

BiTriMulti Training Course



Gives you(th) wings!

Evaluation and developments 2009-2010

With the recent launch of the new 2009 “EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering”, it is timely to emphasise the specific contribution of the BTM Training Course to objectives defined in the strategy.

In the field of education, where there is an overall commitment to the development of non-formal education, there is a specific target to, *fully use the range of tools established at EU level for the validation of skills*. The BTM course has been delivering the Youthpass validation

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framework for the past year, and the reflective learning process at its heart is fully embedded now in the BTM programme. There is a similar call to, *enhance skills recognition through Europass and Youthpass*, in the field of volunteering, to which BTM significantly contributes as most participants on the BTM courses are youth work

practitioners who function on a voluntary basis. Finally, in the field of social inclusion, BTM responds to the call to, *develop intercultural awareness and competences for all young people*, with intercultural learning being the connecting thread running throughout the BTM programme.

Further evaluation of the BTM Training Course, over the previous 12 months, has shown that the relevance of the Simulation Game (at the heart of the programme) to the capacity and motivation of participants to deliver youth exchanges in practice has increased. Participants have reported enhanced awareness of the preparation necessary to the organisation of an exchange, a growth in skills to develop projects and cooperate with potential partners, as well as an overall understanding of international youth exchanges.

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BTM has placed the reality of young people’s needs and the youth work aims of participants and their youth organisations at the centre of the Simulation Game, resulting in an **increased**

potential for contact making within the training course. In evaluation participants now report a stronger desire to realise a youth exchange, often with partners from the course.

BTM increasingly focuses on integrating young people's learning in its programme in a more

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fundamental way. **Participants, all actors in the youth work field, are supported in reviewing and reflecting on their own learning within the training course, and in how to assist young people to undertake similar reflection during the life of a youth exchange and beyond, in their own lives.**

This strengthened component of BTM enhances the place of Youthpass as a practical learning and reflection tool.

BTM also incorporates a **deeper discussion about the nature and purpose of youth work**

and what is meant by its “professionalisation”. This enables participants from different national and cultural youth work contexts to discuss the various functions of youth work and to share developmental ideas and examples of good practices. BTM explores the relationship between international youth exchanges and youth work in its local actuality. This improvement to the BTM programme is consistent with the commitment to the professionalisation of youth work, as described in the EU Strategy for Youth.

“...the BTM programme is consistent with the commitment to the professionalisation of youth work...”

BTM emphasizes the central principle of youth work, the involvement and the decision-making role and responsibility of young people. It does this taking into consideration the entire youth exchange process itself and, by extension, the reality of young people's lives. BTM underlines **the importance of youth exchange as a tool in a long term learning process for young people in the context of a youth work social developmental process, before, during and after the youth exchange.**

In conclusion, BTM continues to improve the quality of international youth exchanges and projects, particularly under the Youth In Action Programme. In achieving this, BTM contributes to developments in the contemporary youth work sector, thereby playing its role in the new EU Strategy for Youth.

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