

newsletter

be inspired

number 1

may

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about the project

The BE (Business Enterprise) Inspired project aims to promote business enterprise and entrepreneurship for adults with intellectual disabilities (AID), in a way that is both innovative and inspiring. This project will enable its European partners to take an existing award winning Business Enterprise programme and tailor it to meet the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities, as there is currently no such programme available for AID of this type.

This programme will expose trainees to entrepreneurial thinking, action and real life problem solving. The BE Inspired project will focus on identifying, documenting, and disseminating best practice in business enterprise and entrepreneurship for people with intellectual learning disabilities across Europe.

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop an accredited business enterprise programme for AID that will make self-employment a real option and will encourage entrepreneurial spirit and thinking.
- To develop an enterprise / entrepreneurship strategy to promote entrepreneurial thinking, action and real life problem solving for trainees with disabilities.
- To identify, document and disseminate best practices for entrepreneurship education, thereby increasing AID understanding, appreciation, and support of enterprise, whilst also strengthening existing programmes and articulating future needs for entrepreneurship education for AID within the EU.
- To promote self-employment as a valid career option for people with disabilities.
- To provide a course on leaving school, away from traditional paths, which would advance skills and learning for AID.

The BE Inspired project promotes an innovative approach to not only business enterprise amongst the target group but also in the diversity and experience of the partners, representing three organisations who are delivering services for people with disabilities, two further education colleges, and a specialist multimedia consultancy. Each partner has been selected for:

- Their specific VET (Vocational Education and Training) expertise
- Experience in working with AID
- Experience in the delivery of European funded programmes

The overall tangible outcome of the project is the development of an accredited business enterprise programme for people with intellectual disabilities using multimedia and blended learning. The course will be used by VET organisations, further education colleges, and supported by employment organisations.

In the short term, the BE Inspired project will develop a business enterprise programme based on existing materials and will be targeted at people with intellectual disabilities. The project will be marketed through networks, including the European Union of Supported Employment and its member countries, and through implementing thorough dissemination and exploitation plans.

The long term impact of the BE Inspired project will be demonstrated in the mainstreaming of the course to further education colleges and vocational training organisations across Europe, and thereby in increased entrance to the labour market.

meeting in Lisburn, November 2012



meeting in Helsinki, April 2013



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partners



Stepping Stones NI Ltd was established in 1996 to provide adults with intellectual difficulties and disabilities with the opportunity to access accredited training towards gaining employment.

The company is comprised of local business people, parents and carers of people with intellectual difficulties and disabilities, and representation from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

The organisation opened its doors in January 1998 as community business, providing a realistic working environment for adults with intellectual difficulties and disabilities to avail of vocational training leading to employment.

From supporting 15 people with intellectual disabilities in 1998, Stepping Stones NI now supports over 150 people through its eight core services –

Four social economies – where trainees receive vocational training and work skills development

Youth service - a transition service for young people aged 16-24 who are not in mainstream further education and employment and who are experiencing difficulties with learning and communicating

Training service- offers numerous accredited and unaccredited vocational training courses

Transitions service - for 16-19 year old students, providing guidance, training and work experience, a signposting service to help them and their parent make informed decisions about the move from school

Employment Service – empowering adults with intellectual disabilities and difficulties to fulfil their work potential, providing vital support, guidance and advice to enable them to secure long term paid or voluntary employment

www.stepping-stones.org.uk



Southern Regional College (SRC) is a college of further and higher education in Northern Ireland which provides training and education to over 5000 full time learners and over 30,000 part

time learners each year. SRC is the second largest college in Northern Ireland delivering professional and technical training across 24 vocational areas. It has 720 teaching staff

and 470 support staff. Its annual budget is £40 million.

The college operates across a total of thirteen separate campus buildings. This cutting edge college has received local, regional and national recognition for its work including the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for higher and further education, for its social inclusion and cultural diversity work. Other recent recognition includes: - AOC Beacon Award for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, National Training Award, Irish News 'Employer of Choice' Business Award, VQ Trainee of the Year, Employer of Choice, Investors in People, Business in the Community Award, Apprentice of the Year Awards and Matrix Quality Standard for careers education, information, advice and guidance service. Since 2007, SRC has successfully managed over thirty Leonardo Mobility projects, two Partnership projects and currently leads a Transfer of Innovation project.

www.src.ac.uk



APCC is a private institution of social solidarity and a non-profit making organization in Portugal, created in 1975. Everything it does is reflected in its mission statement and values.

Mission: Promoting social inclusion of people at a disadvantage, with special focus on people with disabilities.

Vision: Being a reference organization, nationally and internationally, in enabling full integration of people with disabilities and other disadvantaged individuals.

Values:

- 1- Ethics, integrity and respect in the relationship with customers
- 2- Focus on innovation and customer service
- 3- Solidarity and spirit of surrender to another
- 4- Team spirit (work in transdisciplinary team)
- 5- Creativity and adapting to change
- 6- Loyalty in interpersonal relationships
- 7- Constant quest for continuous improvement of quality of services

www.apc-coimbra.org.pt

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AMPROS, Spain, is an association whose mission is to improve the quality of life of every person with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families, as well as spread, defend, vindicate and promote rights and support, creating opportunities for them to achieve their life projects and full citizenship, based on principles of management efficiency, innovation and ethical commitment.

Today AMPROS offers people with intellectual disabilities in Cantabria a set of 22 activity centers spread throughout the region, with a capacity of more than 1,400 direct care places, as well as various programs and support services to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. This is promoted, managed and run by a team composed of family and carers of people with intellectual disabilities, volunteers and more than 300 technicians and professionals.

www.ampros.org



CONFORM S.c.a.r.l, based in Italy, is a network of public and private organizations, national and international expression of Institutions,

Universities, Training Agencies, Research Centres and Consulting, Banking, Business, employers' associations and Organization of Volunteers and International Solidarity.

Its mission can be summarized as follows:

- facilitator and manager of relations between the partners / members of the national and international network
- bearer of true innovation
- exchange of expertise and sharing of skills and different backgrounds.

www.conform.it



The Helsinki Deaconess Institute in Finland is a public utility foundation. Together with its subsidiaries, the Institute

forms a social enterprise group providing a range of social and health care services, as well as educational services (Helsinki Diakonia College).

As an expert and leader in tackling difficult social issues, the Helsinki Deaconess Institute relies on its strong social conscience. For nearly 150 years, the Deaconess Institute has contributed to creating new solutions in parts of society where, for one reason or another, people are in danger of falling beyond the reach of services.

The production of services as well as the education and training that is offered all reflect the foundation's focus on meeting the needs of special-interest groups. The development of new models of operation and working methods as well as the testing thereof is mainly completed in the projects and in the diaconia-oriented education.

www.hdo.fi



Logicearth Learning Services is a leading provider of training in Ireland. It brings practical and modern training solutions that

suit learners, organisations and budgets. By utilising the knowledge and experience of its staff, its partners, its associates and other learning companies, Logicearth works to provide a unique blend of training, learning technologies and eLearning content. The company partners with like-minded organisations that also recognise the need to deliver engaging, practical and cost-effective solutions.

www.logicearth.com

BE Inspired project

