

PROJECT SUMMARY

The COMPASS project is supported by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme "Leonardo da Vinci" and has a duration of two years. The COMPASS project has partners in Austria, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Slovak Republic and Turkey. Several recent studies have shown (Prof. Dr. Gudrun Biffl, career and job center), that different factors such as cultural, social, religious and structural backgrounds make minority youth to a disadvantaged target group within the job market. Often they cope with a lack of basic skills to be able to make independent choices concerning their education and their career.

Particular attention has to be given especially to juvenile migrants, because linguistic, cultural or social barriers may prevent of staying longer in the educational system or lead to dropping out of it easier, as well as sliding into the informal labour market.

The COMPASS project works directly with young people, such as travellers and Roma/Sinti, and supports them to get into vocational training and find a job. These young people for example, have compulsory schooling as their highest educational attainment and therefore need to be protected from becoming a risk group, who is less likely to access education. The project developed tools to promote "career management skills" for young migrants and youngsters from minority groups between 15 and 25 years of age. The target group will be supported to acquire basic competences towards autonomous and realistic vocational and educational decisions.

COMPASS started with in-depths interviews and structured questionnaires to learn more about the real needs of young migrants and ethnic minorities in their region. A total of 191 questionnaires were completed and analysed in the partner countries (Austria: 35, Germany: 31, Slovak Republic: 30, Ireland: 30, Greece: 31 and Turkey: 34). An analysis report was accompanied, which indicates details about the situation to individual countries.

Another product, which was developed, is the State of the Art Report. This report determined, which approaches support the primary target group in their ability to make decisions in educational and professional issues. Supportive networks were collected as well as a detailed structure of the lack of basic skills for an independent planning of a career.

COMPASS brought up strong networks of local and regional actors (teachers, trainers, social workers) in the field of vocational training and guidance in order to better integration for youth in need into the European job and labor market. Appropriate methods to increase empowerment of young people were developed. The innovative method in the project is an "urban orienteering race" for young people seeking help in their job decision process. The "race" is a structured orientation course through the city and communities and offers direct access to institutions, companies and training centers.

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