



## Newsletter 1

March 2019

### What is Job Bridge?

Job Bridge a two-year project funded by the European Programme Erasmus+ and coordinated by the German partner BUPNET GmbH (Bildung und Projekt Netzwerk).

The project is implemented by a consortium of eight partners from seven European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK.

The aim is to improve the recognition and the validation of volunteers' competences in the EU. Volunteering is an important way for people to develop themselves, by building new relationships and gaining a whole set of life skills that can improve their employability. It serves to gather important experience in unknown fields, to develop social, personal and organisational competences. However, the competences acquired in volunteering are rarely assessed and validated. Hence, they are "lost" in the CV of the volunteers. Job Bridge aims to fill this gap by developing a fully-fledged user-centred approach for validating non-formal and informal learning processes in volunteering activities, including a well proven web-based documentation, both for volunteers and the voluntary organisations.

### First steps

In February, 2019, the Job Bridge partners met in Paris for the kick-off meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to get to know to each other and to plan in detail the first project activities. These include a comprehensive research and stocktaking phase.

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The partners discussed in detail the approach of the stocktaking and needs analysis phase and brainstormed those competences that can be acquired in volunteering activities, on the one hand, and that are at the same time relevant for future employers. The list of competences is currently very long. It comprises competences such as:

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✦ Self-reflection              | ✦ Learning to learn      |
| ✦ Self-confidence              | ✦ Leadership             |
| ✦ Managing relations           | ✦ Decision making        |
| ✦ Team work                    | ✦ Autonomy               |
| ✦ Communication                | ✦ Dealing with diversity |
| ✦ Time management              | ✦ Negotiation            |
| ✦ Self-initiative              | ✦ Conflict management    |
| ✦ Adaptability and flexibility | ✦ Resilience             |
| ✦ Project management           | ✦ Problem solving        |



## Surveys

What are the competences that you can acquire in voluntary activities - besides those that depend on the actual voluntary placement? This was one of the leading questions in the research phase. We invite you to help us analyse the situation regarding validation and volunteering in the EU. For this purpose we have prepared two surveys: One is addressing former and current volunteers, the other addresses volunteer-based organisations (facilitators of volunteers).

- ✦ Are you a former or current volunteer? Do you want to share your experience with us? Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDC362W>
- ✦ Are you a volunteer facilitator? Do you want to share your experience with us? Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JJSVGTD>

## Next steps

Based on the list of competences the partners will establish the competence framework in volunteering and establish a competence oriented learning and validation approach for competences acquired in volunteering.

The next step is to develop a pilot course for representatives from volunteering organisations and adult education organisations welcoming volunteers and will enable them to implement competence-oriented approaches with volunteers and validate competences acquired in the voluntary activities.

## Project Partners



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**Website**

**<https://job-bridge.eu>**