

How to plan your future: a guide to a successful career?

The Rationale

Today's society is rapidly changing. Keeping up with these transformations is a challenge. The educational systems must keep-up with the mutations in the social environment and assure the proper education and training for the future "pillars" of society, our students.

That is why a serious investment in people is necessary, weather we are referring to administrative staff, teachers or pupils. Especially for pupils, choosing a path in life is somehow challenging. They are influenced by their parent's desires, confused by the various options that lie before them, superficial when it comes to make the right choices.

At each participating organisation there are pupils that are potential school drop-outs and, due to that, in need of special attention.

Additionally, many pupils that are not at risk of early leaving school still require intensified or special support in their studies. We have identified the need and wish to be able to address the different needs of these pupils with various learner profiles.

When discussing our priorities, we realized that the pedagogical and didactic approaches that we are going to develop and share together regarding the pupils with heterogeneous profiles, will in fact benefit all pupils.

Our project aims to assist our students on their way to choosing a career. We want to help them to know themselves better, to know the society in which they will work, gain more confidence in themselves and, thus, make the appropriate decisions about their future careers.

Also, our project seeks to support didactic performance and efficiency, helping educators reach their goals in terms of educating their students.

We plan to reach our goals by using innovative methods, involving parents and local communities in our didactic approaches. It will be even more motivational for students as we will develop activities at an international level, by using both a large variety of ICT means and also planning face-to-face meetings.

Our transnational cooperation and the planned motilities will offer more equal opportunities for all pupils to learning in both formal and non-formal contexts. Collaboration between the three countries will also enable the transfer of good practices and innovative methods onto the other participating countries.

Our activity will be based on the premise that school is the foundation of a successful career.

Our partnership was developed via Internet, on the eTwinning platform. Later on, partners discuss their idea using ICT tools like: emails, Skype meetings, Facebook, etc. We started from the premise that all partners are equal and every idea was taken into consideration and discussed. All partners will be involved in project activities and have committed to finish their tasks on time.

The project schedule was established by partners, in collaboration. Every school proposed dates for projects activities, for project meetings, disseminating activities, etc. in accordance with their internal school program and plan of educational events.

On the partnership level, the coordinating school will make sure the activities will be accomplished on time and will monitor the progress made. It will be in permanent contact with the partners and it will propose the necessary adjustments, if it will be the case. It will create a WhatsApp group, so that partners will be in permanent contact. It will also keep a close contact with the National Agency, in case any modifications must be done.

The Project

Our project will focus on empowering students so that they may choose a suitable career, in accordance with their interests and talents. That is why the coordinating school was determined to find partner schools interested on the topic, determined to assure a positive evolution for their students. All partner schools have implemented projects, have developed activities and organize special meetings in order to ease students' access to information and help them make the right choice. Each school has class counsellors, which help students choose the proper path in order to achieve their goals.

Students should be told of social gender roles and guided to make their choices accordingly. Gender inequality in school education is an important obstacle for Turkey. It is well known that Turkey is a prime example of a country of paradoxes when it comes to gender discrimination in education with negative effects on future careers.

The pupils will be involved in the project at all stages, directly from planning to evaluation. Before the project starts, they will be informed of the planned contents and activities, and their ideas will be taken into account in every point. In the implementation, they will do their tasks and keep up regular contact with their partners. They will be encouraged to reflect their impressions of the project process on their own way. Before hosting their partners, when preparing their partners' visit, the pupils of the hosting school will be divided into groups and have different tasks and roles.

Moreover, Career Planning is a lifelong process that starts in school. Studies show that students mostly choose their jobs incidentally, not according to their skills or talents but according to the economic advantages they get in their future profession. These choices are directly affected by the economic situation of the region or the rate of early school leaving.

In order to have more people from Turkey benefiting from this Project, we will involve two Turkish schools. Students' priorities in career planning will change thanks to this Project. Furthermore, it will have positive effects and will bring educational benefits to all of the participating countries. The two partner schools in Turkey are located in different regions and the students' life conditions are different. This will help us get more qualified data for our project and the target group of the dissemination activities will consist of a pretty young population.

In each partner institution, the contact person will assure a permanently communication with the partners and National Agencies and will ensure that the previously established schedule will be respected. It will coordinate the work done and collaborate with school staff in order to involve as many people in the project, making sure that the partnership will reach its goals.

The Learning and Training Activities

As an added value, our project will facilitate communication and collaboration between schools from European Union member states. It will be a new opportunity to integrate new technologies in the learning process, it will improve communication in foreign languages and enhance knowledge and inter-cultural dialogue.

Students gain in terms of self-confidence, as they see the concrete way their personal efforts are being valued and in terms of development of their skills. They will have access to exchange of cultural values and traditions, being able to socialize with students from Europe, benefiting from their experience and ideas. Project activities will develop creativity, practical skills and experimentation, group discussions, information sharing, comparing, sharing of experiences, helping them to develop their own system of values in which there are no barriers to diversity.

For teachers, our project will offer new educational tools and professional development opportunities so that the final beneficiary is the student. It will help them create a proper environment for an attractive learning.

In order to achieve our goals, the partners have decided to establish 2 Learning/Teaching/Training Activities:

The first meeting in April 2017 in United Kingdom. The school will organize an activity about self-knowledge and personal development "Know yourself, find your model in life". Students will present their models in the career field and they will get inspired.

The second meeting in Granada, Spain. The school will organize a "Career Fair", preparing various activities on the topic.

In each activity, the partner schools will participate with 2 teachers and 4 students and the meeting will last for 5 days. We propose that students will be hosted by families but we can't be sure of it therefore if they won't be hosted, they need the hotel so we should demand the hotel budget for students.

Extra, partners will create:

- project logo;
- project poster;
- brochures;
- website of the project;
- Erasmus+ corner;
- guest book;
- eTwinning page;
- You Tube channel;
- "Career" magazine;
- photo album, etc.

There will be also two transnational meetings: in October 2016, in Germany and in October 2017, in Turkey.