



AKI Conference AKI – Louvain la Neuve – 10th October 2016

Transversal skills, international mobility and socio-professional inclusion.

The European project AKI, funded by the Erasmus + Youth program, aims to identify and develop transversal skills, developed by young people in an international mobility project, in favour of socio-professional inclusion.

The third conference presenting this project brought together many actors: private companies, youth, members of youth organisations and institutions. The project partners: INSUP (Institut Supérieur de Formation Permanente) - the coordinator, OFAJ (Franco - German Youth Office), OFQJ (French Youth Office), UWE (Walloon Union of Companies) and their associated partners: BIJ (International Youth bureau Wallonia-Brussels) and LOJIQ (International Youth Offices of Quebec) gave the opportunity to the participants to discuss the importance of the transversal skills developed during a mobility experience. They also allowed the participants to test the tools under development: the AKI guidebook and the assessment kit (including a questionnaire for young participants, a questionnaire for tutors, an individual competences recap sheet).

After a plenary presentation of the project and its issues, the guests were divided into workshops led by the partners.

The first exchange workshop in the morning covered a "True or False" test on the impact of international mobility. A second workshop focused on identifying transversal competencies developed during an international mobility experience. By group, participants were able to highlight the seven competencies they considered most important for working life and citizenship.

To conclude the morning, the five transversal skills at the heart of the AKI project were revealed to the participants: open-mindedness, self-confidence, interpersonal relationships, adaptation to change and sense of responsibility.

The comparison between the various workshops showed that the five skills of the project are found mostly in the skills identified as being important by the companies, youth workers and the international mobility organisations that were present, thus reinforcing the project's relevance.

The afternoon workshops were dedicated to the experimentation of the AKI tools.

Participants were given the opportunity to test and respond to the questionnaire, which allows to identify strong transversal competencies for young people who have experienced international mobility. The processing of the questionnaire then makes it possible to produce a personalised competences recap sheet that points out the strongest developed skills. It is truly the guiding document of the AKI project. It enables young people returning from mobility to identify their skills, to be able to talk about them better and to value them on the job market and in society.

The AKI guidebook was then presented.

A real guide on the 5 transversal skills of the project, it offers the possibility to the one who wishes so to refer to a sheet per competence, allowing to understand how the competence can be developed during an internship of international mobility and how it can then be placed at the service of professional life and citizenship.

Participants were able to express their views on these various tools by suggesting changes that could be made.

In conclusion, it seems that the tools developed within the framework of this project have aroused a real interest for the various actors present. Some already see their ownership within their organisation even when they do not manage mobility programs: integration or training professionals. They stressed the importance of setting up mechanisms enabling young people to identify their transversal competencies, as many of them have difficulties in putting words on them. This work is all the more necessary as transversal competences are becoming increasingly important in the professional world and can also be useful for active citizen participation.



This day devoted to transversal competencies, international mobility and socio-professional inclusion enabled the AKI partnership, through the collaboration of various actors, to revise and improve AKI products.

The following day the AKI partners met for a new working day in Brussels and incorporated these suggestions, some of which had already been made at the previous conference in Bordeaux in May 2016.

In particular, they simplified the descriptors, which presented concepts which were too close to facilitate the understanding of the questionnaire.

The gradation of the descriptors in 4 levels has been abandoned in favor of the notion of dimension. Each skill consists of 3 abilities, each capacity being composed of 4 dimensions or facets. It becomes possible to check several boxes and not only one.

A "tips and tricks" section has been added to the individual competences recap sheet.