

Workshop C Summary – Workplace-focused basic education and literacy skills

Speakers: Dieter Zisenis, Office for Vocational Education Planning (*Büro für berufliche Bildungsplanung*), Dortmund

Jens Kemner, German Association of Adult Education Centres, Bonn

Moderation: Silke Bettray, National Coordination Point of the European Agenda for Adult Learning, National Agency “Education for Europe” at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (NA at the BIBB).

The workshop focussed on the question of to what extent new target groups can be reached in the context of employment promotion.

1. Dieter Zisenis presented the Erasmus+ project ‘Straighten Basic Skills’

<http://straightenbasicskills.weebly.com/>

This workshop looked at the central question of the extent to which new target groups can be reached in the context of employment promotion, considering the problem from a European point of view with numerous good practice examples.

Since 2007, the Office for Vocational Education Planning (*Büro für berufliche Bildungsplanung* or *bbb*) has been active in the field of basic education at a national and European level. It specialises in basic education in a professional context; its main target group comprises workers with a low level of formal qualifications. The Office for Vocational Education Planning is a member of the European Basic Skills Network (<http://www.basicskills.eu/>).

Aim of the Erasmus+ project ‘Straighten Basic Skills’: To develop performance indicators for the implementation of work-based basic education training for low-qualified workers and unemployed people.

Good practice examples from European countries

- France

The right to further education is enshrined in French labour laws and is safeguarded by a ‘personal further education account’ (*compte personnel de formation*).

www.moncompteformation.gouv.fr/

- Austria

First established in 2012, the ‘Adult Education Initiative’ (*Initiative Erwachsenenbildung*) is a state and federal led initiative set up to promote essential educational qualifications for adults.

www.initiative-erwachsenenbildung.at

- Norway

‘CompetencePlus’ is a national programme aimed at promoting basic skills within the workplace. The programme is run by Vox, the Agency for Lifelong Learning.

www.vox.no/English/Basic-skills/Competenceplus/

- United Kingdom

The ‘Citizens’ Curriculum’ has been developed by the Learning and Work Institute in cooperation with disadvantaged students.

www.learningandwork.org.uk/citizens-curriculum2

Presentation of the 'Basic education moves companies' (Gruwe) project, which is supported by ESF funds and aims to strengthen basic education provision for workers in small and medium sized enterprises in North Rhine-Westphalia. The project is carried out on behalf of the Ministry for Labour, Integration and Social Affairs in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. <http://www.gruwe-nrw.de/projekt>

2. Jens Kemner presented the GRUBIN project, promoting basic education for professional integration (*Grundbildung für die berufliche Integration*)

<http://grundbildung.de/projekte/grubin.html>

The aim of the GRUBIN project is to increase employability levels and improve integration opportunities on the labour market for participants in employment agency measures by reducing basic education deficits.

The project ran from January 2012 to September 2015. During this time adult education centres and employment agencies worked together to find new ways of winning participants for their literacy and basic education work. Partnerships were also established between adult education centres and labour promotion bodies who cooperated to develop new concepts. In addition to this, a comprehensive range of teaching and learning materials entitled "[Introductory module for employment-based promotion of literacy skills](#)" covering 100 teaching units have been developed and tested as part of measures sponsored by the German Federal Employment Agency aiming to actively promote employment as well as for use in basic education courses provided by adult education centres.

The October 2015 – September 2018 funding period is set to focus on the expansion and continuation of awareness work among skilled employees, carried out by public bodies involved in the active promotion of employment; this is supported by information events and publicity materials spread using digital media. Another key focus is increasing the use of the "Introductory module for employment-based promotion of literacy skills" materials in active labour promotion measures as well as in further education. An activity of great relevance is the work being done to increase awareness of this approach and, in particular, of the introductory modules among charitable organisations, their academies and professional bodies, as well as in state networks for improving literacy and the social economy, as well as the cooperative development of teaching and learning materials.

It is very important to involve other participating stakeholders outside of further education institutes.

Conclusions from the workshop on workplace-focused basic education and literacy skills (presentations 1 and 2):

- There is a demand for more stakeholders to become involved, other than further education institutes; structured partnerships are needed for social partners and stakeholders from the field of further education
- Teaching staff must act as acquisition agents and open the doors for greater numbers of participants
- Mainstream funding