



1st NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Learning Network on Transnational Cooperation in ESF, an initiative supported by the European Commission. The Network is led by the Czech Republic and supported by England, France (Racine), Germany, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. We seek to publish an electronic newsletter every four months and this is the very first issue. Our idea is to publish articles reflecting your experience with implementation of transnational cooperation, key

messages of transnational events and information about running transnational projects.

We have also created an online communication platform at www.transnationality.eu which you are very welcome to visit and contribute to.

Should you wish to publish an article or already have any suggestions to the content of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at transnationality@mps.v.cz.

Livia Pitonakova, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Czech Republic

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SURVEY OF THE TNC LEARNING NETWORK – SHARING EXPERIENCE TO SUPPORT BETTER PRACTICE



Kick-off meeting of the TNC Learning Network, July 2, 2010 in Prague

How is transnational cooperation organized under individual ESF operational programmes in Europe? Is it better to design transnational cooperation as a transversal principle across all priorities of an operational programme or to implement it as a distinct transnational priority? What tools are used to support transnational cooperation in the EU? Should a common framework be adopted in the next programming period 2014 - 2020?

All these and many more are subject of a currently running survey organized by the Learning Network on Transnational Cooperation in ESF led by the Managing Authority of the Czech OP Human Resources and Employment. The research aims at mapping current design of transnational cooperation within individual ESF OPs in Europe and experience and efforts made to establish a comprehensive and robust approach to support transnational cooperation, both in the current and future programming period.

At this point of the analysis, the data collected represent the voice of 29

operational programmes giving an extensive in-depth picture of a current standing of programmes in relation to transnational cooperation and pros and cons of different approaches in relation to coordination, rules, establishing partnerships, promotion, monitoring and evaluation and/or supporting project promoters. The research will be concluded in December 2010. According to the preliminary results, the following success factors are critical for transnational cooperation:

- to exchange information, network and follow good practice;
- to coordinate effectively transnational cooperation amongst EU Member States;
- to foster better understanding of MA and IB staff of what the added value of transnational cooperation is.

How to do that? The Learning Network intends to build upon this research by offering a series of working papers and learning seminars with the view to collect experience and practice and answer the questions arising from this analysis, including the fundamental one: in which way transnational cooperation works most effectively and how can we foster this by designing and adopting such a framework which will enable successful implementation of transnational cooperation? Do you have a say? Do not hesitate and contact our Learning Network at transnationality@mpsv.cz or register at www.transnationality.eu where you can also find our questionnaire. Your voice will play a role.

Hana Smolková, facilitator of the TNC Learning Network



LINKING POLICY AND PRACTICE IN ENGLAND

The English ESF programme has a dedicated strand which supports Innovation, Transnationality and Mainstreaming (ITM). The ITM strand supports 32 projects that are funded under six themes for innovation. These include Active Inclusion, Engaging with Employers, Skills for Climate Change, Demographic Change, ICT/Digital Divide and Social Enterprise. Six National Thematic Networks were set up to link the ITM projects with the policy makers and the second round of Network meetings took place in England in June and July 2010. The ITM projects gathered alongside national government colleagues to discuss their progress and present their innovative ideas to the specialist policy makers. Similarly the policy makers shared the governments latest thinking in their respective policy areas. The meetings took place shortly after the general elections and offered a valuable and interactive opportunity for the projects

to inform the new ideas and policies emerging from the new government. Some key issues emerged. The meetings presented the ITM projects with the challenge of informing the governments new 'Big Society' concept, its priorities for Welfare Reform, its desire for demonstrating Social Return on Investment (SROI) and the increased importance of qualitative evaluation and capturing evidence. The projects use the learning and evidence drawn from both their domestic and transnational partnerships to inform this innovative process with the aim of mainstreaming its good practice.

More information on the innovation section can be found at <http://www.esf-works.com/innovation>.

Karolina Medwecka, Birmingham City Council

SECOND EUROPEAN ROMA SUMMIT



Second European Roma Summit, April 8, 2010

Source:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=234&furtherEvents=yes>

In the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the European Council, the Second European Roma Summit took

place in Córdoba (Spain) on April 8, 2010, on the occasion of the International Roma Day, in order to analyse the European advances regarding Roma inclusion policies and identify the challenges in this matter.

EUROMA Network participated in the Summit with the presentation of the "EURoma Report 2010", a document which provides a rigorous analysis of available data related to the use of SF for the improvement of the conditions under which the Roma population lives and identifies the lessons learned and future challenges for the network. The report can be downloaded at www.euromanet.eu.

Marta Garcia Rodriguez, Ministry of Labour and Immigration in Spain



CZECH TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT – INNOVATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



Pictures from a transnational project DEVELOPMENTAL

INVENTURA (in English „inventory check“) is a Prague based NGO supporting and presenting the artistic and journalistic work of people with learning disabilities. It is currently running a transnational project “DEVELOPMENTAL” within the Czech OP Human Resources and Employment. The objective of the project is to transfer experience with artistic working methods and approaches (especially media communication) taken towards the mentally handicapped from abroad to the Czech Republic. The director of INVENTURA, Ms Lenka Vochocová, shared some of her views regarding the transnational dimension of the project.

When asked what the main asset of transnational cooperation is, Ms Vochocová explains the gap between the Czech and foreign experience in the field. “The perception of these people as unique and inspirational personalities is still rather an exception in Czech society. The focus remains on therapy and their artistic formation is rather secondary. Transnational partners of our project have rich experience with changing these stereotypes and making these people “more visible.” In addition, they will

contribute to organizing artistic workshops in four Czech regions tailored to the needs of the project target group. The final conference will then be a structured presentation of foreign best practice.”

The project has two transnational partners from Germany (ABM - *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Behinderung und Medien v.s.*) and Italy (*Agenzia regionale per il lavoro*) who are crucial for the overall mission of the project. They have already recommended similar organizations to the INVENTURA staff, which proved the tremendous benefits networking could bring.

Ms Vochocová further recommends relying on long-term relationships to guarantee a stable functioning partnership. She adds that regular contact with the partners is inevitable to ensure the climate of friendship and trust.

More information on the NGO and its activities can be found at <http://inventura.org/en>.

Livia Pitonakova, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Czech Republic



PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF ROMA POPULATION IN FRANCE

Example of a transnational project between France and Romania



Caritas - Romania

Since 2009, Habitat-Cité (a French NGO), in cooperation with two French partners “Une famille un toit” and “Roms Action”, have been running a transnational project, aiming at finding new tools and solutions for a better professional integration of the Roma population in France. Apart from the French partnership, 3 other transnational partners from Romania are involved in the project: the Regional Council of Alba, Caritas and the Council of Sintel.

Based on the project partners findings, Roma immigrants from Romania, living mostly in the suburbs of Grenoble and Nantes (French towns), face too many obstacles in finding a job. They often lack training opportunities, do not have the sufficient knowledge of the language and

of the French administrative system and are discriminated when searching for a job. In short, the specific needs of this target group have not sufficiently been taken into account.

Transnational exchanges: a solution for a better professional integration of Roma population in France

The transnational dimension of the project, based on a long and well-established partnership, allowed exchanges of good practices and innovative tools between France and Romania. For instance, they created a bilingual database (French/Romanian) summarizing best practices and tools developed and tested by all partners.

In 2010, they compiled a handbook about the professional integration of Roma population entitled “RomEmployment” and in November, they will organise a symposium to raise the awareness of social and economic actors concerning the specific needs of the Roma population.

First positive results in France

In 2009, French partners carried out a training session and employment facilitation for 35 participants, out of which 10 (6 men and 4 women) found a job.



For more information on the project, please visit:

http://www.annuaire-transnat.fr/AfficherFicheProjet.aspx?ID_FSE_PR_OJETS=221

For more information on French transnational projects in general, we invite you to consult the directory project developed by the French Intermediate Body (Racine) at www.annuaire-transnat.fr (available in English).

Aurélien Gaulin, RACINE, France

