

# Foundations for Work



Newsletter July 2013



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## Introducing the Project

This multilingual, multicultural training course for Young Immigrants is an EU-funded project which aims to help young migrants to increase their integration into the labour market of their new host countries.

The project is funded by European commission through the Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation Programme.

It brings together six organisations with expertise in employment and training, education, advocacy on behalf of migrants and communications to develop a training course that can be used across the EU Member States.

The overall aim is to assist young immigrants to upgrade their basic competencies and transferable work skills needed to open up progression opportunities either directly into employment and/or to further vocational qualifications and it is hoped to achieve this by:

- Fostering greater understanding of labour market trends and employment rights
- Equipping participants with improved workplace communication and teamwork skills
- Promoting greater awareness and use of host country vocational education and training structures and other training opportunities
- Gaining an in-depth understanding of barriers faced by young migrants in partner countries and the practical ways they can be overcome
- Promoting the widespread uptake and use of the training course, focusing on social factors with access to immigrant populations, vocational education and training institutions and other training bodies with potential to mainstream the course
- Contributing to the personal development of migrants and the fulfillment of their potential to expand their contribution to the labour market and the economy
- Creating greater awareness in the workplace of the positive aspects of cultural diversity,

improving societal relations and community integration by facilitating young migrants to gain access to more diverse employment opportunities.

The course to be developed by the Foundations for Work project will tailor original materials developed by DiversityWorks in the UK to meet the needs of young immigrants throughout Europe.

## Training Needs Analysis

From January to March 2013 the partners in the project have carried out desk research to determine the situation of each country regarding migration demographics and education/employment trends among young immigrants.

Online questionnaires were used to gain information from professionals and stakeholders and a direct questionnaire was used to gain information from young immigrants. Additionally, focus groups were conducted in four partner countries with young immigrants.

Interestingly, the report found that there was no significant difference in the experiences of immigrants across the four countries and that they all perceived similar barriers.

Most respondents agreed that teachers and trainers are both patient and accessible in training environments. They help by repeating and emphasising certain points and sometimes give exercises to help learners with certain difficulties, both due to the language barrier and to deficient basic education.

Respondents also believe it is important to obtain vocational training, in some cases also the possibility to obtain a certificate of some sort to be able to get a job and legalise their situation.

Of the questionnaire respondents:

- 30 per cent expressed they had a basic to poor possibility of participating in vocational education
- 29 per cent expressed they had a basic to poor possibility of participating in the labour market
- More than half of the participants felt their current education/training was adapted to their needs.

To read the full Training Needs Analysis report please click on one of the following links:

[English translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

[Swedish translation](#)

## Project website

The Foundations for Work project involves setting up a dedicated website to communicate effectively its products, progress and achievements.

Our project website is now live and will be updated throughout the 2 years the project is running when reports and training materials are produced.

The website is available at [www.foundationsforwork.eu](http://www.foundationsforwork.eu)

You can also:



like us on [Facebook](#)

or



follow our progress on [Twitter](#).

## The project partners



[DiversityWorks](#) (UK) has supported the positive development of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups through building capacity and intercultural understanding. Alongside with its sister organization, Springboard, DiversityWorks has worked with over 2000 people in a range of training programmes. DiversityWorks espouses a person center ethos, and believes in a two way learning process with the learner actively engaged and owning their development and achievement.



[Fundación Laboral del Metal](#) (Spain) is a nonprofit organisation founded in 2004 to provide training activities and solutions for the metal industry in Cantabria, Spain. FLM carries out joint projects with government, trade and labour unions and designs bespoke education plans for the companies and public organizations on new technologies and methodologies related to qualifications, skills updating and competences development.



[Folkuniversitetet Kursverksamheten vid Lunds Universitetet](#) (Sweden) is an association of 5 extensions attached to the Universities of Stockholm, Uppsala, Goteborg, Lund and Umea, which offer a wide range of adult education all over Sweden, including upper secondary schools, schools in higher vocational education, courses for seniors and training, labour market education and further education and training for working life.



[Canice Consulting](#) (UK) is an international consultancy operating in the fields of local and regional development, enterprise and employment development, and management and technical support to EU networks and programmes.



[Doras Luimní](#) (Ireland) is an independent NGO founded in Limerick. It was founded in 2000 to further the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and all migrants by supporting them on a personal level while also engaging in advocacy for their collective interests. The organisation's values are rooted in the human rights framework, with a belief in equality and nondiscrimination in both public and private life and a string commitment to welcoming new communities and to extend particular support to the most vulnerable amongst them.

[European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training](#) (Belgium) has over 200 members in almost all the member states; also members in Turkey, Canada and Russia. It is able to reach out to over 1500 VET institutions across Europe. This European network also has direct links to other European organizations including EUCIS, EVTA, EUA, Solidar CSR, Workers Education Association (Europe) and the Youth Forum.