



Connection
To
Care
and
Career



Newsletter

nr. 1 July 2011

A regional plan for structural and permanent cooperation between Noorderpoort, municipalities and other organisations to prevent early school leaving.

Background

The prevention of early school leaving is generally seen as the responsibility of educational institutions. In the C2CC project, however, it is the joint responsibility of all of the project parties. C2CC has prompted a group of participants in North Groningen to work towards a regional plan for structural and permanent cooperation. Noorderpoort Appingedam, CMO Groningen, ISD Noordoost, RMC and compulsory education officers are successfully working together to reduce the number of early school leavers. They use the Finnish Training Guarantee Model as a starting point.

The Training Guarantee Model

The Finnish model seeks to reduce the number of early school leavers by:

- Improving the quality of care and guidance available at and outside the school
- Better coordinating the care and guidance systems
- Preventively referring youngsters to internal and external care more often
- Strengthening the collaboration between education and other stakeholders, aiming for a permanent structure

Project partners in the Netherlands, Germany and Lithuania first familiarised themselves with the Finnish model. They then implemented successful parts of the model, extending and reinforcing them depending on the partner's specific situation.

International cooperation

Noorderpoort is secretary of the C2CC project. The Dutch project partners are ISD Noordoost and CMO Groningen. The German partners are ABI (Arbeit Bildung Innovation) and the Evangelische Reformierte Kirche, both from Leer. Lithuania is represented by UAB Kauno Petrašiūnų. The Finnish partner, the Turun Ammatti Instituutti from Turku, was responsible for developing and implementing the Training Guarantee Model.

Information was exchanged during several international visits.

The project was launched in the Netherlands in December 2009. Then, in February 2010, the project partners visited Finland to observe the Finnish model in Turku. This was followed by a visit to Leer in June 2010 and to Lithuania in June 2011. The Finnish experts repeatedly visited the other project partners to offer support and to evaluate the project. The closing conference of the C2CC project will be held in November 2011 in Groningen.

Implementation

The following preconditions must be fulfilled for the successful introduction of the Finnish model in Groningen:

- Management and organisation must be committed
- Good methods and tools must be available
- Cooperation between schools, communities, employers and other (care) organisations must be strengthened
- The competencies of teachers and other professionals need attention
- Parent participation must be improved
- Good legislation and regulation are required
- Financial aspects must be quantified ('saving by spending')

The C2CC pilot project is currently underway at Noorderpoort in Appingedam. Students of this school for Vocational Education, aged 16-23, receive training for jobs in healthcare / wellness or the business community. The school and other partners developed an intensive collaboration structure in order to reduce and prevent early school leaving. Below are a few of our early achievements.

- We are working hard to streamline the transition from pre-vocational education to vocational education.
- We are reinforcing and improving counselling and guidance structures, among other things by setting up Guidance and Advice Teams and Care and Advice

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Teams.

- We designed a flow-chart for internal and external care and guidance. It is linked to a face book that shows the roles, functions and responsibilities of everyone involved.
- Teachers receive additional training in early signalling and in digital monitoring and registration systems.
- We developed new methods for improving the transition from school to work. Job coaching as well as job hunting were used for Noorderpoort students before they applied for social benefits.
- There is cooperation in a range of areas, varying from debt problems to job application, from knowledge of the labour market to special programmes for young mothers.
- We developed new methods for exchanging information. The implementation of an improved intake procedure and the use of the early school leaving scan are helpful in this.
- Guidance and career counselling are made easily accessible. To this end teachers receive additional training, coordination is improved and procedures are streamlined.

then they received guidance. This is what happened to them:

- 5 of them found a job, with 3 going back to school in September
- 2 of them were guided back to school
- 4 of them still receive guidance
- 2 of them moved to other regions



This means that the C2CC cooperation prevented 13 social benefit applications, which saves € 182,000. Participating in this project is working on preventive damage control, and it is paying off.

We are positive about the implementation of the Finnish Training Guarantee Model as an innovation in North Groningen. We are definitely on the right track.

Results

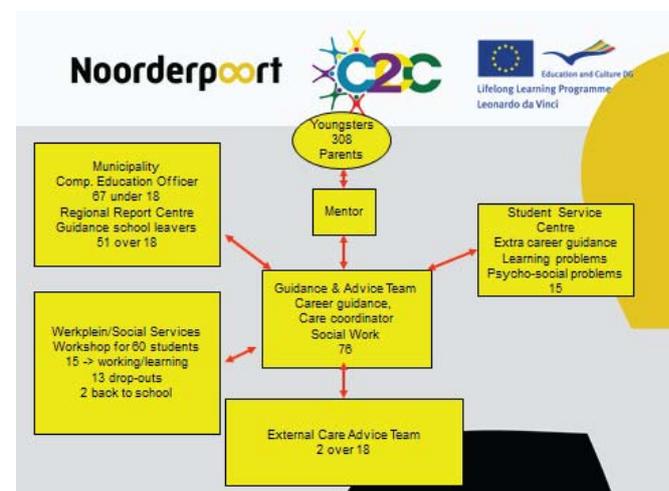
A first analysis shows that C2CC is on the right track. Not only are we reducing the number of drop-outs, but we also monitor them well in several stages. Both internal and external parties are actively involved.

The results of qualitative and quantitative measurements between 1 October 2010 and 1 May 2011 were compared with data from the previous year.

In 2009/2010 300 students were enrolled in secondary vocational education (business services and care/welfare) at the Noorderpoort school in Appingedam. 31 students, or 9.6%, dropped out. In 2010/2011 308 students signed up at the same school. Since the launch of C2CC, 13 students dropped out between October 2010 and May 2011. That is 4.2% of the total number of students.

Even more important than the reduced number of drop-outs is the fact that we now have a complete overview of all of the students who were discussed and received guidance in the internal care system. The cooperation between the RMC (Regional Reporting and Coordination Centre) and the compulsory education officer is quite effective. They arranged support to be given to more than 50 young people in the 18+ target group. These youngsters, no longer in school age, were about to drop out for several reasons. In the end "only" 13 really dropped out but even

Summary of students monitored in 2010/2011





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Michel Dammer,
jobcoach at Werkplein Eemsdelta

Werkplein Eemsdelta

Werkplein Eemsdelta participates in the C2CC project with the aim of minimising the number of young people in the region who apply for benefits. In cooperation with several partners we talk to potential school leavers and inform them about the consequences of early school leaving.

If a youngster appears to have made the wrong choice, we look at how we can guide them to work and learning. The best solution may be a combination of working and learning, supporting the youngster in finding a new study or helping them find a good job. One of our goals is to convince as many young people as possible to get a qualification. This will improve their chances in the labour market. In addition, we try to inform as many youngsters as possible about the labour market in our region.

One example is the workshop we gave to level 2 Care Assistant students of Noorderpoort. We informed them about the opportunities they have with their diploma. We also told them that they control their own future. Investing in the future right now will increase their options in a few years. If you plan to work in the care sector, you will need a driving licence in addition to your qualifications. After all, your workplace is all over the region. Getting a job in your home town is an exception. If you want to get a driving licence in a few years, you should get a job now and start saving. Most of the students had not thought about that.

Gea Huttinga,
Care/Welfare teacher

Noorderpoort - Appingedam

I am involved in the C2CC project on behalf of the welfare/care vocational training of Noorderpoort. The first project meeting was about the ideas and goals of the project. Being involved in the internships of the students, I was assigned to the Labour work group.

An excellent idea came up during one of the meetings - to offer a workshop to second-year Care Assistant students. A work group of 4 was formed to discuss which topics would be interesting for such a workshop. One fine afternoon, 17 participants and two teachers visited Werkplein Delfzijl.

After a warm welcome Michel gave a presentation about Werkplein. He told the group about the people who work there and what they do. He gave information about job opportunities for care assistants in the region, and also a lot of tips about how to write a resume. The students were very pleased with all this.

In the evaluation, back at school, the students showed great enthusiasm and said the presentation had definitely been worthwhile. They now knew how Werkplein could help them, and some of the students even went back to discuss their resume. Having heard the presentation on job opportunities, one student decided to continue with a different study. It has been a valuable workshop for us and we would like to repeat it in the next school year.

