



MetropolisNet

Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

welcome to the second edition of the MetropolisNet Newsletter. You will get to know two members of MetropolisNet: Rinova from London and CIOFS-FP, based in Rome and active in 12 Italian regions.

In the second half of 2017, three MetropolisNet projects will come to an end. This means an intense working period for us but at the same time we are glad to see the final results of our projects Jump@School, NQCA and EP-Dem Labs and how these results will be further exploited.

The finalising of projects also means that MetropolisNet will be starting new projects soon. These will mainly focus on digitalisation, employment and youth.

In this newsletter, Dr. Reiner Aster shares his thoughts on the European conference on digitalisation in VET and decent digital labour in Berlin.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Your MetropolisNet Team

MetropolisNet – get to know the Network

Rinova Ltd

Rinova Ltd is based in London and is active in labour market programmes, particularly those that foster economic, social and cultural inclusion.

Rinova was founded in 2010 – but our link with Metropolisnet goes back a long way! Our Founder, Richard Parkes (widely known as Rick), first worked with the Director of gsub mbH and MetropolisNet, Reiner Aster, in the context of EU programmes as long ago as 1997! When Rick founded Rinova, the two got in touch to collaborate again and this led to Rinova becoming a member of Metropolisnet in 2014.

Rinova's work is all about partnerships. In the UK, it has managed and implemented many large-scale skills and employment partnerships in London. These have had a particular emphasis on tackling the 'NEET' situation – where young people are not in education, employment or training. Many of these partnerships involve the full range of stakeholders, from employers and colleges to NGOs, educational bodies and public authorities. It has a particular specialism in the cultural industries and develops projects, which foster the 'triple apex' of social, cultural and economic inclusion.



MetropolisNet

European network of local development partnerships in metropolitan areas



The Rinova Team (from left to right): Richard Parkes was speaking at a conference while this picture was taken. Julie Parish, Amanda Francis, Alexandra Walker, Trevor Burgess, Sheniz Tan, Michele De Vito, Mamta Dave, Stacey Garey, Monica Aroma, Donna Pollard.

In Europe, Rinova has participated in an extensive number of EU projects. This has included a number with MetropolisNet and its members, including the UK-led Erasmus+ projects *Euro-iVET* designed by Rinova, in which Metropolisnet is a partner and *Job Broker*, for which Rinova is the applicant and which is partnered by gsub mbH.

Being based in a global city such as London, cooperation at the international level was built into its founding vision - and its work with its extensive range of European partners is as valued as ever. With regard to Brexit, Rick says

"We do not know what those negotiations will bring. We are hopeful that, if Brexit does ultimately occur, at the very least the UK will be an active participant in EU programmes in the way that some non-EU countries are, such as Norway and Iceland. Either way, we are determined to maintain and extend our relationships with our many European partners and to continue to co-operate with colleagues on the international stage – so that we can continue to learn from each other and build new solutions for labour markets and urban regeneration."

Rinova regularly publishes news about its work through its website and social media. You can find a number of full articles about its project work on its website here <http://www.rinova.co.uk/news/> or follow it on its Facebook page (just look up 'Rinova London') or its Twitter feed @RinovaLtd.

Richard Parkes

CIOFS-FP

CIOFS-FP is a non-profit organisation, whose main area of activity is Vocational Training. It operates in 12 Italian Regions with as many Regional Associations and 60 Operations Offices. The National Centre is based in Rome: its 14 staff members provide co-ordination and training of the operators, project design, administrative and technical assistance, networking at the national and European level.

CIOFS-FP is currently active in vocational training, guidance and job placement services, the certification of skills, social inclusion, employability promotion as well as equal opportunities, through the implementation of several European projects. Among those addressing Youth, Meet the Neet, in partnership with the Ministry

of Labour and some Italian Regions, aims at improving the effectiveness and outreach of the Youth Guarantee Scheme; EP-DeM Labs provides Youth with the opportunity to make their voices heard and plans measures to improve their level of education and employability. With regard to migration, NICeR project is working to elaborate a new approach to the social inclusion of refugees at the local level, through cultural and artistic activities, while DIME is developing a skills reference framework and training modules for migrants' inclusion in Europe. As far as quality assurance is concerned, NQCA designs and develops a working model among different bodies on the topic of quality culture within VET paths; QUAL4T2 supports teacher teams in VET schools in their use of quality assistance mechanisms like the Plan Do Check Act cycle; Work-based Learning in CVET works on the development of a complex methodology applicable in adult work-based vocational training in international cooperation based on Finnish, German and Italian models. Then, the most recent project EPWESS is focused on Entrepreneurship Support Services (SAEs) and intends to improve the professional training of the SAEs' staff.

Additionally, CIOFS-FP is a founding member of **MetropolisNet** which over time has been facilitating several partnerships in metropolitan areas and had done brilliant work on social cohesion and good practices on re-integrating disadvantaged groups into the labour market.

Recently we also joined the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) which brings together key stakeholders to strengthen the quality, supply and image of apprenticeship in Europe.

At the national level, CIOFS-FP is paying great attention to new technologies and teaching methods, developing and promoting the web-platform Smart CIOFS-FP and the Application JobApp as tools to support Youth in their school-to-work transition (<http://www.smartciofs-fp.it>).

Claudia Signoretti



The Ciofs-FP Team in Rome (starting at the bottom left): Angela Loiacono, Francesca Di Paolantonio, Tiziana Piacentini, Cristina Diamanti, Salvatore Merenda, Maria Paolucci, Manuela Robazza, Alessia Persiani, Claudia Signoretti, Federica Ruggiero, Angela Elicio, Giorgia Persiani, Lauretta Valente

NQCA – Networking for Quality Culture and Assurance

The Final Conference in Berlin

43 participants from more than 6 countries came together on 11th October 2017 for the NQCA final conference to learn about the project results of the NQCA projects and to discuss its effectiveness at the local level.

After they were welcomed by Francesca Di Paolantonio from Ciofs-FP in Italy, Mick Creedon from Ballymun Job-Centre gave an introduction into the project and into the interagency model as such. So, the participants learned that the project focuses on quality at transition points, as a previous project identified, that quality can be significantly reduced during key transition points throughout the client's VET journey.

Jasmin Zouizi and Sarah Müller took the participants on an interesting journey to Berlin's Interagency Model and showed a very practical way to approach the challenges of a refugees VET journey in Berlin. They introduced the cloud based CV's, an interagency tool, which can be easily used by refugees and frontline stakeholders to capture the VET journey of a refugee before he came to Berlin and to continue its VET journey once he starts to establish his life in Germany. During a first discussion round Ms. Alizadah and Dr. Thomas Nittka from TeachCom Edutainment gGmbH in Berlin had the chance to talk about their motivation to take part in this project.

After a short break, the partnership invited the participants to stroll around the NQCA Market place, as all partners presented their local interagency models in a lively way with a pinboard, pictures and even with a little movie.

The second part of the conference put the focus more on the general results of the project. Jasmin Zouizi presented the Policy



NQCA Final Conference, October 2017, Maiziah Alizadah, Mahir Shirani Bidabadi, Jasmin Zouizi, Dr. Thomas Nittka.

Toolkit which summarises the partnership accumulated practical expertise to improve policy through an interagency approach and co-production based on quality culture. She introduced three identified policy practice gaps which are defined as the differences between policy (regulation on paper) and real-life practices. Furthermore, she introduced 5 recommendations built to avoid the traps of policy-practice gaps in a practical and efficient way:

1. Listen to your clients
2. Identify the right communication channels and use an appropriate language to provide your target group with up-to-date information
3. Design flexible programmes and services which suit your clients' needs and living conditions
4. Continuously capture feedback from your clients and frontline practitioners
5. Create interagency groups when designing a programme or service

Matti Mäkelä from the City of Turku in Finland gave with his presentation an interesting insight in tools and examples used by the City of Turku to prove the effects and added value of projects in cost-efficiency and quality. The importance of measuring those results was also highlighted by Finbarr Fitzpatrick's presentation, who was the project evaluator and responsible to implement the Social Return of Investment Methodology.



The Market Place: City of Turku presenting its local approach

The final panel discussed the question “How the project results can influence national policies and EU policies.” Anne Downs (Gems – Northern Ireland), Mick Creedon (BJC – Ireland) and Jimmy Flynn from Islington Council in London agreed, that the NQCA project continues processes which were already established or at least discussed, but not continued by local government due to a lack of financial resources.

The conference came to an end with a light lunch in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The toolkit is now being finalised and will be available at www.nqca.eu within the next 4 weeks.

Jasmin Zouizi

About Digitalisation in Vocational Training and Further Education

As confirmed in the last “Strategic and Operative Plan” of MetropolisNet EEIG (General Assembly on 6th and 7th December 2016) digitalisation is one of the top themes on the agenda of our network. Even today, online learning and online curricula are already frequently used tools in the different projects of MetropolisNet. Moreover, digital communication is a crucial part of our daily work at MetropolisNet and without these tools we wouldn't be able to do

our work. We assume that in the future digitalisation in all its facets will play a bigger role in our company and in our projects.

Therefore, we would like to provide our MetropolisNet Partners and our audience with some information concerning a Berlin conference¹ about digitalisation.

In May 2017, the Berlin Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Services and the Europaagentur (Europe Agency) of the Department, run by gsub mbH, organised a conference entitled “*Shaping decent digital labour in European metropolitan regions. Digital competences in vocational training and further education of the future.*”

Digitalisation has led to transformations in the world of labour over recent years. These processes are gaining greater significance and will continue to pose new challenges in the future. Jobs across all industries as well as sector-specific tasks performed increasingly require digital competences. For this reason, qualification will be an essential prerequisite in order to shape labour in a good and fair way at a time of digital change. The focus is not merely restricted to training workers in technical and industrial branches. The service sector, which is of particular relevance in Berlin and other big cities in Europe, is also involved.

Policy makers are also confronted with the task of ensuring that new possibilities of access to digital competences and workplaces are opened up to the unemployed and disadvantaged groups, and that they do not become detached from this development.

This topic is also being worked on at the European level. The outcome of this process is the *New Skills Agenda* published by the European Commission in June 2016, and the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition launched in December.

¹ Source: Short Report of the conference, Senate Department for Integration, Labour and Social Services, May 2017

The conference in Berlin showed that European cities face similar challenges. The paramount task is to shape the digitalisation process so that it benefits people. All the parties agreed on this. Digitalisation also requires a new way of thinking in companies that needs to be strengthened further. The working world still lacks digital competences in many sectors and professions.

These could however be developed, as pilot projects in Berlin and international examples at the conference showed. It is not just about professional skills, but interdisciplinary and personal skills too, as well as new ways of teaching and learning them.

In order to promote further training and the use of digital media among employees, the social partners would need to ensure by means of collective bargaining agreements and policy-making that appropriate framework conditions are set to ensure the necessary time and space for further training.

Many practical examples were presented at the conference. Some of these examples and discussions showed that social participation depends not least on digital competences. Digitalisation, properly applied, could lead to more inclusion. The majority of young people use digital media as a matter of course. Greater use of this knowledge, often gained playfully in everyday life, needs to be made in working life. In this way, the so-called “millennials” could become ambassadors of change.

Dr. Reiner Aster

Network Notice Board:

Events

EP-DeM Labs

27th November EP-DeM Labs Final Management Meeting, Rome

28th November, in parallel: Youth Conference and Policy makers/Providers conference, Rome

29th November Final European Conference, Rome

On the **28th** and **29th** you can participate in the events via livestreaming on our YouTube Channel
MetropolisNetEEIG

IntoDigits

18th -19th Decembre Kick-Off Meeting in Berlin



Project Updates

EP-DeM Labs



A lot has been happening over the last months in the EP-DeM project.

The Observatory on inclusive practices has been published, and the winner of the **EP-DeM Award** will be presented very soon!

The European Lab, a transnational meeting that brought together young people, institutions and providers from the 4 cities involved in EP-DeM took place on 8th June at the National Concert Hall in Dublin.

The discussions and exchanges evidence a great need of further working together, at the National and European level, on transition measures targeting young people. You can have a look at what happened on our website and the YouTube channel

[MetropolisnetEEIG](#).

Now, the local teams are again fully at work in capitalising on these results and preparing for the final events: The Youth Conference, the Providers' conference and the European conference are planned for the 28th and 29th November in Rome.

Euro-iVET



The Euro-iVET project is currently in the essential phase of the development of a train-the-trainer curriculum for VET professionals working in inner-city contexts with young people from diverse, disadvantaged backgrounds. At the last partner meeting in July in Uppsala, Sweden the partnership prepared the elaboration of a virtual learning platform and a train-the-trainers handbook, which are planned to be published in spring 2018. www.euro-ivet.eu

EPWESS



EPWESS is the most recent project of MetropolisNet and working in the field of small and medium enterprises (SME). The primary objective of EPWESS is to improve the professional training of the SMEs' staff. As a first step a study on strengths and weaknesses of training structures in SMEs in four European countries will be done. Further on a comprehensive training guide will be developed and an online validation tool will be developed using the ECVET framework.

Jump@School



After three years the project Jump@School – Testing a Model to Contrast Early School Leaving came to an end in August 2017. Now it's time to look at the results! On the project homepage <http://jumpatschool.eu/> you can find: the reports of the 13 exchange seminars which were held in Poland, Germany, Spain, Italy and Austria; the “Operational Model” containing the measures realised in four schools in Spain and Italy which can be further used and exploited; the final report and the evaluative report of the experimentation with the so called logic model and the recommendations arising from the analysis of it. You can also check the Jump@School Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7akviVsMCEg>

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European network of local development
partnerships in metropolitan areas