



- A collaboration project between adult education organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries
2014 – 2016

Financed by



Project organization

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Background

In all of our Nordic and Baltic countries we have an overrepresented unemployment of young adults. At the Stockholm contact seminar 2013 we realized the necessity to find new ways to achieve a learning environment for young adults. It is necessary with cooperation between different kinds of educational learning, connected to working life instead of Sisyphus fire-fighting with negative statistic on drop-outs.

In the group of young adults showing risk-bearing habits and/ or drop-out patterns, a large number have social or neuro-psychological disabilities. Many are not really healthy, they come from socially and economically unprivileged homes, and do not really have an idea of a working identity. From a Swedish viewpoint, they need to improve or even find their Sense of Coherence, which in Aron Antonofsky's definition is a global orientation that has three components: *comprehensibility, manageability and meaningfulness.*

In Sweden it is called KASAM, and predicts also positive health outcomes.

Yet it has not proved to change the situation for the young adults in risk to be excluded from society in a time of socio-economic crisis. In Nordic/Baltic contexts we have found other solutions like multimodal thematic learning, and action brought knowledge and stump-speeches.

In all countries we focus on inclusion in education and labor market. In this situation, adult educators currently need to enhance metacognitive competencies, multimodal communication and personal management. Learning environments that supports new written forms in the digitalized classroom are needed, as well as working environment where we include the vulnerable adults. However if an educator teach empowerment and motivation, she or he should have competencies at the metacognitive level. We therefore have chosen to include self-management and self-regulated learning as well for educators as learners. A synergy effect is possible by cooperating on developing these innovative initiatives across our countries here in the Northern and Baltic Countries. From this background we want to use our different institutional and cultural forces to catalyze the sense of coherence in connection to life as an active and included citizen in our society.

Program objectives

Building a cross sectorial thematic network to present and identify best ideas, practices and research of literature. We will create three physical professional guided workshops including tools for professional guided collegial sparring in thematic module groups, in order to motivate and catalyze working identity in cooperation with the labor market. We will also have a digital meeting once a month working together with our tasks. Results and outcomes from the project will be posted on this website: <http://www.motivation2grow.blogspot.com>

Core objectives

The project will strengthen the link between adult learning and working life, based on different thematic topics. Our participating institutions provide both formal and non-formal adult education. We are a mix of adult education providers from umbrella organisations to smaller associations and organisations. We think that this mixture or different institutions will give all of the participating partner's new innovative ideas and tools to work with our common goal: Eventually everybody is good at something; competencies are achieved formal as well as informal when you are adult. We will identify competencies of the target group in order to shorten the learning process and to motivate young adult to grow, and help strengthen and motivate them to go back studying and or enter into the labor market.

Project Aim

We want to build a cross sectorial thematic network, where we present best practices, results of our identification and research of literature and professional guided workshops in the themes as thematic modules:

- Learning about the non-formal studying, training within the organisations best practice methods
- Formalizing earlier gained competencies in Northern & Baltic countries
- Working together with placement service for work for integration of young adults in cross sectorial network
- Guidance and counseling for further studies or employment,
- Action brought knowledge and stump-speeches - multimodal learning and methodological tools to enhance 'Sense and Coherence' etc.
- Assertive Personal Performing Tools in order to motivate and catalyze working identity in cooperation with the working life.

We would like to include the youngsters of our target group , listen and discuss with them in order to identify their thoughts connected to what we do. Furthermore we want to find ways cross borders to identify earlier gained competences and competences from in-formal learning, in order to create an easier entrance to employment.

Activities

1. Website/digital meetings etc.

The thematic modules will be presented on the website, decided on the kick-off meeting. The digital meetings will be held mostly with representatives from the module groups. The groups will produce a resume, upload it on the website. Once a month we will update every institutions working progress as a resume. This resume includes the inspiration results shared within the thematic modules from the last network meeting as well as inspiration from the blogs. The module groups will also provide a resume from every module for the newsletter by mail to the project leader. The organisations will give and receive inspiration as well as give constructive feed-back. For dissemination we will create links and texts - as well as visual examples of best ideas/practices. News-letter will be produced at the number of four in order to provide dissemination. The newsletters will provide introduction to the main topics areas and the progress/results from the module groups. Ppt/texts from lecturers external as well as internal will be presented on the web. Dissemination via social medias in local languages, documentation for dissemination on the website.

2. Three seminars/physical network meetings

2014: September 23-26, Kick-off meeting in Vilnius, with presentation of project timeline to be observed and tracked throughout the life of the project. Presentation to evaluate the project including evaluator. Setting up thematic moduls in respect of topics trough brainstorming method. Presentations: KASAM (Antonofsky) and "The role of forest in Lithuanian literature."

2015: September 26-28 Stockholm: Every module groups presents video and or photo documentations within the common topic. Each participant take responsibility for sharing substantial information relevant for the commons tasks. External Lecture: Motivation/social competences in the labor market.

2016: April 26-28 in Helsinki: Presentation of the results of the different module groups regarding the identification of the non-formal and formal best ideas/practices. The overall aim is to make sure that the existing network is sustainable and want to proceed forward for the win-win effect of working successfully with the young drop outs in our countries. Internal lecture: Recognize and formalize earlier gained competences. Sharing different ways to validate competences. Evaluation from the external evaluator.

Anchoring

The coordinating organisation is the initial Engine in starting the anchoring process. Digital meetings in thematic modules once a month during the lifetime of the thematic network where colleagues, our target-groups as well as adult learners can become integrated in the network. The participating institutions will find or articles, links, letters and collaborate in the website as well as provide photo or video documentation for activities carried on within the common modules. Each participant will take responsibility in providing substantial information collaboration and common tasks and be willing to learn about good experience/practices from other institutions and cultural environments and possibly apply some of them in own institution. The reflections of each and every organisation is essential to create an environment where everybody will feel inclusion and be able to have impact in the Project. Anybody will be able to participate in a chat in the web-blog for open discussions.

Results

Our goal is that every of the 17 participating organisations will make important and useful sustainable network within our Baltic and Nordic countries. We want to make the network sustainable and will create this plan in our first meeting so that all participants will be able to make useful inputs and feel included. As pedagogical institutions we know the importance of take part and collaborate with other colleagues. We will share best ideas and practices how to work with our common target groups of young Citizens in order to motivate them to go back studying and or enter the Labor market. Hopefully we trough this project will create a solid fundament for the network to develop new innovative cross sectorial methodologies in order to motivate our young citizens. Our wish is to have to further improve the learning environment, in respect of giving hope to and strengthen the link between adult learning working life and meet the challenges of modern citizenship.