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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



REGIONAL NETWORK FOR WORK BASED LEARNING

2017/1616/585162-EPP-1-2017-1-IT-EPPKA3-VET-APPREN

International conference

WORK BASED LEARNING: MIND THE GAP!

**Innovating WBL paths: challenges and barriers,
policies and strategies**

Bologna, January 28th 2020



in collaborazione con



International Conference

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The International Conference took place at Regione Emilia-Romagna headquarters in Bologna in January 28th 2020. It was attended by about 60 participants.

The meeting started with opening speeches by Marina Castellano by Confindustria Emilia-Romagna and Stefano Versari, Managing Director Regional Office Ministry of Education. Rossella Brindani, Responsible for European funded projects area CIS Gestione d'impresa introduced the REFRAME approach to Work Based Learning. Alfonso Balsamo by Confindustria – Employment, Welfare and Human Capital Department presented the role of Regional and European School-Industry Partnerships to overcome the Skills Gap. Anna Brancaccio by Italian Ministry of Education - Directorate for school order and evaluation of National education system discussed the meaning of WBL in schools and the need for joint training of teachers and company tutors.

Subsequently, three parallel seminars were dedicated to “how a Centre of Vocational Excellence (COVE) could include quality in WBL” held by Maria Pascual and Irma Núñez by ENSE, “From technical to transversal skills to develop high quality of work based learning” held by Axel Joder by FREREF, “Why International mobility for students, adult people, teachers and trainers” held by Hans Vasse and Alessia Toffetti by Jan van Brabant College. Each partner presented the main results achieved in their respective seminars (see brief reports in the attachment).

The final conclusions were presented by Gabriele Marzano by Emilia-Romagna Region, Planning service of education, training, employment and knowledge-based policies - Directorate Knowledge-based Economy, Work and Entrepreneurship.

REPORTS FROM PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Workshop #1

How a Centre of Vocational Excellence (COVE) could include quality in WBL

Speakers Maria Pascual and Irma Núñez by ENSE, rapporteur Andrew McCoshan

The first part of the workshop consisted of a presentation of a report from the European Commission about Centers of Vocational Excellence (COVEs) carried by his author Andrew McCoshan. After that, Maria Pascual, head of Minister of Catalan Education International Projects' Unit, reflected on how Catalan Education system applies COVE quality criteria in WBL. The second part of the workshop consisted of a discussion between participants and rapporteurs to highlight strengths and weaknesses of quality in WBL due to COVE criteria.

The main reflections extracted from the discussion were related to how policies should enhance guidance on international mobility and how important is WBL for creating new learning environments, teachers' upskilling and developing students' skills.

Workshop #2

From technical to transversal skills to develop high quality of work based learning"

Speaker Axel Joder by FREREF, rapporteur Liliane Esnault

Technical

Essential or Fusion Skills

Transversal

Where to learn them?

Out of school

In school altogether collaboratively

At the workplace

How to learn them?

Work-based Learning (mixing in school AND at the workplace)

Teamwork

Flipped classroom

Project based learning (mixing possibly in AND out of school AND at the workplace)

All these learning strategies also mix formal and non-formal learning ☞ you need to think about adding a reflexive step to understand what you have learned

There is a "right to be taught" when a competence is required. Not relying only on the ability of students to acquire them by themselves, which would be an important factor of (social) inequality.

The question then is: how to integrate these learning strategies into the "classical" curricula?

Think about letting reality come into school

How to show that you have acquired them? How to evaluate/appreciate them?

The new CVs (like video CV)

Some Learning Units may integrate them in the diploma (extra-curricular becomes intra-curricular)

Self-assessment

Portfolio (description of activities, projects, etc.)

Witnessing (people certifying that the Portfolio is genuine and valuable)

Tests in situation (serious games)

Workshop #3

Why International mobility for students, adult people, teachers and trainers

Speakers Hans Vasse and Alessia Toffetti by Jan van Brabant College, rapporteur Hans Vasse

Workshop showing the approach in the Brainport region highlighted with examples: the ideas coming from Brainport and Jan van Brabant are innovative. Italian colleague present to explain the changed mind-set in her local school that has been working with Jan van Brabant. The unique thing in the region is the wide scope starting in KG going on in Primary through secondary and vocational education. The workshop was interesting: It would be interesting to involve other schools in such projects.