

1st Newsletter

Vocationally Orientated Culture and Language in Need

The Vocal In Need Project aims to bridge the linguistic and cultural gap of security and agency staff by providing an online training and an app for smartphones to better interact with migrants and refugees as well as to increase the intercultural and linguistic skills of these workers in the following contexts:



Website <https://vocal.erasmus.site>

Need Analysis Report

By the end of February 2018 a Needs analysis had been carried out in the partner countries. It aimed at understanding the training needs of security and agency staff in terms of intercultural and linguistic/communicational skills they would need to better interact with migrants /refugees so to design an online training and an app for smartphones based on real-life scenarios where they feel their language and intercultural competences are not sufficient. A total of 115 NGO/agencies staff (educators, trainers, coaches, vocational guidance and career counsellors, managers of training providers / services for migrants) and 79 security staff (police staff, boarder guards, guards at entrance points of shelter for refugees) were interviewed.

Meetings

Kick-Off Meeting (23-24 October 2017, Ireland)

After a brief introduction of all partners the project coordinator, Dr. Kristin Brogan, Institute of Technology Tralee (IE), gave an in-depth presentation of the project, its main aims and activities, which was followed by the presentation of the project's Intellectual Outputs by the respective leading partners. A specific session was dedicated to the first Intellectual Output, the Need Analysis Report, in order to decide upon the content of the two questionnaires for the needs analysis; one for Security Staff and the other for NGOs and similar organisations. The needs analysis will ensure that the target groups will be reached by each partner in the upcoming months. The next project meeting will be held in Rzeszów, Poland, on the 7-8 May 2018.

Next Steps of The Project

The next important step in the Vocal in Need project will be the development of the training module prototypes which will be based on the results of the Output 1-Need Analysis report. The Vocal in Need project partnership will develop four training modules (On the road – Reporting an incident – At the shelter – In the integration Course) and one Intercultural Competences module. Each of the modules will consist of:

●Key words ● Phrases ● Dialogues ● Quizzes ● Information section on the topic addressed ● Final test. Project partners have already started designing the prototypes for the training modules.

Later, the Training module prototypes will be transferred into partners' languages and information provided will be specified in relation to the country-related background. After the finalisation of the 5 training modules, an app for smartphones (Mobile assistant) containing useful pre-recorded key phrases and words to help security and agency staff in overcoming language barriers, will be developed too. It will operate as a valuable source for mutual understanding: within this application, a set of key words and phrases with respective audio recordings (in foreign languages) will be accessible, so that in a few seconds it will be possible to listen to sentences that will tackle basic language barriers. The VOCAL IN NEED training modules will be available in the following languages:

● Arabic ● Bulgarian ● English ● German ● Italian ● Lithuanian ● Russian ● Turkish

The Vocal In Need project partnership is composed by 9 institutions from 8 countries:



Institute of Technology Tralee from Ireland (Project Coordinator)



Mykolas Romeris University from Lithuania

Hochschule der Sächsischen Polizei (FH), the university of applied police science from Germany



University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" from Bulgaria



assist GmbH, a training provider from Germany



Esenler Meslekive Teknik Anadolu Lisesi, a VET school from Turkey



Danmar Computers LLC, a private company from Poland



die Berater, a private training institute and consultancy from Austria



Formazione Co&So Network (FCN), Consortium of social cooperatives from Italy

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