

# Snapshot



## a review and preview of the project "Meet the Need"

[www.meet-the-need-project.eu](http://www.meet-the-need-project.eu)

Half-time of the Meet the Need project; it's time to show the results so far...

### Background of the project

The project "**Meet the Need. Vocational Teaching Material Supporting the Integration of Migrants into the Labour Market**" is a European project funded with support of the European commission within the Lifelong Learning Programme, Grundtvig. The project started in January 2011 and will run until December 2012.

The project focuses on the enhancement of language knowledge as being a key competence to communicate. Language knowledge gives individuals a personal and social identity. Migrants face the challenge of learning the wide diversity of a new language when coming to a new country. Even strong efforts would not lead to speaking the new language to the same extent as the first language. Even though the everyday language already might work well, the language spoken in an occupational field is often more difficult because of the specific vocabulary needed. 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 opportunities when entering the labour market. Thus, the project aims at developing specific vocational teaching material. Eight Partners in six different European countries are working together in the project. The results will be compiled to one Compendium and will be available on USB as well as on the website.

### Objectives

The "Meet the Need" Project follows these objectives:

- **Analysis** of the requirements for vocation related language teaching materials
- **Development** of a Compendium consisting of vocation related language teaching materials for different sectors
- **Promotion** of social inclusion of migrants by enhancing their vocational second language competence, thus heightening their chances of labour market integration

The Compendium is developed for second language teachers and will be a resource for their general second language training. Moreover the compendium will also include self-study materials for the learners.



## Activities of the first project year

In the first project phase a desk research of the labour market situation was conducted in each country to identify for which sector the teaching material has to be elaborated in the respective country. Five occupational fields were chosen to be worked upon: Wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities, care, construction and secretarial work.

The main task of the first project year was to accomplish guideline based interviews and focus groups with teachers, managing personnel and employees with migration background of the respective occupational fields. The aim was to explore the challenges in every day work for employees with migration background and to investigate the requirements for specific vocational teaching material. Altogether 85 participants supported "Meet the Need" in this project phase. The results showed that in the majority of occupational fields the most challenging topic is customer contact. Therefore listening and speaking in specific situations, e.g. understanding questions, answering and reacting to different wishes is most important. Competence in writing and reading is also essential in most fields, especially in the care sector, e.g. when writing documentations. Furthermore the interviewed teachers pointed out that the material should most notably be adaptable, practice-oriented and should implicitly include audio material to fulfil these requirements.

Details on the results of the exploration phase are summarised in **national exploration reports**, which are **available on the project website**.

## Current activities

Currently the consortium is working on the specific elements of the teaching material. The main task is to collect all relevant terms, codes of conduct, specific phrases and relevant expressions to develop the specific vocation related language teaching material. This will be achieved through accomplishing workshops with vocational experts from selected vocational fields, who can be managing personal as well as teachers from vocational schools.

## Future activities

After having collected the concrete material, the main task will be to translate it into national languages. Additionally, all material needs to be adapted on national conditions with support of national vocational experts again.

Finally, a conference and exploitation activities to promote the Compendium will be carried out in each country.

An online version of the Compendium will sustainably available at the project's website as well as at partners' websites.

