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FOCUS GROUP REPORT – ROMANIA /Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bistrita Nasaud

On 5 February 2014 a focus group took placed in CCI BN premiss to discus Dante Project and European citizenship in VET

The focus group was attended by 8 persons, all experts in civic education (having a deep interest in the matter) and moderated by Monica Muresan

Statistic details:
- 5 trainers/teachers
- 2 authorities representatives
- 1 NGO representative
All experts in civic education

Gender:
- 8 women

Age:
- 2 persons age 46-60
- 6 persons age 31-45

Introduction

Monica Muresan presented the project, activities and foreseen results as well as the scope and objective of the focus group.

A focus group template was designed and provided to the focus group participants as ground for discussions. The template is in annex 1.

The focus group combines exposure to the idea and context of active citizenship learning framework with an exploration of approaches to delivery of forma/informal/non formal learning and general skills for VET.

Active citizenship lerning supports **individual and communities** to identify and build:
- knowledge
- skills

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- attitude

The focus group results:

Active citizenship engagement :

- feeling the community you belong of as »**My place**«
- to experes the opinions concerning the » **way thinks happened around here**«
- to actively involve in the change process and problem solving helping stakeholders :
  - o to use reflexive thinking
  - o to identify important problems
  - o to debate
  - o to communicate
  - o to be active- to do things
  - o to consolidate their voice in the community
  - o to involve in the decision making process
  - o to understand the processes, institutions and people real concern

Active citisenship learning process
To learn :
  - o about civil & civic roles
  - o how to take part (confidence to engage)
  - o how to build a stronger voice
  - o how to understand the processes
  - o how to encourage dialogue being part of it
  - o how to share
  - o how to work with guvernemnet and local authorities
  - o how to structure the debate

To develop:
  - o personal communication skills (e.g public speaking, critical thinking, reading, writing....)
  - o a certain level of confidence & experience sharing
  - o the level of knowledge concerning the community processe, institutions, decission makers ..

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- o the sense of belonging to a group & community
- o community models
- o trust
- o cooperation with others

To know about:
- o Citisesnhip and active citisenship
- o Civil and civic participation
- o Community engagement
- o Social justice
- o Participatory democracy
- o Participatory approach

Learning active citisenship planning

- o Valuable learning experience means receiving new information and experiences shared with the others, confirmation / refutation of the beliefs that you have
- o The presence of highly animated persons charismatic reputable, credible and topics / activities accessible, useful, interesting,
- o Volunteering "you can make the difference".
- o Identifying the existing skills& knowledge and build on it or add to it
- o Setting personal goals to learn
- o Sharing (mainly by using Social media tools)
- o Lesson learnt (sharing and benefiting from past experiences from us or others)

How the learning process should take place
- o Basically anywhere: at work, in institutions, at home, in any public space, the media, etc.,
- o By people who know how to address sensitive anyone
- o In heterogeneous groups, both as a profession and as age or gender, organized as brainstorming or focus group, etc
- o In family, public institutions, education and VET organisations
- o Formal and informal groups

What instruments should be used for VET:

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- o Social media instruments such as Facebook, Twitter (to share, use and interact..)
- o Open education resourcesw (OER)
  - Knowledge about citizenship
  - New comunication technologies
  - Online repository
  - New communication models

Conclusions

As regards to the project objective to develop inovative practices in the field of vocational education and training through new ways of learning and teaching (stakeholders becoming the knowledge creators) there is a general agreement that the content of project results will be based on :

- developing the level of media literacy of the target groups
- learning to use the web2.00 environment for content creation (active citisenship)
- knowledge capitalization from social media tools
- using formal and informal groups to share information
- creation of a bottom up strategy
- mobile learning