



European Cooperation

In Vocational Education and Training

Mobility Initiative





OBJECTIVES OF THE MOBILITY INITIATIVE

The Mobility Initiative aims to provide participants with the opportunity to acquire the skills for being involved in European cooperation initiatives field of VET (vocational education and training) also being able to access and manage European funds available for this purpose.

The Mobility Initiative will provide participants with the skills to enable them to:

- Understand and make their way through the community funding opportunities managed by the European Commission
- Interpret correctly a call for proposal for funding
- Develop effective project ideas
- Collect all necessary documents for the project submission
- Create an appropriate transnational project partnership .
- Fill in the Application Form for the submission of a European Project
- Plan Financial Aspects of the project application
- Carry out the necessary procedures for the presentation of a project

EXPECTED RESULTS

The individuals who will be involved in the Mobility Initiative will acquire the skills to:

- Understand the potentials offered by European cooperation initiatives in the field of vocational education and training
- Access EU funding opportunities managed by the European Commission in their field of interest
- Use community resources in their professional field in order to carry out development projects.
- Prepare Project Application Forms to be submitted to the European Commission requesting funds for the carrying out of transnational cooperation activities
- Set up effective transnational partnerships in the field of vocational education and training (VET)

Furthermore, the Mobility Initiative will give the participants the opportunity to meet with managers and directors of the Tuscan organizations who are active in the field of European cooperation in the VET sector. As a consequence of this effective contacts will be activated that will be the basis for the development of trans European cooperation initiatives in the field of education and training.

ROLE OF PIXEL AS HOST ORGANIZATION

Pixel organize the mobility initiative at local level.

Pixel is in charge of the implementation of the programme, of the liaising with local bodies, of the preparation of the visits, of the tutoring during the visits, of the language assistance, of the monitoring and supervision etc.

A representative of Pixel will be accompanying the group during each visit to the local bodies, providing practical assistance in the reaching the institutions to be visited, giving assistance during the visit, making all the necessary reciprocal introductions, moderating the visit and providing linguistic support.

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RELEVANCE OF THE INITIATIVE

The Mobility Initiative is relevant to respond to the needs of the participants involved because it will give them the opportunity to:

- Better understand the specific characteristics of how European cooperation activities are organized in the field of vocational education and training in Italy, and in Tuscany in particular, and get to know what public bodies and vocational education and training institutions are doing in order to enhance the quality of their European cooperation initiatives.
- Get to know and understand, in a comparative approach, how European cooperation and internationalization initiatives in the field of vocational education and training sector are organised and managed in Italy and in Tuscany in particular in order to highlight main differences and points in common with the own country system and to identify possible Best Practices to be shared.
- Get to know the European cooperation initiatives in the field of vocational education and training sector organized and managed by Italian organizations through meetings with the key actors working in the field, both at Public and Private level, and therefore learning about different existing experiences and work methods of another European Country (i.e. Italy).
- Get in contact with the main actors in the field of European cooperation for the vocational education and training sector of Tuscany.
- Share points of view with colleagues from the vocational education and training sector in Italy who are involved in European cooperation initiatives.
- Develop, during the visits to vocational education and training institutions working in the area of European cooperation important contacts to be exploited in future cooperation initiatives and partnerships.

PREPARATION

The participants involved in the Mobility Initiative, before the beginning of the mobility project will have to:

- Carry out a brief study in the field of European cooperation for the vocational education and training sectors and prepare a list of questions and topics of discussion that will be proposed to the representatives of each of the Italian public and private institutions working in the field they will visit during the Mobility Initiative. The questions and topics of discussions will be shared with the hosting institutions and will then be proposed to each of the institutions visited so to foster the effectiveness of the meetings.
- Carry out a brief presentation of own country's initiatives in the field of European cooperation for the vocational education and training sector to be presented to each of the institutions visited in order to enhance the sharing of mutual challenges and of best practices.

EVALUATION AND FINAL CERTIFICATION

Each participant in the Mobility Initiative, at the end of the mobility period, is asked to fill in an evaluation form focusing on all aspects of their mobility experience in Italy. The evaluation forms are collected by Pixel and they are used to create an evaluation Report on the experience. The results of the evaluation are used for the planning of further mobility initiatives that will be based on the strengths of the experiences concluded and will overcome the weaknesses.

Each participant involved in the Mobility Initiative receive a the Europass Mobility document to record the competences and experiences acquired during the initiative itself. The document is produced in cooperation between Pixel and the promoting institution. Also, every participant receives a Certificate of Participation in the mobility initiative that provides all the relevant information on the activities carried out during the mobility initiative.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MOBILITY INITIATIVE

Objectives	<p>The Mobility Initiative aims at providing participants with the skills to enable them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the potentials offered by European cooperation initiatives in the field of vocational education and training • Access EU funding opportunities managed by the European Commission in their field of interest • Use community resources in their professional field in order to carry out development projects. • Prepare Project Application Forms to be submitted to the European Commission requesting funds for the carrying out of transnational cooperation activities • Set up an effective transnational partnerships in the VET sector
Methodology	<p>The Mobility Initiative will be structured as follows: practical training course and selected Mobility Initiatives.</p> <p>The complete Mobility Initiative will last one week.</p> <p>The practical training course will be held in a multimedia laboratory where each participant will have direct access to a PC . The approach used is highly practical, based on the expertise of the course trainers who have over 15 years experience in planning and managing activities funded by the European Commission, mainly in the Culture, Education and Training sectors.</p> <p>A practical simulation will be carried out for each topic in focus. The practical simulation will be based on the use of the services, databases and documentation made available, on-line, by the European Union. The objective of the practical activity is the simulation of the development and presentation of a European project.</p>
Follow Up	<p>After the course, the Forum space will remain active so course participants can continue to interact with one another and with the course tutor to discuss themes and topics related to the course.</p>
Certification	<p>All participants will receive a certificate of attendance with details on the specific training contents developed as well as the skills acquired.</p>



THE HOST ORGANIZATION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Pixel promotes internationalization and European Cooperation in the fields of Education, Training and Culture.

Pixel was established in Florence (Italy) in 1999.

The main activity of Pixel is the planning and management of European projects. Pixel has been and is involved in over 70 European projects.

Pixel has significant experience in the following areas:

- Direct submission as promoter or coordinator of European Projects. 70 projects were successfully carried out to date. Some of the European programmes that funded the projects in which Pixel was and is involved are: Socrates ODL; Socrates Minerva, Socrates Grundtvig, Socrates Lingua, eLearning, Leonardo da Vinci, Lifelong Learning (Sub Programmes: Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig and Transversal Programme).
- Consultancy, support and advice for planning and managing transnational projects for European Universities and public bodies. This activity results in the participation in European projects either as partner or subcontractor in charge of the project quality.
- In Service Training and Assistance addressed to Public Authorities, Universities, Schools, Training Institution, Cultural Associations in the field of European cooperation.
- Direct submission as promoter or coordinator of Projects funded by the European Social Fund. 40 projects carried out to date.
- Organization of international Mobility Initiatives, mobility and exchanges
- Organization of international conferences in the field of education and training

Pixel has developed cooperative agreements and partnerships throughout Europe with over 400 institutions. Pixel's European partners are: ministries, universities, schools, regions, provinces, municipalities, training institutions, research centres, cultural institutions, schools, hospitals etc. in 30 different European countries.

Pixel is engaged in a constant improvement in the quality of training and consulting services performed. Pixel obtained quality certification according to UNI EN ISO 9001:2000. Pixel is accredited as a training agency in the Ministry of Education. Pixel is accredited as a training agency in the region of Tuscany.

More information on the expertise of Pixel can be found at: <http://www.pixel-online.net> and at <http://europlan.pixel-online.org/>

STAFF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

The staff involved in the Mobility Initiative is:

- Elisabetta Delle Donne, the president of Pixel. She graduated in Political Sciences – International Affairs from the University of Florence in 1993. Since then she has constantly been working in the field of European cooperation. Elisabetta Delle Donne is an expert in the planning and management of European projects focusing in particular on the areas of education, training and culture. So far Elisabetta Delle Donne has been involved as project planner and manager in more than 90 projects funded by the European Commission. She has developed and coordinated partnerships with more than 400 bodies throughout Europe, including universities, public authorities, training organisations, schools, research centres etc. Elisabetta Delle Donne is often invited as a speaker or expert at International Conferences to present her European cooperation experiences and the European projects in which she is involved. She is also the main trainer in the international seminar "European Project Planning and Management". She is also involved as external expert in quality management and external evaluator in European projects mostly funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme.
- Dr. Andrea Peraldo, graduated in Political Science from the University of Florence, works at Pixel since 1999. Andrea Peraldo has been involved in the planning and management of more than 20 projects funded by the European Commission in the field of education and training. Andrea Peraldo has also been the project manager of more than 15 projects funded by the European Social Fund.

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THE MOBILITY INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

Time		Contents
DAY 1	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sources on the EU policies in the fields of vocational education and training Information sources on the relevant European funding programmes in the field of vocational education and training Finding and analyzing the information Collection of relevant documents for the European project planning Checking admissibility criteria <i>Practical simulations</i>
	Afternoon	Mobility Initiative at CIPAT, A Regional Consortium of Vocational Institution representing over 40 public vocational schools. It will be possible to meet the staff in charge of European cooperation to learn about their experience and also investigate on possible cooperation.
DAY 2	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European project planning process Formulation of the project ideas for European cooperation projects in the VET field Creation of the project presentation document Quality issues related to European project planning <i>Practical simulations</i>
DAY 3	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Partner search strategies Creating the transnational project partnership First contacts with partners Defining the role of each partner <i>Practical simulations</i>
	Afternoon	Mobility Initiative at Technical and Industrial Vocational Institute "Leonardo da Vinci" of Florence. It will be possible to visit the institute's classrooms and laboratory as well as the science and technical museum they created. A meeting with the staff in charge of European cooperation will also be organized in order to learn about their experience in the field and also investigate on possible cooperation.
DAY 4	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Planning for European cooperation projects in the field of VET Eligibility of expenditures Development of the budget <i>Practical simulations</i>
DAY 5	Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the main aspects of the European project application form European Project selection criteria Evaluation of the projects developed Project approval process <i>Practical simulations</i>
	Afternoon	Mobility Initiative at Veb European Academy of Florence to meet with the staff in charge of European cooperation to interview them on their experience in the field and also investigate on possible cooperation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Target Group	Professionals, Managers, teachers and trainers working in vocational education and training; managers of public authorities in charge of vocational education and training.
Languages	The Mobility Initiative will be held in English
Location	Florence (Italy)
Total Duration	1 week
Fees	<p>Option 1: € 1.200 per person. The fee includes an all inclusive package: Organizational costs: Implementation of the program locally: liaison with local bodies, preparation of the visits, tutoring during the visits, language assistance, monitoring and supervision etc. Accommodation for 6 nights (arrival on Sunday and departure on Saturday) in single rooms with private bathrooms Breakfasts, lunches, dinners.</p> <p>Option 2: € 1.050 per person. The fee includes an all inclusive package: Organizational costs: Implementation of the program locally: liaison with local bodies, preparation of the visits, tutoring during the visits, language assistance, monitoring and supervision etc. Accommodation for 6 nights (arrival on Sunday and departure on Saturday) in shared double rooms (for 2 people) with private bathrooms Breakfasts, lunches, dinners.</p> <p>Option 3: € 900 per person. The fee includes an all inclusive package: Organizational costs: Implementation of the program locally: liaison with local bodies, preparation of the visits, tutoring during the visits, language assistance, monitoring and supervision etc. Accommodation for 6 nights (arrival on Sunday and departure on Saturday) in shared rooms for 4 people with private bathrooms Breakfasts, lunches, dinners.</p> <p>Option 4: € 800 per person. The fee includes an all inclusive package: Organizational costs: Implementation of the program locally: liaison with local bodies, preparation of the visits, tutoring during the visits, language assistance, monitoring and supervision etc. Accommodation for 6 nights (arrival on Sunday and departure on Saturday) in shared rooms for 4 people with private bathrooms Breakfasts, lunches</p> <p><i>The fees are related to groups of minimum 12 participants. For smaller groups the price could be higher.</i></p>



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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