

Erasmus+ KA229 Project: Students Actively Learning Entrepreneurial Skills Reference No.2020-1-BE02-KA229-074685_2

This year a new type of Erasmus + project has been submitted which involves and focuses on students and the European experience they will gain - Strategic Partnerships. This type of project creates “bridges” between partners in several countries in order to increase international cooperation by developing quality and innovative educational products. Given that in the case of mobility projects the focus is on the development of people (either beneficiaries or staff of the organizations involved), strategic partnerships naturally complement them with a particular focus on organizational development.

Among the main motivations and benefits of Strategic Partnerships are:

- developing new and innovative approaches to increasing the quality and relevance of the educational offer, training and youth work of the actors involved in different European countries;
- providing personalized support, collaborative learning, critical thinking, open educational resources, virtual mobility or other innovative learning methods for the students and teachers involved;
- creating links between formal education, non-formal and informal learning, vocational training, youth work and their connection to the labor market through the development of skills and qualifications that are of interest throughout Europe at present and in the future;
- promoting an inter-sectoral and international collaborative culture between educational institutions;
- developing the organizational capacity of schools across the European Union;
- promoting equality and inclusion in education, training and youth in order to prevent early school leaving and to stimulate the participation of disadvantaged groups in the community;
- stimulating an entrepreneurial culture (including social entrepreneurship) in order to develop active citizenship and international, especially European, employability;
- increase participation in learning and employability through career counseling and support services.

The project - Students Actively Learning Entrepreneurial Skills (Reference No.2020-1-BE02-KA229-074685_2) - refers to KA 229 school exchange partnerships, has a budget of 30480 euros and will run for a period of two years.

Our partnership, consisting of five completely different and remote countries, was created from the desire of all schools involved to contribute more to the personal and professional development of students, to develop their critical and creative ideas, and to support entrepreneurship to serve. Our schools are already making efforts to encourage entrepreneurial learning and so far attempts have been made to connect students to real-life businesses to facilitate their understanding of the business world.

The coordinator of the project is De Handelsschool Aalst Belgium, from Belgium, and partners with the “Bogdan Vodă” Theoretical High School from Hălăucești are also: Profesionalna Gimnaziya po Transport Bulgaria, PrimMat - Soukroma stredni skola podnikatelska, s.r.o. Czech Republic, Kadinhani Zeki Altindag Anadolu Lisesi Turkey. Therefore, schools from five states - Belgium, Romania, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Turkey - will work together and cooperate in order to implement the project and achieve its objectives.

The overall aim of the project is to facilitate cooperation by exchanging ideas, opinions and perspectives of young people from different European countries and by generating relevant business ideas for local economies.

Special objectives:

1. To enable participants to meet new cultures and develop their intercultural competence;
2. To develop the entrepreneurial mentality of students by offering the context of developing joint venture ideas, thereby improving the transition to the business world;
3. To facilitate the professional development of students, critical and analytical thinking, communication, creativity etc., improve soft skills, thus improving their transition to the world of work;
4. To increase students' self-confidence in foreign contexts and language skills;
5. Improve the European dimension of the school through cooperation with other schools and transfer of best practices.

Activities are to contribute step by step to reach the targets we have set. For this reason, we plan to plan 5 main activities, C1-C5, before the preparatory activities and to follow the dissemination activities that aim to increase the impact of the project activities and transfer them to the other stakeholders.

There have been planned five mobilities in this project with the following themes and locations:

1. C1 - the economy of Bulgaria and beginners in agriculture
2. C2 - Romanian economy and IT initiatives
3. C3 - Czech economy and initiatives to small businesses
- 4 C4 - Turkey's economy beginners and beauty industry
5. C5 - Introduction to the Belgium economy and outdoor activities and sports activities.

Over 120 students aged 15-18 will participate directly in the exchanges as participants and host students. From each country there will be at least 6 students to participate in each exchange that is at least 24 students in total. They will also participate in the preparation of the exchanges hosted by their school.

In addition to 30 teachers who play a key role in the implementation, dissemination, evaluation and project coordination, there will also be other teachers taking part in the preparation of the participants and the arrangement of practical arrangements for local activities (about 20).

Our project will affect the school at different levels:

- Development of human resources - students will develop their creativity, critical thinking, communication and organizational skills.
- Developing partnerships with local businesses. Partnerships for exchanges will strengthen cooperation between schools and businesses.
- Development of a material base with brochures and worksheets that will be used to improve students' entrepreneurship skills in the future.