

Minutes INTAKT 4th Partner Meeting

Cork, 6 – 9 March 2012

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Themes:

- Welcome and presentation of the partner-organisation Partnership Europe
- INTAKT interim-report: results – evaluation - comments
- INTAKT procedure: final version
- INTAKT in practise: Evaluation of realised projects
- INTAKT: target-groups and marketing
- INTAKT: final conference

Welcome and presentation of the partner-organisation Partnership Europe

Sebastian Welter welcomes all participants and thanks Joan Walsh, Partnership Europe, for hosting this meeting at Cork. She introduces than the organisation, which was established as an agency to provide support to local and regional stakeholder at Cork to establish contacts with European and international partners. In the beginning the activities were mainly focused on the university-sector, but with opening of the EU-programme “Lifelong Learning” also to other target-groups, the mobility-sector is meanwhile from increasing importance. By tradition exists intensive cooperation-contacts to Spain. But also the figures of exchanged students and interns from other European countries are growing. Recently the IT-sector, which is represented by some important international firms at Cork, took an especially positive development. Up to the actual financial crisis, which turned the sector into a stagnation, there were good opportunities to provide work-placements to foreign mobility-participants. As the current situation is unfortunately characterized by an increasing youth-unemployment, Partnership Europe plans for the future to put more efforts in sending of young people to the European neighbour-states, in order to offer them additional prospects for qualification and employment abroad.

Afterwards Benedikt Eimann shows a short video-clip, produced by vocational trainees from Germany within their stay in England as part of a „professional field research project“. The video-clip proofs:

- The INTAKT-project reaches its intended goals.
- The participants are showing competences in different fields while working in their projects, as well social and personal competences as language- and communication skills and media competence).
- The results of these “professional field research projects” are visible and can be used as marketing-instruments in order to present the INTAKT-approach to external experts within the dissemination strategy for the project.

INTAKT interim-report: results – evaluation - comments

Sebastian Welter explains feedbacks and findings of external experts received to the interim report of the INTAKT project. In general the estimation of the project is positive: There is no danger expressed that for a failure of the project, despite of the fact that it is delayed in its realisation. But there is a demand to increase the testing of project results. Furthermore it was stated, that the link between the INTAKT-procedure and the results of the previous COMPASS-project remains unclear. Therefore it proved very important to agree as well on final versions for the conceptual base of the project as on steps for the realization of the envisaged project-results.

INTAKT procedure: final version

Due to the results of the first testing-phase there is a need to redesign the systematic for „Professional Field Research“-projects: On one hand participants seem to be frustrated with their projects, when they were not participating in the process of establishing their task-settings. On the other hand results of some projects go far ahead of previous formulated learning-objectives, as participants after arriving in their target-countries widened own initiative the focus of their research-project. These findings give reason to open the systematic for „Professional Field Research“-projects to allow its use for different target-groups and to adopt it better to individual needs and learning-outcomes. The redesigned concept defines different types of „Professional Field Research“-projects, directed to task-settings of different complexity. This systematic is divided in:

- a) Summary: Compilation of observed facts, structures, developments related to the thematic area of the „Professional Field Research“-project,
- b) Comparison: Compilation of facts and description of observed similarities and differences between structures and developments in the host-country and the own country of origin,
- c) Analysis: Research for reasons, explaining differences and similarities in structures and developments,
- d) Development-concept: Elaboration of a concept for the solution of observed negative tendencies in the own professional area basing on gained professional knowledge
- e) Realisation of a model-project, basing on own professional skills.

In practise about 80% of all „Professional Field Research“-projects will be linked to the types a) and b). But task-settings of the categories c) – e) will allow it to establish task-settings also for participants, who want to proof their professional skills and interpersonal competences by realising more complex task-settings abroad.

This extended concept finds a very positive feedback among project-partners. The underlying competence-matrix was checked afterwards with help of already existing reports. It was established, that:

- a categorie „team-work“ has to be added to the competence-systematic
- „communication competences“ can not be validated only by provision of written project-reports,
- the learning-objective “improvement of language skills” needs the use of media as report-format (e.g. video or mp-datafiles),
- the hosting partner-organisations has to be integrated in the processes for the validation of learning-outcomes.

As a positive aspect was mentioned, that the „Competence-matrix“ offers the opportunity to evaluate learning-outcomes individually for different competence-areas.

INTAKT: programming of the database

As the evaluation of the interim-report has shown, that the link between the INTAKT- and the COMPASS-database has to be explained more transparent, the technical aspects of the programming were discussed again. In this context Sebastian Welter introduces the model of a „task-generator“, for „Professional Field Research“-projects as part of the INTAKT-database. The core-idea of this tool is related to the phase-model for the integration of „Professional Field Research“-projects into mobility-projects and concerns the systematic establishment of work-tasks.

The partners agree to preserve the COMPASS-database and to add the functions necessary for the realisation of the INTAKT-approach. The database will get a new title „EVST-database“ - but also the logotypes of both projects (COMPASS and INTAKT), signaling, that this new database was developed on base of both projects. Furthermore the database should allow to describe learning-outcomes in categories as given in the „Europass-Mobility“. This would offer an additional „added value“ for coordinators of mobility-projects, as this tool would support the issue of certificates. But it has to be clarified, whether this function might be realized within the foreseen budget and time-frame. This will be checked during an extra-meeting at Odense.

INTAKT in practise: Evaluation of realised projects

Taking into account the feedback of the external evaluators on the INTAKT-interim report, the project-partners agree to extend the test of the INTAKT-approach with further groups of participants in mobility-projects. This will be done especially via the projects „ProViso“ and „ProVero“, coordinated by the Bundesarbeitskreis ARBEIT UND LEBEN and projects, realized by the Friedrich-List-Schule. During the discussion was established, that actually the European INTAKT-partners see only little chance to test the INTAKT-results in own mobility-projects, as their National Agencies are not willing to accept „Professional Field Research“-projects as results of mobility-projects. Due to the experiences made during the first testing, the evaluation-questionnaires for mobility-participants and representatives of sending schools were redesigned again.

INTAKT: target-groups and marketing

At several occasions the project partners made the experience, presenting the INTAKT-project, that the term „Professional Field Research“-projects was not understood. This occurred especially as a problem for the European project-partners, as there is no adequate translation for the German expression „Berufsfelderkundung“. This proved to be a serious obstacle for marketing-activities. Therefore the partners discussed possible alternative expressions for a better targeting. As a result partners agreed to name the approach in a German version officially „Europäische Berufsfelderkundung“ and in English „European Vocational Skills Training (EVST-project) in order to express content and meaning of the INTAKT-approach more transparent. Furthermore the concept of the project-leaflet was redesigned, which should be published in two versions, adopted to mobility-students and coordinators of mobility-projects.

Later project partners designed in small groups slogans for the „advertisement“ of the concept, especially pointing out its added value. These slogans will be also integrated in the redesigned project-leaflets.

Additionally the project-partners agree to collect testimonials among representatives of schools and companies, where positive experiences were made with the INTAKT-approach. These feedbacks will be published within the project-documentation and used for further marketing-activities.

INTAKT: final conference

Sebastian Welter explains that due to summer-holidays the preparation of the final-conference, should start at an early stage, as the INTAKT-project ends 30 September 2012 and the time after the summer-break will be too short to prepare the event.

Some conceptual thoughts were fixed:

- The conference will take place 6 / 7 September 2012 at Berlin.
- The focus of the conference will be the presentation of project-results,
- If possible, mobility-participants should take active part in the conference, reporting their experiences and presenting their EVST-projects.

Up to the partner-meeting at Valencia, a draft-programme will be presented and further organisational steps will be agreed.

Date for the next partner-meeting:

Valencia, 14 – 17 May 2012

Sebastian Welter

March 2012