



THE
EMPLOYMENT
ALLIANCE

Training

Cooperation

Exchange

EZINE ISSUE THREE



Development of the Employment Alliances

The Ireland- UK Cross Border Alliance has been further bolstered by the addition of County Meath as partner in this innovative new approach to addressing the issue of un and underemployment humanities graduates face in the region. Meath is a busy county adjacent to Dublin with a strong manufacturing and service base.

The extended Alliance of stakeholders continued to meet to look at their 'actionable' actions and to work on how to progress the aims of the Alliance and to work towards the translation of strategic commitments into practice.

In February in County Meath an event was held to gather together the Heads of Enterprise from the Local Enterprise Agencies in the Republic of Ireland and their counterparts from the Local Enterprise Agencies in Northern Ireland along with other interested stakeholders. The group were addressed by Thomas Hunter McGowan CEO of Intertrade Ireland which supports businesses, through innovation and trade initiatives to take advantage of North/South co-operative opportunities to improve capability, drive competitiveness, growth and jobs. Business support agencies and other stakeholders from across the island of Ireland all acknowledged similar issues for graduates in their region, they were informed of how the Employment Alliance had been initiated and the Alliance Toolkit was discussed. The group were also briefed on the emerging training course which would be available for them to signpost graduates to post pilot testing.

The Employment Alliances in Germany and Poland continue to work on their individual actions within their Alliance Action Plan while also working on joint actions and initiatives where appropriate. Alliance Actions in the Polish region include the participation and organization in "Peryskop Labour Fairs" in Szczecin, on 3-4 March 2016 one of the biggest and the most important regional labour fairs in the Szczecin region; this was an important milestone for the Alliance. In Germany the Alliance has been involved in Inter-regional career centre collaboration to exchange ideas and best-practice to support labour market integration of graduates, they have adapted a monitoring system to measure skill mismatch (based on Polish best-practice and developed two funding applications (Erasmus+) focussing on employability integrating stakeholders of the alliance.

Innovation Invitation Course Pilot Testing Phase

A key output from the Regional Employment Alliance programme is the development of a free online training programme which was pilot tested with recent graduates in Ireland, the UK, Germany and Poland.

The course is designed for teachers, lecturers and tutors teaching adult learners, including graduates, and undergraduates.

For teachers and tutors the course will look at the importance of developing students' innovation and enterprise skills, thereby assisting them in their new careers.

For Graduates and Undergraduates, the course will help them gain a better understanding of innovation, how to develop their innovation skills and how highly employers value innovative individuals. The goal of the course is to empower young unemployed or underemployed graduates to become entrepreneurs and high value employees.

The course offers the following modules

Module 1: Understanding the Labour Market

Module 2: Understanding Innovation

Module 3: Innovation Mindset

Module 4: Innovation at work-Self Employment

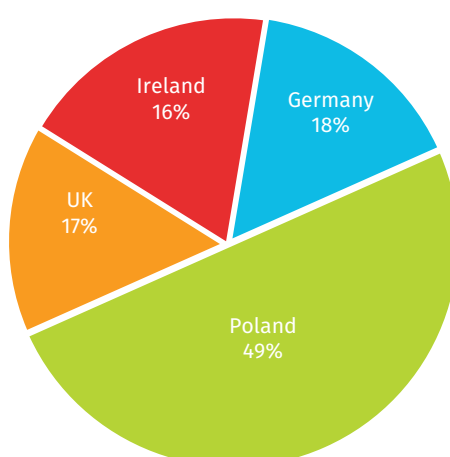
Module 5: Innovation at work-Fast Track Employment

Module 6: Social Innovation

Module 7: Innovation for life

The Project team were delighted that 95 graduates from Germany, Poland, UK and Ireland successfully took part in the pilot test of the Innovation Invitation course.

As the course is cross platform compliant, participants can use standard computers as well as different kinds of mobile devices (smartphone, tablets etc.) to take the course. However, it was also taught in a classroom format to test the offline quality of the developed materials. Thanks to the efforts from all partners as well as the participating students an evaluation of all course material was implemented at the end of the course. In total, the course received a very high satisfaction score, given that 85% of all participants rated it worthwhile. Some quotes from the Pilot Test participants:



“The delivery of the course was excellent! Great communication and interaction with the group”

Graduate from Ireland.

“Excellent course, glad I took the time to attend”

UK graduate.

“The course is well adjusted to the recipients. The topics are interesting and presented in a way that is easy to understand.”

Student from Poland.

“The course showed me many new opportunities and gave me a lot of motivation”

A German graduate

Post pilot test the feedback was reviewed and alterations made to the programme plan as appropriate..



Taking the Employment Alliance further into Europe

In June 2016 José Pietri from Mindshare Consulting in Paris presented the Regional Employment Alliances at the University Industry Innovation Network conference in Amsterdam, spreading the word of the Alliance concept.

Later that month Joe English from Meath County Council and José Pietri introduced the REAL project to the academic and business community in Romania. PRODUCTICA is a leading conference hosted by Universitatea Politehnica of Bucharest and focuses on developments in business and academia.

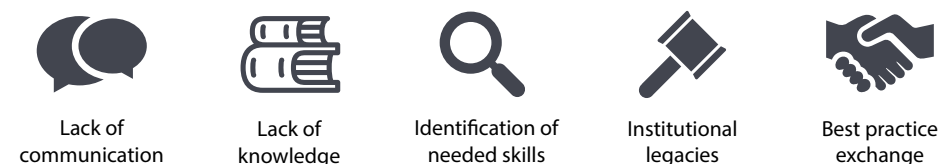
To keep up to date with the project news and Alliance developments please visit www.employmentalliance.eu or find us on Facebook and Twitter

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



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

CONTACT

Sarah Mallon
Project Manager
Local Enterprise Office Louth
Town Hall Crowe Street Dundalk Ireland

t + 353 1890 202 303
e sarah.mallon@leo.louthcoco.ie
w www.employmentalliance.eu

- Louth County Council, Ireland
- Meath County Council
- Newry and Mourne Co-operative, United Kingdom
- Mindshare Consulting, France
- Canice Consulting, UK
- Univations GmbH- affiliated institute at Martin-Luther- University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- University of Szczecin, Poland



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