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Meet the Need

An EU-project to promote vocation related second language training for migrants

This project is funded with support from the European Commission within the Lifelong Learning Programme, Grundtvig. Coordinated by Research Institute of the Red Cross, Austria.



Background of the project

Language knowledge is one key competence for migrants' vocational integration in the host country: Not being able to speak the language without mistakes is often estimated as being incompetent; thus finding adequate and qualified work is a big challenge for most migrants. In this regard, teachers of "second language courses" point out that differentiated knowledge of terms, phrases, or codes of conduct required in working life would contribute to enhancing migrant's labour market opportunities; at the same time it bolsters migrant's self-confidence by being endowed with specific vocationally needed knowledge.

Another important aspect in this regard is that migration background is often prejudicial to job applications; especially young foreigners and adult migrants suffer discrimination in the labour market. Job application's requests in written as well as spoken form and language knowledge necessary to carry out a job often differ. Thus, it is crucial to sensitise employers regarding above mentioned discrepancies. Likewise, gaining knowledge about employers' perspectives and demands would contribute to trainer's work. The same is true for suitable teaching material which provides specifically needed terms, demands, or explaining expectations to employees in the particular vocation.

Objectives of the project

In cooperation with vocational experts as well as language teachers, vocational teaching material will be developed in order to

- Enhance specific further education of migrants
- Enhance migrants' possibilities of accessing the labour market
- Support migrants' integration options
- Support migrants' identity in a second language (vocation) surrounding
- Sensitize employers on specific vocation related challenges for migrants

All material will be compiled to one Compendium including certain different vocations.

Target groups

The Compendium is developed for **second language teachers** and is meant as resource for their general second language trainings.

Moreover the Compendium will also include self study material for **migrants**.

The Project concretely

Each project partner will work on (basic) teaching material for a specific working field. This will be conducted in close cooperation with practical experts of each respective vocation and under linguistic expertise. Already existing material will be considered and incorporated into the Compendium. Concretely the material will be developed for the sectors wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities, care, and construction and welding. Thereby professions with present and future needs are focused.

The material will also be available online for all second language teachers to make sure that at length many migrants can benefit from the outcome of the project in the language courses.

Important to emphasise is that the material contains no specific course curricula but are intended to be flexibly applicable vocation related teaching materials for the "general" second language classes.

