



# Innovative Practices in Vocational Education and Training

Study Visit





## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT

The study visit aims to provide participants with the opportunity to get to know and compare with own experience, the strategies and practices for the management of vocational education and training initiatives in Italy.

The specific objectives of the “Innovative Practices in Vocational Education and Training” Mobility Initiative is to give participants the opportunity to:

- Acquire a better understanding of the Italian and Tuscan Vocational Education and Training system
- Acquire knowledge about the current policies and strategies for the organisation and management of the Vocational Education and Training system
- Acquire information about how Vocational Education and Training systems are organised and managed in Italy and in Tuscany in particular
- Experience the delivery of lectures in the field of interest of the participants in both vocational education schools and training institutions
- Acquire information of the existing methods and experiences for the organisation and management of vocational education and training initiatives
- Share best practices with vocational education and training institutions both at public and private level
- Develop new contacts and explore opportunities of cooperation with public and private institutions operating in the Educational and Vocational Training system in Tuscany

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The individuals who participate in the study visit will have the opportunity to get to know new methods, strategies and solutions for a successful management and development of educational and vocational training initiatives within the public and private Vocational Education and Training system in Italy and in Tuscany in particular.

Furthermore, the programme will give the participants the opportunity to meet with school directors and teachers, with managers of public and private training institutions and with public key policy makers operating in the vocational educational and training system and share with them experiences, problems and best practices.

## 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 “Innovative Practices in Vocational Education and Training” Study Visit is relevant to respond to the needs of the participants involved because it will give them the opportunity to:

- Better understand the specific characteristics, strength and main challenges that the Vocational Education and Training system is facing in Italy, and in Tuscany in particular, and get to know what the public bodies, schools and training agencies are doing in order to enhance the quality of the education and vocational training offer and services.
- Get to know and understand, in a comparative approach, how the Vocational Education and Training systems 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.
- Have a direct contact and get to know the Italian Vocational Education and Training system 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 Italy.
- Share points of view with Italian colleagues, in order compare everyday challenges and common problems and share the most effective solutions adopted to face them effectively. This will give the participants involved the opportunity to develop a more aware and open minded point of view.
- Develop, during the visits to schools, public bodies and training agencies working in the educational and vocational training systems, important contacts to be exploited in future cooperation initiatives and partnerships.

## PREPARATION

The participants involved in the “Innovative Practices in Vocational Education and Training” Mobility Initiative, before the beginning of the mobility project will have to:

- Carry out a brief study on the Italian vocational education and training system and prepare a list of questions and topics of discussion that will be proposed to the representatives of each public and private institution they will meet with, during the study visit. 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 Vocational Education and Training system organisation 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.



# THE HOST ORGANIZATION

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The study visit is organized by Pixel. The mission of Pixel is the promotion of internationalization and European Cooperation.

Pixel was established in Florence (Italy) in 1999 and has therefore over 10 years of experience in the following areas:

- Organization of international training initiatives
- Organization of international study visits, mobility and exchanges
- Organization of international conferences in the field of education and training
- Direct submission as a promoter or coordinator of European projects
- Organization of international conferences in the field of education and training

In Italy, and in Tuscany in particular, Pixel cooperates with several organizations organizing and delivering vocational education and training initiatives. Pixel has also close cooperation with public bodies in charge of education and training methodologies, strategies and policies.

In Europe Pixel has several contacts with several organizations working in the field of vocational education and training, and has participated in several European projects in the field, mostly Leonardo and Comenius multilateral projects funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme. The projects in which Pixel was and is involved focus on: training of trainers, in-service teachers training, prevention of early school leaving, language training, training on tourism, training on quality issues etc. etc. More information about these projects can be found at: <http://www.pixel-online.net>.

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

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

## STAFF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

The study visit, at Pixel, is organized by:

- Dr. Elisabetta Delle Donne has over 15 years of experience in the planning and management of international education and training events. She is in charge of the creation of the programme for the group of participants, of the identification of the trainers and experts who deliver the practical course, who are chosen among the network of about 100 experts who continuously cooperate with Pixel.

- Dr. Andrea Peraldo has over 9 years experience in the planning and management of international education and training events. He is in charge of accompanying the group during each visit to the institutions, giving assistance in the use of Public transports, moderating the visit and giving linguistic assistantship when necessary

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# THE STUDY VISIT PROGRAMME

Day	Time Table	Contents
DAY 1 Monday	Morning 9:00 – 13:30 Training in Pixel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of participants</li> <li>• Presentation of the Study Visit programme and of practical issues</li> <li>• The Italian Vocational Education and Training system</li> <li>• Changes in the Italian vocational education and training policies</li> </ul>
	Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural visit of Florence</li> </ul>
DAY 2 Tuesday	Morning 9:00 – 13:00 Study Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study visit at Vocational Education Public School “Galileo Galilei” of Florence. It will be possible to meet the school director and teachers so as to learn about their strategies and practices. It will also be possible to visit the school classrooms and laboratories and attend a lecture delivered to the students and have a discussion with the teachers.</li> </ul>
	Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Time for visiting Florence and the surroundings</li> </ul>
DAY 3 Wednesday	Morning 10:00 – 12:00 Study Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study Visit at Cipat. A Regional Consortium of Public Vocational Education Schools representing over 40 public vocational education schools. It will be possible to meet the director of the consortium to learn about their experience in assisting the schools in management issues. A meeting with the staff will also be organized in order to learn about their experience and also investigate on possible cooperation.</li> </ul>
	Afternoon 15:00 – 17:00 Study Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study Visit at CTP (Territorial Permanent Centre) – Centre for the re-inclusion of Adults in the vocational education and training systems . It will be possible to meet the school director and teachers so as to learn about their strategies and practices. It will also be possible to visit the school classrooms and laboratories and attend a lecture delivered to the students and have a discussion with the teachers.</li> </ul>
DAY 4 Thursday	Morning 10:00 – 12:00 Study Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit at the Tuscany Region County Council and meeting with the councilor in charge of the Education and Vocational Training policies</li> </ul>
	Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study visit at IRECOOP, a Training Agency accredited by the Tuscany Region. It will be possible to meet the staff in charge of educational research and learn about their strategies, it will also be possible to meet the staff to learn about their experience.</li> </ul>
DAY 5 Friday	Morning 9:00 – 13:30 Training in Pixel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European policies in the field of vocational education and training</li> <li>• The European programmes funding vocational education and training initiatives</li> <li>• Information sources on EU fundings</li> <li>• Finding and analyzing the information</li> </ul>
	Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Time for visiting Florence and the surroundings</li> </ul>



## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Target Group</b>	Experts, Managers, Professionals, Teachers and Trainers working in Vocational Education and Training Institutions
<b>Languages</b>	The Mobility Initiative will be held in English
<b>Location</b>	Florence (Italy)
<b>Total Duration</b>	1 week
<b>Fees</b>	<p><b>Option 1:</b>  <b>€ 1.200 per person.</b>            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><b>Option 2:</b>  <b>€ 1.050 per person.</b>            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><b>Option 3:</b>  <b>€ 900 per person.</b>            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><b>Option 4:</b>  <b>€ 800 per person.</b>            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

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