

newsletter

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PROJECT PROGRESS

The BE (Business Enterprise) Inspired project aims to promote business enterprise and entrepreneurship for adults with intellectual disabilities (AID), in a way that is both innovative and inspiring. This project will enable its European partners to take an existing award winning Business Enterprise programme and tailor it to meet the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities, as there is currently no such programme available for AID of this type.

This programme will expose trainees to entrepreneurial thinking, action and real life problem solving. The BE Inspired project will focus on identifying, documenting, and disseminating best practice in business enterprise and entrepreneurship for people with intellectual disabilities across Europe.

This European project involving Stepping Stones (UK), Southern Regional College (UK), APPC (PT), Logicearth (IE), Helsinki Diakonia College (FI), AMPROS (Es) and CONFORM (It) began its work in late 2012 and was completed jointly developing the TNA. The results of the Training Needs Analysis will help to identify and disseminate good practice within the vocational education training (VET) and voluntary sector developing entrepreneurial skill and talent among adults with intellectual disabilities

He has worked in three main sections. First, it has sought to identify and target demographics, education and employment trends in relation to adults with intellectual disabilities.

It has also established an online questionnaire for prospects trainers.

Despite the differences between countries in definitions and services provided, the trainers' day-to-day work with the focus group seems to face very similar challenges everywhere, not least with employment issues. Most of the trainers felt that a new entrepreneurial course would be beneficial if it clearly answered the need of AIDs. They gave suggestions and recommendations for training methods and techniques based on their experience and best practices.

"Financial management, including issues such as money management, budgeting and current economic perspectives"

- "Leadership skills"
- "Legislative processes in establishing a business"
- "ICT skills"
- "Development of creativity, spontaneity, how to recognise ideas of yourself and others"

An online questionnaire was sent to the focus groups with the aim of achieving the perspective of the students.

With this information this TNA seeks to provide a well-grounded basis for the development of the planned training course. The outcome of the TNA has provided an opportunity to propose principal themes and module titles for the new learning materials in the BE Inspired course. The results of the TNA will help to identify and disseminate good practice within the vocational education training (VET) and voluntary sector developing entrepreneurial skill and talent among adults with intellectual disabilities.

The TNA also draws interesting conclusions that advance the importance of programs on this subject. The second question asked whether the focus group had been told or taught about self-employment before. 60% of the people who answered said they had not been told or taught about self-employment before. Also 67% said it was never explained to them how they could open their own business.

Community centres, gardening businesses, restaurants, bakeries, dog day-care centres, cleaning businesses, art painting shops, car repair businesses and organic food farms were some of the companies that had targeted participants in the focus group.

Skills	Behaviours
Problem solving 	Taking initiative 
Selling 	Solving problems 
Team working 	Taking responsibility 
Self-confidence 	Self-motivated 

The TNA in this section concludes that people with disabilities indicate their desire to have more opportunities and choices as well as clear training on entrepreneurship.



