



InVolve Short Staff Training in Potsdam harvested big impacts in local and regional communities

During the last three days of February 2018 the German partner organised a Short Staff Training which stood under the title *How to identify training gaps/needs in our volunteer community*. In the Newsletter (Edition March 2018) we already reported about this successful event. Almost all participating partner organised in the following time various events to discuss in their professional communities as well as target groups the main outcomes of the hold staff training. In addition, partners spread out the learned lessons in Potsdam, making use of their network.

For example, the Portuguese partner, Aproximar, prepared a contribution to the nation wide journal of the *Volunteering Portuguese Confederation*. In addition to that, our Portuguese colleagues informed extensively about the staff training during a workshop targeted to volunteers who are collaborating with the Portuguese prison system

An other example is offering the Spanish partner, who organised two activities (see picture below) with the aim of increasing self-control and capacity for decision-making incorporating some important aspects of the InVolve staff training.



What is InVolve about?

InVolve stands for **Increasing Volunteers' Skills across Europe**. Since 1st of November 2017 institutions and NGO from 10 European Member states are working together under the Erasmus + Partnership programme. Partners have asserted that there is a need to improve the training of volunteers and to design training programs that will focus on soft skill training in volunteering environments: The partnership creates a framework to support and push exchange of best practices of training arrangements related to enhancing soft skills and knowledge sharing in matters of curriculum, standards and tools for volunteer training (include staff training).

Learn more about InVolve on EPALE site, go to Communities of practice or contact the coordinator: dr.bautz@p4q.eu

Among several activities the Bulgarian partner hold a meeting with representatives of regional NGOs, educational organizations and sport clubs that are working with volunteer. The meeting was aimed to transfer the learned lessons to their local and regional homologs and, in the light of this lessons, to plan some common activities.

Identification of Good Practices

Following the agreed working schedule all InVolvE partner has initiated the process of scanning their national, regional or local environment to identify good practices and related experiences, products (curriculums, tool boxes, learning materials, etc.) regarding to training programs, activities or tools targeted strengthen volunteer soft skills for self management, conflict solving, psychic resilience focused to do their specific volunteer contribution and to ensure their well being.

Based on the discussions during the Kick-off-meeting and the followed agreements, the coordination developed a guideline¹ in order to establish among the partnership common criteria and procedure to identify good practices in volunteer training. During the transnational management meeting in Razlog, Bulgaria, in Mai 2018 partner agreed concrete steps to achieve the established respective partnership goals. After that meeting, all partner started with this important task, beginning an intensive process of exchange and analysis.

Short staff training in Velenje, Slovenia

Within the project activities of Increasing Volunteers' Skills across Europe – InVolvE two short staff training activities were planned targeted to staff members and decision makers. After realizing successfully, the first in February 2018 in Potsdam, Germany, the second one took place in Velenje, Slovenia, during 19 until 21 June 2018. During three days 38 persons from the 10 partner's institutions took part in this activity.



The main goal of this training was to continue raising awareness among staff members regarding the importance of soft skills and how to include in volunteers training. Within this frame, the short staff training activity organised by Slovenian partner was focussed on communication skills and related methods to strengthen these skills among volunteers by specific training.

The first day of training was dedicated to define the communication skills needed in different fields of voluntarism. This work unit was followed the second day by a workshop that after warming up and short introduction in

the intended content, worked out the following points:

- Importance of safe and supporting space for volunteers and the rules of communication
- Connective communication and it's significance in voluntary work
- Basic principals of connective communication

The third day of training was focussed on practicable methods to build up communication skills and related good practices.

¹ The guideline can be downloaded from EPALE-Platform, going to the group *Increasing Volunteers' Skills across Europe – InVolvE*

Aproximar



The Portuguese partner **Aproximar** organised in June 2018 a workshop that was targeted to professionals of the prison system professionals as well as volunteers. One of the main issues discussed during the workshop was strengthening the soft skills of volunteers working with prisoners. The workshop was attended by more than 70 persons.

European Connexion

The French partner hold different meetings with volunteers working in local focused NGO. The overall aim of those activities were to discuss their experience regarding training issues and the possibilities to be included in InVolve - project.

European Connexion has decided to participate in “Erasmus Days” which will be organised in October 12th/13th, 2018. The activities developed within this frame will provide a great opportunity to present InVolve - project to broader communities: local associations, local authorities at different levels.

Evrocentar Obuchenie I Partnyorstvo 21 Vek.

The Bulgarian Partner prepared an extended information about the training seminar in Potsdam and published it in the website of the town of Razlog. At the same time various Bulgarian colleagues were engaged in different activities to inform about InVolve- project among professional and local communities.

Gesellschaft für Inklusion und Soziale Arbeit



The German partner hold 12 July a meeting with volunteers and professionals targeted to discussion training needs of volunteers. The active discussion was presided by the Secretary of State for of Social Affairs, Ms. Almuth Hartwig-Tiedt.

Oesterreichische Jungarbeiterbewegung ÖJAB



In May the ÖJAB received a study visit of two representatives of Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

In different occasions the Austrian partner organised internal meetings of national management team, with the presence of the deputy managing director of ÖJAB, with the aim to define the strategy to follow identifying good practices and the possible organisations to be contacted in order to exchange experiences regarding volunteer training.

During the national assembly of the *Network for coordination of volunteers*, which units 39 different institutions, Ms. Michalea Logan informed about InVolvE.