

Erasmus + SMART4 Inclusion Kick Off in Bangor, Northern Ireland.



The first meeting of the SMART4 Inclusion project took place in Bangor, Northern Ireland in February 2020. Hosted by the lead partner Kilcooley Women’s Centre, The group met to review the project plan and the activities which will take place over the next 30 months.

The seven organisational partnership was established to develop new and innovative learning opportunities which would benefit the groups each of the partners work with in their respective countries

The partnership was formed through previous transnational project work which the groups have worked together on, to provide quality innovative training opportunities for adult learners.

The partner groups are:

- Kilcooley Women’s Centre, Northern Ireland
- ACDC, Suceava, Romania

- FAGIC, Catalonia, Spain
- Esplai, Barcelona, Spain
- Cooperative Sociale San Saturnino, Italy
- Gemeete S-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
- Tirantes, Netherlands

The project intends to develop an innovative model to evaluate pre existing competencies and create training content offering key competences combined with work based activities meant to raise the level of employability of vulnerable people.

The programme will develop a bespoke training course, which can be delivered in a face to face classroom setting, or via e-learning platforms. The project will train and equip local trainers to deliver the training, providing a long term learning solution, which can continue when the project concludes. The training manual, learning resources and programme will be available on the Erasmus+ results platform, providing free open access to anyone in the 28 member states to deliver at a local



Sharing Best Practice

The partner groups have a vast experience in both delivery of quality innovative programmes to disadvantaged groups at a local level and for sharing this expertise in partnerships across the European Union.

This best practice approach will be taken in the development of the SMART project to deliver a first class learning experience to all participants.

Main project objectives are:

- 1 Develop innovative learning approach combining interactive training and work based learning.
- 2 Develop Adult Educators' competences to develop training content offering key skills competences.
- 3 Establish an online network for adult educators trainers and mentors to share e-learning resources experience and best practices in work based settings to facilitate long term transnational collaboration and support the sustainability of project outputs
- 4 Strengthen cooperation and networking between different partner organizations carrying out educational activities.

Partner Spotlight



Kilcooley Women's Centre (KWC) was established in 1995, founded by volunteers with the ethos of social inclusion, helping disadvantaged groups, & promote community empowerment through lifelong learning. Employing 25 staff, 10 volunteers KWC annually supports over 1000 learners, working primarily with women, children & families to help improve their life chances & deliver high level outcomes, KWC operates a multi strand delivery/operational model, working in fields of training, education & employability, youth empowerment, inclusion in working life, childcare/early years, positive mental health/physical wellbeing, improved skills & employment opportunities for young people, inclusion for older people & support for active ageing/ageing well. The organisation promotes community relations, peace building (after NI Conflict) positive inter-relationships to help address long term unemployment, programmes to address wide spread economic inactivity in disadvantaged groups & improve educational attainment. KWC actively promotes positive proactive engagement with young people 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET), using bespoke nurturing & mentoring to support/assist young people, (who are furthest from labour market) establish continuous personal & professional planning to set goals, improve long term outcomes & lift aspirations. A strong focus is placed on providing a wrap around, holistic support service to participants/beneficiaries with indirect support to the wider family unit provided through empowerment programmes, signposting to services/family support through our Family Support Hub.

Next Meeting....



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The next partnership meeting will be held by our Romanian partner ACDC. Based in the north of Romania, Suceava is famed for its fabulous painted monasteries and beautiful countryside of Bukovina county. This meeting will enable the partners to explore and determine the content of the training materials, and delegate the partners to develop, test and finalise the content of modules. Each partner will promote the programme to begin the local dissemination



Project Management & Implementation



The Kick Off meeting was used to establish procedures on management, team tasking and team communication, outlining the specific requirements of the UK National Agency and audit compliance. All partners engaged during the meeting, promoting dialogue, discussion and co-operation. Communication was agreed for the exchange of documentation and SKYPE/ZOOM to ensure a multi-platform approach and continual project dissemination.

Common templates were agreed including the project logo, for example minutes of meetings and agendas were created and approved to ensure a consistent approach to administration. Key Report and Financial dates were agreed. Mobility dates were discussed and approved.

The partnership was a mix of individuals who had previous experience working together, with others who did not know each other or their organisations. The full partnership had never met physically before this meeting. This enabled the partnership which we 'formed' online digitally, to become real, and to move to the 'storming' stage, where relationships, trust and co-operation are established.

The project mobilisation was held in Bangor, Northern Ireland by the lead partner, Kilcooley Women's Centre. Dissemination was discussed, whilst officially dissemination was not 'counted' until there are intellectual outputs to distribute/circulate, partners were encouraged to promote the project and its opportunities from the outset.

For more information:

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