

Newsletter 2

"GAMBE"

JUNE 2007

MARIE CURIE ASSOCIATION, BULGARIA



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci
Pilot projects

Dear Madams and Sirs,

Welcome to the pages of the second issue of GAMBE newsletter. This is a project, financially supported by "Leonardo da Vinci" Programme of the European commission. This issue is dedicated to the advance of the transnational initiative. Here we will present the activities, undertaken by partners from Bulgaria and Italy

You will find out more about the curriculums of the separate training modules as well as news and pictures from the events, where the GAMBE project was presented.

Please see also our new heading: *"Leonardo da Vinci" Projects in favour of people with disabilities.* Here you can find useful information about other projects, funded by "Leonardo da Vinci" programme of the European Commission. These initiatives have goals and results, similar and relevant to ours.

It is important to mention that the official website of GAMBE project is already fully-functional. If you want to know all about the initiative, you can visit it regularly on <http://gambe.ajb-berlin.info/>.

WHAT DID "GAMBE" ACHIEVE UNTIL NOW

Our Italian partner "LA VALLE DEL SOLE" has elaborated the Summary and the draft of the qualification programme for people with disabilities (PWD) in module 4, sector "Rural tourism and hospitality". The redaction of summary and draft has ended at the end of March.

On 2 and 3 March 2007 "La Valle del sole" has hosted a meeting with the other test partners (E-Isotis from Greece and Atrium from Holland and project's leader, Pro-Mente from Austria).

During the meeting we presented the summary of modules elaborated by partners and discussed on it in order to edit/modify them according to GAMBE's objectives.

In April 2007 La Valle del Sole has started the test-runs of module 4 for the qualification program for PWD in Rural tourism and hospitality . A group of 10 people (vocational level 1) has been constituted and is attending the course 4 days a week, for 6 hours a day. In the morning the group performs practical activities in the kitchen or outdoor in the kitchen garden and animals' shelters, and the afternoon they repeat the activities made in the morning from a cognitive point of view in order to stimulate the memorization of procedures, thanks to the help of specific material developed *ad hoc* (games, visual cards etc.). The end of the test-runs is foreseen in October, at the end of the "agricultural season".

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"Marie Curie" Association, Bulgaria has elaborated a curriculum and draft version of module 3 for the Community close integrational worker "Encouragement in the competences fields".

Among the themes of the module are:

Disability as an Equalities Issue. The focus of this chapter is set on detailed clarifications on "What a disability is", according to Medical and Social model, "Why people treat disability as an individual problem", the "Historical emergence of disability", "Judgments made about disabled people", etc.

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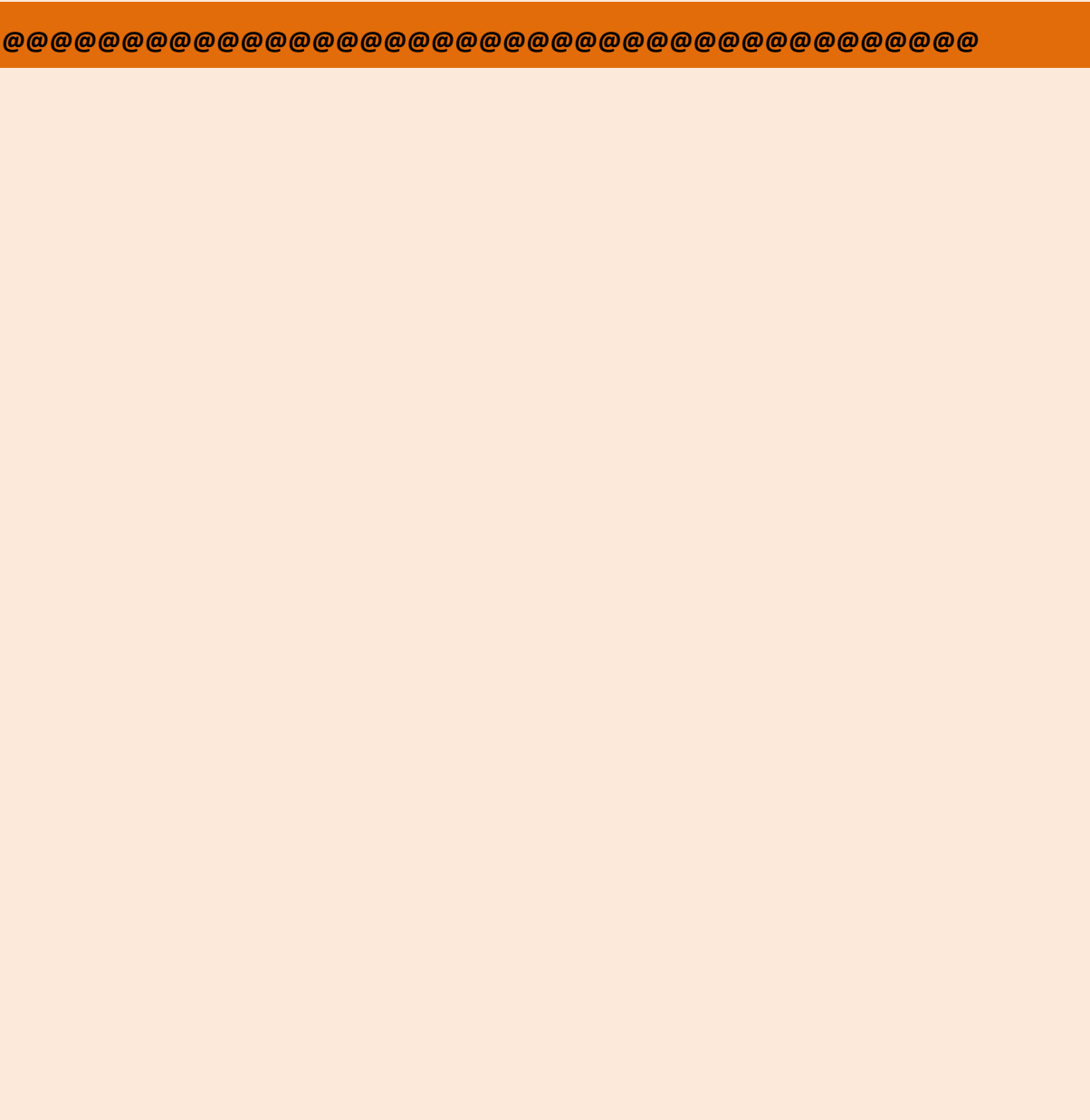
Prejudice and Stereotyping. This chapter is dedicated to the prejudices towards people with disabilities and ways for their overcoming. Some of the most common stereotypes concerning people with disabilities are vividly depicted. In order to keep professionals working with people with disabilities to be influenced by these stereotypes and to avoid misunderstanding, the

authors of the module have described the dangerous outcomes which come from these behavior models.

Developing a Positive Disability Identity. The next chapter shows the ways for creation of positive image of people with disabilities in community. It will help the professionals in their practice by providing useful examples of assertive behavior.

Section 2 of the Module includes practical steps for employing people with disabilities. They depict some myths about disabled employees, facts and figures on the matters of disability, business care for employing people with disabilities, work strategies, etc.

The model will be additionally developed in order to include other useful information and positive examples taken directly from practice. It will be available through the electronic platform of GAMBE project as well as on other alternative formats.





UPCOMING EVENTS

“Marie Curie” Association - Bulgaria, in cooperation with Workability Europe, is honored to invite you to a European Conference

10 July 2007

15:00 - 18:10

Promoting Equal Employment Opportunities
Mainstreaming of Educational and Training Practices Tailored to Disadvantaged and Elderly People

During the event thematic presentations will be delivered by:

- Local authorities
- ICT specialists
- Experts implementing life-long training programmes
- Senior managers from organizations and networks actively working in the field of employment on European level.

Key topics of the conference will be:

- Programmes for improving qualifications and training opportunities targeted towards people with disabilities, disadvantaged and elderly people
- Start up of your own business opportunities
- Web accessibility for people with disabilities
- Key activities of Workability Europe and/or its members.
- Access to mainstream training and employment for disabled people

Several successful Leonardo da Vinci projects will also be presented.

Conference venue

Alliance Hotel
7 “Vassil Aprilov” Boulevard

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Accommodation is available at the Alliance hotel at a special price of 46 Euro for a single room.

Please confirm your attendance by 20th June 2007 using the conference on-line registration form available at: <http://www.benevent.bg/?lang=en&page=4&event=807>

User name: peeo

Password: peeo

or

e-mail: info@marie-curie-bg.org

www.marie-curie-bg.org

www.workability-europe.org

VALORISATION EVENTS

Here you can read some interesting facts about the presentations of GAMBE project during workshops, seminars, conferences held on national and European level.



Round table, dedicated to the employment opportunities for people with disabilities

On 31 March 2007 in Sofia, Bulgaria a round table, dedicated to the employment opportunities for people with disabilities was conducted. The event was organised by the Bulgarian National ombudsman and The Anti-discrimination Commission in cooperation with the NGOs: "Dignified Life" Foundation and "Centre for Gender Researches".

"Marie Curie" Association, Plovdiv was one of the invited organisations which presented its activities within European projects in the sphere of vocational training and employment for people with disabilities.

In front of more than 50 participants Ms. Petya Grudeva – PR of the Association, demonstrated the achievements and the products in the different initiatives, financially supported by "Leonardo da Vinci" Programme. One of the projects presented was "GAMBE". The audience was extremely interested in the idea of the project and a large number of the participants expressed their wishes to receive further information about the advance of the initiative.

Among the other themes of the round table were "Measures undertaken by the Anti-discrimination Commission in Bulgaria" and programmes of the Ministry of labour and social affairs for stimulation of the employment of people with disabilities.

One of the conclusions, implemented in the final documents of the round table, was that state institutions should be more engaged with development of programmes for stimulation of the employers to establish new work places for people with disabilities and the NGOs to create non-formal trainings for raise of the competences of people with disabilities and disadvantaged.

A Thematic Monitoring Conference “The Voice of Users in Guidance”

On 10-11 May 2007 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, a Thematic Monitoring Conference “The Voice of Users in Guidance” was held. The event was organized by Iceland Leonardo da Vinci Agency in cooperation with their Slovenian colleagues. More than 125 organizations from all over Europe, working on international projects in the sphere of vocational education and guidance, took part in the conference. Representatives of Marie Curie Association, Bulgaria, were among the participants in the event.

In the first work day a Marketplace was organized, where there were leaflets promoting an exhibition of promotional materials, presenting various European initiatives, funded by “Leonardo da Vinci” Programme of the European Commission. In parallel with the exhibition, there was a presentation of GAMBE project. It informed the participants about the main principles and key steps of the initiative.

The second work day of the conference was dedicated to work in groups on important topics like: “Education and employment of people with disabilities and disadvantaged”, “Guidance for elderly people”, etc. During discussions, representatives of GAMBE project team used again the opportunity to share their experience.

The conference was also an excellent opportunity for establishment of new contacts, exchange of good practices as well as generation of new ideas.

“LEONARDO DA VINCI” PROJECTS IN FAVOUR OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

This issue of the newsletter sets the beginning of a new heading, dedicated to various European projects under “Leonardo da Vinci” Programme of EC. The information which is to be published here should be targeted to people with disabilities and disadvantaged or to young people as a whole. Another condition is that the projects should create programmes or products, related with the human resource development and other areas of economical life.

The first article in the heading provides information about “How to manage my own skills” Project.



HOW TO MANAGE MY OWN SKILLS?

Often young recent graduates ask themselves how to precisely identify their professional skills in tourism sector and apply them in practice. An answer to that question gives the European project “How to Manage My Own Skills”. It will provide innovative instruments for successful career development in tourism sector. Tests for effective recruitment of appropriate personnel will be elaborated for Human resource managers’ use. This project is financially supported by “Leonardo da Vinci” Programme of the European Commission. Partners’ organizations are: Department of Social Work and Educational Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University (Bulgaria), “Bulcont” (Bulgaria), “Zgura-M” (Bulgaria), “@thlas” (Belgium), Siksali Development Centre (Estonia), “Diakrisi” (Greece).

The project offers a chance for unemployed people and people with disabilities to identify, review and self-assess their competence, skills, knowledge and thus to make a successful career within the tourism sector. Furthermore, the project will provide innovative materials, targeted to tourism business owners and HR managers to help them in recruiting qualified and motivated personnel.

The main aims of the project are:

- To design a tool for self-vocational guidance based on Life Long Learning principles;
- To develop and carry out training for trainers and counsellors in the field of tourism;
- To raise qualification and motivation of already employed within the tourism industry.

Within the initiative a transnational team of experts in the field of life-long learning and vocational training will develop and supply:

- Self-assessment guidance handbook, available on alternative formats (online, printed material and CD-ROM);
- Trainers' handbook, available also online, on printed copy and CD-ROM;
- Networks of stakeholders on national and European level.

The official web-page is already fully functional. It provides detailed information about the project development as well as interesting news, useful materials and links. Visit it at: <http://www.managemyskills.eu>

GAMBE ONLINE

The official GAMBE web page is fully-operational. You can visit it on:

<http://gambe.ajb-berlin.info/>.

Here you can find more details about the project development, as well as interesting facts about GAMBE partnership and other issues.