



THE
EMPLOYMENT
ALLIANCE

Training

Cooperation

Exchange

EZINE ISSUE TWO

Launch of Polish-German Alliance and Employment Alliance Toolkit in Halle/Saale, Germany

On Wednesday, 27 May 2015, at the DORMERO Conference Centre in Halle/Saale, Germany, the *Employment Alliance* project partners were joined by 60+ high-level Polish and German stakeholders (SMEs, HEIs, VET provider, business support organisations, government representatives) for a one day workshop which marked the launch of the German-Polish *Employment Alliance* of the regions Szczecin and Halle/Saale.

The participants at the event could choose from five parallel workshop sessions on topics related to the '*Employment Alliance*' focus area: Improvement of labour market integration of students to prevent under- and unemployment among graduates. Each workshop session was led by a moderator from the Employment Alliance Consortium who took notes and guided participants' discussions to produce actions which have the potential to deepen to collaborative efforts between Polish and German alliance stakeholders. The identified actions are as follows:

- Intensification of Cooperation between HEIs and Business for Optimisation of Labour Market Integration of Graduates
- Students Pathway Planning which Promotes Self-Employment
- Inter-Regional Career Centre Collaboration to Exchange Ideas and Best-Practice which will Support Labour Market Integration of Graduates
- Adaption of a Monitoring System to Measure Skills Mismatches (Based on Polish Best-Practice)
- Improve student preparation for labour market entry

All actions completed during the workshop sessions have been sub-divided into 5 different actions sets. These action sets are described in detail in the 'Agenda for Action' of the Polish-German partnership which can be downloaded from the Employment Alliance website. However, as Polish and German stakeholders physically met for the first time, it is expected that actions will be further elaborated until the end of the project.

Another cornerstone of the Multiplier Event in Halle was the official launch of the '*Employment Alliance*' toolkit. The toolkit explains in a step-by-step way measures





which are necessary to successfully establish inter-regional alliances. It was introduced to the guests of the multiplier event based on a presentation summarizing the rationale behind the Employment Alliance project and emphasising the importance of transnational cooperation projects between regions inside Europe. Furthermore, the stakeholders of the alliance were briefed on the general structure of the toolkit and informed by the alliance partners about lessons learned throughout the establishment of the respective alliances within the REAL project. Furthermore, participants had the chance to ask questions and discuss the toolkit with the Employment Alliance representative in an open and productive atmosphere. In this sense, it was important to point out that the toolkit is not limited to the alliances which are established within the project *'Employment Alliance'*. It should be regarded as a general guide that helps to establish inter-regional alliances in any kind of policy setting. By providing this toolkit, the *'Employment Alliance'* wants to enable key actors from other European regions to adapt the pursued innovative approach allowing them, e.g., to actively find solutions which can help to overcome the skills mismatch and therefore effectively tackle the problem of youth unemployment.



The Cross Border Employment Alliance (Ireland/UK)

The Cross Border Employment Alliance working in the regions of County Louth (IRL) and Newry and Mourne (UK) was launched at a high profile event in March 2015 in Newry, Northern Ireland. The launch was attended by politicians from both jurisdictions including the Irish Minister for Business and Employment and Northern Ireland Westminster MP's Conor Murphy and Margaret Ritchie. An audience of SMEs, HEIs, education providers, business support organisations, and government representatives all met to explore the issues facing young unemployed and underemployed graduates in the region and agreed to commit to the Alliance process. In April 2015 the Employment Alliance met in Dundalk County Louth and again in Newry in September 2015 to further identify the issues facing the mismatch of the needs of employers in the area and the experiences of the graduates they were encountering. An audit of the main issues was undertaken and an Actionable Action Plan was drafted which focused on achievable actions that were as cost neutral as possible garnering the collective will of the involved stakeholders.

Our Goal

The Employment Alliance project aims to empower young unemployed or underemployed graduates to become entrepreneurs and high value employees in a short period after leaving university.



OVERCOMING BARRIERS



Lack of communication



Lack of knowledge



Identification of needed skills



Institutional legacies



Best practice exchange

Our Approach

To do so, we will build synergistic relationships between key stakeholders in the field of higher education, small and medium enterprises (SME) and business support organisations to create a new culture of collaboration in employment support.

Two Initial Territorial Employment Alliances formed

Memoranda of Understanding signed in May 2015



Ireland/
United Kingdom



Germany/
Poland

Our Project Team

The Employment Alliance is an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project led by Louth County Council and integrates 5 additional key partners from four countries. The consortium has been formed strategically to bring together all those competencies and experiences needed to exploit the full value of the Employment Alliances across Europe.

A dynamic team of practitioners:

We strongly believe in partnerships and collaboration

Making a true impact is our core goal with all activities being designed to reach this goal

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