

AFEC (France)

AFEC is a national training centre represented in 40 French departments. Its a private organisation with 250 employees and its aims are the social and professional insertion and improving the qualification of employees. AFEC receives 10.000 trainees per year in these actions, unemployed, young and adults of low level of qualification who have left the system early and who are in difficulties of insertion needing qualifications to reconsider an entry on the labour market.

Among the offices of AFEC organisation, there is a specialised site: AFEC EUROPE, involved in different European programs: Youthstart, Horizon, ADAPT, Leonardo programs and EQUAL as coordinator or partner. Since 2000, AFEC Europe reinforced its presence on the programs of the European Social Funds (FSE) and takes part in the follow-up and/or the coordination of 4 EQUAL projects. These projects were worked out and developed in collaboration with AFEC sites. It is essential for AFEC EUROPE to continue its investment on research and innovation within the framework of French and transnational partnerships. AFEC EUROPE gained information and practical experiences through those projects. Our experience is based upon 3 main lines for 3 types of users:

- Expertise and studies. It is based on a work of research and sector - based, transnational and prospective survey at regional and national levels;
- Tools of training engineering and recruitment aid: referential or assessment documents, methodological guides, specific training programs for contributors, trainers, counsellors;
- European Mobility: Mobility grants for placements of students or young unemployed in Spain, UK and Italy for a duration of 8 weeks in the field of tourism.

The AFEC EUROPE works on new topics within the framework of the European existing programs with the participation of AFEC sites and answering the objectives of the European Commission on:

- The improvement of the quality and efficiency of the insertion vocational processes of public in difficulty on the labour market;
- The quality (methods, approaches, tools) of the organisation and the management of the training systems;
- The valorisation of certification with an aim of promoting the transparency of the diplomas, the qualifications and skills;
- The insertion of senior workers on the market;
- The vocational equality between Women and Men;
- The development of new educational technologies (NTIC).

Director: Pierre Courbebaisse

ENTENTE (United Kingdom)

ENTENTE has been in operation since 1993 and is a consulting firm specialized in all aspects of quality assurance for the vocational training sector, working with public and private sector agencies responsible for the delivery of National UK training programme. Its also involved in the development of VET, Employment, Vocational Guidance and Enterprise Support infrastructures throughout Europe. Its track record includes approval to deliver OCR, City & Guilds and Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) certificated programmes in trainer, assessor and inspector training, as well as management, business start up and International Business English. Its work has an impact on the consistency of the assessment of qualifications and standards, the credibility of the organizations that issue and the qualifications of education and vocational training professionals, including inspectors, evaluators and managers. ENTENTE is an organization approved to assess skills in the training and development sector, which are validated by the British certification authorities. All professionals in ENTENTE team are qualified assessors and inspectors.

ENTENTE has been involved in different European programs, mainly Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci with the following projects: Learning to hope together; Lingua-in-City; E-quality in Quality (Vision 2000); Eurohostel; Certskills; Cd-Egate; AnDE – Ability not disability in employment; EFTAM – English For Training And Mobility; CERPS; GEBCOMS; TEVAL; DESSSQual; STONVIRON; Con.Cert; Strikers; Eu-Care; Parents – E-need; H RTP - Human resources tutor profile; QUALITedu; Quality in Education; HiTechSME's; Mona Lisa; Quality Assurance for VET Institutions; CREAC; Accreditation for business management and marketing; Medics on the Move; INFORM; Fight against drugs & crime.

Director: Terence Pugh

DIA-SPORT (Bulgaria)

The DIA-SPORT Association was founded in 1995 in Sofia with the status of NGOs (non-governmental organization). His main fields of activities are vocational training and adult education, social inclusion of disadvantaged groups and civil society, health and rehabilitation and youth. The Mission of DIA-SPORT association is to increase the quality of education and training at all levels and in all its forms as well as to foster integration of any social group regardless of gender, age and ethnic origin.

DIA-SPORT has over twelve years experience in the following areas: consulting and training at national and transnational levels, organizing and conducting seminars, training and steering sessions (social inclusion of disadvantaged/ disabled) and development of training modules for disadvantaged/ disabled people. Its main goals are: improve the accessibility, quality and efficiency of education and training of all people; support the social integration and realization of each individual with specific attention to youth and disadvantaged groups; contribute to the integration of Bulgaria into the European and international structures; support educational and training infrastructure development and improvement; assist local, national, regional and international institutions in the implementation of their training and educational policies; strengthen the physical and mental health of population; promote and contribute to Life Long Learning, Adult Education, E-learning and the usage of ICT in Education and Training.

The Association is member of LearningMigration Com.3 and volunteer in 4 other transnational networks. It also works in collaboration with many training and education institutions in Bulgaria (schools, universities, national and regional educational centres of the Ministry of Education and Science, other NGOs, agencies for the employment, social services etc). The association has gained a wide experience of projects and international relations in the framework of various programs.

Director: Tatiana Velitchkov

DESINCOOP (Portugal)

DESINCOOP has four years and is service producers' cooperative, providing services in the economic, social and cultural and educational areas. The main activities are: studies, consultancy, training, elaboration of projects, support for the creation and operation of Proximity Services and other cooperatives, social and cultural interventions.

The social profiles of Desincoop beneficiaries are young people, adult and senior unemployed and minorities trying to find a first job or a new employment. In a lot of cases they are trying a self employment.

In this moment with the social and economic crisis Desincoop faces with a new problematic connected with low skills persons, unemployed or belonging to minorities, that want to start up social economy enterprises, small and micro profit enterprises in innovative fields and have no money to pay consultant services. There is also a big demand of young people with graduations in various fields. Even if all the collaborators of Desincoop are trainers and most of them have experience in social economy management and specialized in quality, Desincoop principal goal is the continuous improvement of the performance of professionals in order they are able to face new challenges and new target publics. They are graduated in social sciences (social work, psychology, sociology, management, economy) and we have a small number with degree in law and engineer. The cooperative founders have previous experience in all the fields mentioned as professionals and simultaneously as e-learning trainers. The recruitment of the others collaborators is made in the founder's professional network. Amongst its collaborators are university professors acting as senior consultants and other professionals with vast experience in project management who are responsible for developing studies and scientifically assessing them, as well as establishing partnerships with their respective Universities.

Director: Luísa Oliveira

APTES (Switzerland)

The partnership received a proposition to take part in the project as a "silent partner" and to follow the progress of each activity.

APTES association was found in 2007 by a group of persons who was already in the social enterprise and cultural field, sensitive to the common good of autonomy in the work of the transversal skills and respect for the environment. Its aim is to promote transdisciplinary activities and social entrepreneurship.

Includes in the same nonprofit enterprise people with employability (transition from school to employment, rehabilitation, career change); holders for innovative socially, culturally and / or environmentally projects; coach and trainers (senior and junior) from social partners organizations; independent contractors wishing to cooperate in the network, locally and internationally, and sharing some of the mandates, places and other work tools.

APTES know the Vaud companies adhering to the values of social solidarity economy and can facilitate the choice of providers according to your needs. Is a founding member of AFTER-VD, Association of Advancement of Social Economy and Solidarity in the canton of Vaud.

APTES promote the approach of general interest, organized in an entrepreneurial spirit and not as the main reason the maximization of profits, but the satisfaction of certain social and economic goals, and the ability to develop, the production of goods or services, innovative solutions to the problems of exclusion and unemployment.

Director: Danièle Corthesy