



**Newsletter 3**

**March 2020**

### What is Job Bridge?

Job Bridge a two-year project funded by the European Programme Erasmus+ and co-ordinated 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.

### Train-the-trainer Course

In order to introduce the Job Bridge approach in volunteering organisations and adult education organisations welcoming volunteers, a multiplier course was developed for the partners (and the associated organisations). The course was carried out at the end of the first project year and will be followed by the pilot phase in which the participants (facilitators) will transfer the Job- Bridge approach into their professional practice. It took place in Göttingen starting from February 11th, its duration was 18 hours and it involved in total 22 participants from all partner countries.

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The course addressed trainers, facilitators and multipliers that work with young volunteers and that would be interested in not only taking part in the training course but also in implementing learning activities based on the Job Bridge approach with their volunteers. The profile of the institutions ranged from volunteer-based organizations and adult education centres to educational providers and local bodies, public or not, who also brought the employers' perspective into the course



Group exercise - where would you rate yourself on a line from 1 to 5

## Content and Outcomes

The training course was performed by experts from the partner institutions in an interactive way by discussing with the participants relevant topics and how concepts like mentoring, assessment, validation and recognition of competences can be integrated in their working context. The course was delivered in face to face sessions during the 3-day event. The content used in the course was divided in the following inter related 5 Modules:

- ✦ M1: Setting the context, Intro to the course: Volunteering as a means to increase job readiness
- ✦ M2: Competence oriented learning (COL) in volunteering
- ✦ M3: Validation and link to the labour market
- ✦ M4: The validation system LEVEL5
- ✦ M5: Learning Projects

The training had the aim to very concretely help the partners and facilitators to plan their pilots (learning projects). It had been designed as competence oriented professional development for the professionals and aiming at measuring and evidencing their competence development as well. The concept and training modules for teachers reflected the various situations of the partner countries, and were designed to be easily adaptable and transferable to both other contexts and other countries.

In terms of outcomes, the course enabled the participants to further develop their offers and activities into learning experiences that make a difference also in the career pathways of the volunteers. They have learnt how to make learning perceivable and

how to plan, assess and evidence rather informal ways of learning in their volunteering contexts. It empowered volunteering facilitators to embed successfully the concept of validation and competence oriented learning in order to improve the effectiveness of their offers in terms of learning progress for the volunteers. They familiarized themselves with new methods and tools and they learnt about effective practices implemented throughout Europe.

The main impact of the course on its participants consists of the following learning outcomes:

- ✦ Raised awareness of the diversity of possible impacts of an experience of commitment on a person's life path
- ✦ Reflection on how competence-oriented learning can be applied in the context of volunteering
- ✦ Understanding why is validation relevant in the volunteering context and Being aware of different validation methods and tools
- ✦ Being aware of how to use LEVEL5 validation method in a volunteering context
- ✦ Providing guidance on how to support volunteers in assessing and validating their competences

The final feedback round on day 3 showed that course fully met the expectations of the participants. Participants were very positive about the course structure, content, relevance to their work and applicability in their practice.



In the follow-up phase of the course the participants are invited to use the online platform to deepen the course content. After completion of all online modules, they will receive a "Savvy Facilitator" badge. In addition, they will put the course content into practice in a learning project.

## Project Partners



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La Ligue de l'enseignement,  
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CATRO  
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<https://catro.com>



LLLP  
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<http://lllplatform.eu>



CCUM  
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<http://www.collegiuniversitari.it>



Camara Oficial De Comercio  
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Volunteering Matters  
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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

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**Website**

<https://job-bridge.eu>