vocational training, Marco was also fascinated by the cultural differences.

This is what mobility is all about!

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**Thought of one of the participants of the 2-week mobility**

"You should be open-minded to the fact that a foreign country has its own culture and will be different to your home culture. My language improvement was great and at the end of my trip I thought directly in English. And problems that occurred I could solve in English."

Marco Schmidt, Germany

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**News from Scandinavia...**

**Meeting in Sweden, September 2015**

On September the 3rd representatives of three schools from Sweden and one from Denmark met in Malmö, Sweden. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain feedback on the work material, teacher, trainer and learners training program, and how it could be used in each organisation.

The following persons participated in the meeting: Susanne Ramberg (E2C Komvux Malmö Södervärn); Birgitte Arentoft (Akademisk medarbejder KKU – Sekretariatet København); Ann-Sofie Björde (Coordinator Second Chance School Norköping Sweden) and Carina Petersson – representative of MOBILE consortium. A special focus was put on the learners training program and its modules, personal and language skills, work placement and hosting country. This led to a discussion on how practical lessons could be implemented with the help of learners training handbook. During the meeting the participants shared their experiences they gained when students were on mobility in other countries and how this affected the students on the basic of positive and negative experiences. Based on the student’s experience, the participants of this meeting tried to detect what might be needed in the material and what was available filling the gap that was needed for the learners.

Another meeting is planned for the beginning of next year to evaluate the results of the Mobile material used in the organisation based upon learners, trainers and teachers opinions.

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**Thought of one of the participants of the mini-mobility**

"I’m very thankful for the opportunity to be involved in MOBILE, to travel abroad, to see a bit of a different world than I’m normally living in. I’m looking forward for such initiatives in the future! In those 2 days I learnt many thing and I believe that I improved myself as a person as well."

Maciej Wiśniewski, Poland

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by Carsten Freiberg (VHS Aachen)  
Aliya Sorgen (Doncaster College)
Introduction to the Teacher Training Programme:
Aimed at supporting teachers/trainers in international mobility and placement

The Teacher/Trainer Training Programme has been designed thinking specially of those teachers or trainers who know nothing or little about mobility projects and international placements but will want or have to start one with disadvantaged learners.

The Programme is composed of 5 modules, which contain the main topics to learn about, split in Units.

- For example, Module 1 is an introduction to Mobility. Mobility is the term used to describe any Life Long Learning Programme project or activity that involves the movement of staff or learners across Europe, but here we are referring specifically to “learners’ mobility” on an international work placement. This Module will be useful to explore and have an overview of what a learner’s mobility means to teachers and mentors regarding their main roles and responsibilities. The majority of them are related to LLL Programmes but mobility for work exchange may occur under other different ways, e.g. agreements between companies and VT schools.

- Module 2 is about one of the sensitive items of mobility with disadvantaged learners for it requires a transparent and fair selection of learners and it requires selecting suitable work placements and supporting companies for this type of learners. The most important topic here would be “Matching learners’ and employers needs” for which a combination of educational and professional training should be the main focus.

- Module 3 outlines the importance of making a work plan with learning objectives in order to prepare the disadvantaged learner to go on an international work exchange abroad. The second relevant topic is to go through teachers’ responsibilities towards the learner.

To learn more about other modules of this programme or programmes for Learners and Mentors visit the project website: www.mobilityinlearning.eu

by Barbara Brodigan (Euricon)