

Call for Project Partners

Introduction

Akzente Salzburg and VHS Bhaktapur are looking for project partners to apply for funding under the current call for proposals: Erasmus+, Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, **Capacity Building in the field of youth**.¹

Objective of the project – planned duration 18 to 24 month – is to exchange knowledge and best practice on tools for assessing and formalizing skills that were acquire in non-formal and informal learning environments. These tools should be revised and improved with the purpose of applying them in the fields of career counseling and youth empowerment in each of the participating countries.

The exchange between the partner organizations shall improve the understanding of the particular situation in each country as far as the potential of youth work and of non-formal education is concerned. This increases awareness of the necessity to develop and improve tools to formally acknowledge skills that stem from a non-formal educational background.

The initiating organizations

akzente Salzburg is a non-profit, non-affiliated youth organization working since more than 25 years in the field of non-formal education and youth work. It is regional contact point for the Erasmus+: Youth in Action program and accredited as coordinating organization for the European Voluntary Service.

VHS Bhaktapur is a community learning center in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal. Besides various trainings and workshops with a special focus on youth, it develops since summer 2013 a comprehensive Career Counseling system, with the aim to be active on a bigger scale. An ICT-supported testing system assesses the personality profile of the students and matches it with a comprehensive job database, a project which is planned to have finished its pilot phase in Q2 2015. Offline testing and having a network of supportive counselors around this technology is a crucial part of the Career Disha Nepal project. Its expansion and recognition shall be driven further during the planned EU project.

Project activities

The first transnational meetings will focus on the exchange of knowledge and the current situation in all participating countries. As a next step this will lead to jointly work on tools, methods and activities for formalizing, visualizing and assessing skills and knowledge acquired in a non-formal educational background.

VHS Bhaktapur plans to develop an ability assessment tool supported to the highest feasible degree by ICT tools as well as working materials for counselors to improve professionalization and standardization in the field of career counseling. As far as the Nepali labor market is concerned skills from non-formal education are of high importance for many sectors (in particular for craftsmanship) and need to be visualized and formalized.

These core project activities shall be supported and rounded up by exchange programs:

¹ (http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices-capacity-building-in-field-youth-round2_en).

- Youth workers affiliated to the project partners and familiar with career counseling will meet and attend a training course to learn more about the acknowledgement and relevance of non-formal learning and to improve their skills in this field.
- An International Youth Exchange will be organized by and for young people in the ambit of all partner organizations. As far as the Nepali participants are concerned the focus will be on those who are not eligible for higher education. Apprentices from craftsmanship, students who failed their certification of higher education (SLC in Nepal) shall through digital and later in person peer-group experiences gain key competences (e.g. apply English as foreign language, social competences, intercultural competences), put their vocational training in context or get motivated for vocational training.
- All project activities should be supported by Volunteers as defined in the system of European Voluntary Service.

Third Partner Organization

We are looking for one more partner organization to enrich the proposed project, in the same time having the opportunity to develop together own methods, tools or services related to career and training & education counselling and the importance of non-formal education.

Applicable are various kinds of organizations from the following backgrounds:

- Organizations working on the formalization of skills stemming from non-formal educational background, educational counseling, career counseling and similar activities;
- Universities, research institutes and other higher education instates doing research and higher education in the field of informal learning, career counseling or similar fields;
- Any kind of organizations involved in developing counseling standards and non-formal education standards;

Contact

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In case your organisation is interested cooperating please contact us until **August 17** the latest. Deadline for submitting the project proposal is September 2.