

## Newsletter n°4

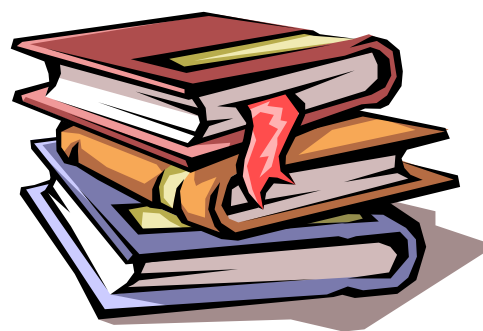
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### Mobility around Europe!! ERASMUS & Mobility (2007-2013)

*According to European policies and goals, 'mobility' is always a significant aspect within Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) which is compounded by four sectoral-programmes: Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig.*

*Specific articles the Newsletter have been dedicated on each of the sectoral-programme, focussed only on their 'mobility' actions.*

*This article is focussed on **Erasmus!***



Erasmus addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education and vocational education and training at tertiary level (University - HEI), including doctoral studies, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training.

Among its Operational Objective, Erasmus aims "to improve the quality and to increase the volume of students and teaching staff mobility throughout Europe, so as to contribute to the achievement by 2012 of at least 3 million individual participants in student mobility under the Erasmus and its predecessor programmes".

In this regard the sectoral programme foresees mobility actions for:

- ✓ Associations and representatives of those involved in higher education, including relevant student, university, and teacher/trainer associations
- ✓ Enterprises, social partners and other representatives of working life
- ✓ Public and private organisations, including not-for-profit organisations and NGOs, responsible for the organisation and delivery of education and training at local, regional and national levels.
- ✓ Research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues
- ✓ Bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services

Concerning 'mobility', the following actions can be supported by an Erasmus grant:

- Preparatory Visits: the action aims at supporting higher education institutions (HEI) to establish contacts with prospective partner institutions with a view to establishing agreements for the implementation of future Erasmus projects and activities.

- **Organisation of Mobility:** it supports measure concerns the organisation of mobility abroad for students and staff (teachers and staff training). It may include activities such as:
  - Provisions for selecting students and staff to take part in mobility activities;
  - Providing linguistic preparation for mobile students and staff;
  - Providing information and assistance to incoming and outgoing students and staff
  - Academic and organisational arrangements with partner institutions etc...
- **Student Mobility for Studies:** The action enables students at higher education institutions to spend an integrated period of study of between 3 months and 12 months in another participating country
- **Student Mobility for Placements:** This action enables students at higher education institutions to spend a placement period between 3 months (or at least two weeks for students) and 12 months in an enterprise or organisation in another European country.



- **Staff Mobility – Teaching Assignments by HEI Teaching Staff and by Invited Staff from Enterprises:** This action enables staff to spend a teaching period between 1 day and 6 weeks at a higher education institution in another participating country, with the following aims: to promote exchange of expertise and experience on pedagogical methods; to create links between higher education institutions and enterprises; to encourage higher education institutions to broaden and enrich the range and content of courses they offer etc...
- **Staff Mobility** – Training for HEI Staff at Enterprises and at HEI: the action enables teaching and other staff of higher education institutions to spend a period of training between 5 days and 6 weeks in an enterprise or organisation such as an HEI in another participating country.
- **Intensive Language Courses:** the Erasmus Intensive Language Courses (EILC) are specialised courses in the less widely used and less taught languages organised in the countries where these languages are spoken. The EILCs take place in the following 23 countries: The EILC give Erasmus students visiting these countries for studies and placements the opportunity to study the language concerned for 2 to 6 weeks with the aim of being prepared for the Erasmus mobility period.
- **Intensive Programmes:** An Intensive Programme (IP) is a short programme of study (from 2 weeks or 10 continuous full days to 6 weeks of subject related work) which brings together students and staff from higher education institutions of at least three participating countries in order to encourage efficient and multinational teaching of specialist topics which might otherwise not be taught at all, or only in a very restricted number of HEIs; enable students and teachers to work



together in multinational groups; allow teaching staff to exchange views on teaching content and new curricula approaches and to test teaching methods in an international classroom environment.

## Student ambassador – Amaya in Italy

### “Concerning my placement experience”

I came from Spain in March and I'm near to conclude my internship time here in Italy (June 2009). Initially I was only engaged to translate pamphlet and catalogues for marketing promotion and this seemed to be a bit heavy.

At that time I didn't have personal computer yet and I had to bring at workplace my own notebook to have dictionaries available. I should translate mainly from Italian to English, and it was quite hard for me especially due to the 'technical' language of the sector which was really difficult, even because I don't know some of those words in my language too!

I had my internship in wood and doors sector, and I had to look for an enormous volume of information to get an initially general idea concerning doors market and its specialized language, to be able to do properly my work here.

Anyway, at the beginning, the placement has been a little bit hard for me and I felt overwhelmed by the situation because I never did this job before and because I'm not an interpreter.

Trying to take easy the situation I started to think that everything is learnable, I tried to see the positive aspects as to watch Italian advertisings and I begin to get improving mood, day by day, week by week.

Later, I started to realise that this phase was necessary to get knowledge about goods and enterprise strategies.

Now I can say that I know all the door kinds, different prices, selling conditions, the order processes, technical specifications, quality certificates etc.....

During this preparatory period I collaborated for the production of new catalogues and to other tasks related with marketing because the enterprise was really interested to open new market areas.

Apart from all this considerations, my work placements is perfect: it's a small office inside of the show room where I can see every aspect of my interests like how they sell the products, their strategies and how they take care of customers.

During this period it has been really useful a training material on International Marketing and Commercial English, available thanks to a multimedia course.

I also elaborated different profile descriptions of the enterprise to present it in different market area.

Furthermore, I can exchange ideas on economy and market- crisis and I had the possibility to see how different countries react in these situations.

Besides, they not only produce and sell their own products, but they also commercialise other goods.

This fact, but also the support given in the managing Spanish customers, writing documents, send orders confirmation, etc, allowed me to open my mind and many things which I didn't consider before as possible (in commercial terms), seem now to be feasible, under specific circumstances.

I'm happy also because during this time I practiced English language too!

Actually, it has been difficult adapt myself with everything, because in addiction to the language difficulties I initially didn't know anything of the wood and doors sector and now, that I will go back

home, I'm quite sad knowing that I reached an overall knowledge of the majority of all these aspects, but I will leave this job here.

The time with my colleagues has been also good. They always helped me, especially for the Italian language, speaking slowly and with a lot of synonyms to facilitate my understanding.

If I had to give my opinion on this enterprise to some other students coming for placement, I would recommend that, as it is a good experience, even though sometime hard, also requiring some self-active attitude.

## EU mobility project's beneficiaries in the eyes of Polish companies



Wroclaw

***56 trainees from different EU countries took part on 3 months training activities through Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus programmes, organized by host organization Aviva in Polish companies and institutions.***

The companies mainly in Wroclaw were satisfied with the trainees what they confirmed in personal contact during the training and at the very end of the training talking with organizers. Trainee's tutors told us about students involvement, discipline ! at work, kindness and especially fact that they have always informed their supervisor about absence or coming late.

Mateusz Czerniawski , the tutor from Julen Urdiroz, LDV beneficiary from Basque Country said about his assistance: *"He put his heart in his work. Very intelligent person with hunger for knowledge. I would like to have an employee like Julen"*

Firstly, vocational training abroad is a great chance to get to know other cultures and languages, to observe different approach to work and life. All participants ( both host and incoming)in such projects are learning from each other about different customs and culture in a business context.



Kinga Czyrska -Orlińska from Polish brunch of Italian company emphasizes the cultural differences at work: *“Our approach towards work differs from the one adapted in countries of Southern Europe. It can be a surprise for our friends from Italy, Spain or Portugal to see how seriously we treat our responsibilities. On the other hand, it is surprising for us to see how easy-going and relaxed they are at work having the same tasks to do which they carry out. Their ability to cope with stress is impressive, and keeps their life easier ! It is great to have such people in the team”.*

Though, good interaction at workplace depends on many of things. Sometimes serious problems come up connected with communication but more it's a result of personal reserved attitude. Openness is rather a fundamental feature for making vocational and personal successful progress. But in different country it's not easy to overcome the inner resistance and adopt to work scheduled hours and certain duties, work shifts etc.

Marek Lewandowski from a company dealing with automatic recalls student's difficult start:

*“At the beginning Spanish students were very nervous. They couldn't find their place in the company, it was hard for them to become a member of our team. However, they managed to interact after very short time and the students almost immediately became the part of our company ! After a while it turned out that there was hardly any age difference between our workers and interns and similar mentality”.*

Among advantages of having a foreign trainee at work Polish companies mention motivation to speak English in every day work and exchange their business ideas with fresh view of the trainees. Besides, many employers appreciate students enthusiasm and ability to follow every day-to day work in busy office environment. Also, enthusiasm to learn and develop already good language skills. Therefore lot's of them get very good recommendations for future employers in their home countries.