



MASS Project Summary

The MASS project (October 2009 to September 2012) aimed to better understand and address the needs of young people disengaging from employment and education by improving their soft skills. The project enabled VET professionals to adopt an innovative outcomes based model of measurement and assessment of soft skills in various education and training contexts. This approach was exported from the UK to 4 other countries, having previously achieved remarkable success rates at Angus College in Scotland. The project used EQF to ensure resulting training materials would be easily understood across Europe. Project partners established links to SMEs to gain an insight into their perceptions of the importance of soft skills.

The consortium brought together 6 VET organisations from UK, Greece, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden, 3 of which directly provide training & support for disadvantaged young learners, 1 which provides vocational training for VET professionals who work with young disadvantaged learners & 1 training provider with a specialism in working with SMEs.

43 professionals in 5 countries used outcomes based learning to measure and assess soft skills with 219 disaffected learners. There was some doubt amongst partners whether the approach would work within their cultural contexts and with their target groups, however participants were surprised at the results and very positive feedback from their learners.

Products include training manuals and assessment tools which focus on demonstration, interaction & hands-on testing activity. Learning & teaching materials in paper based & electronic format (an additional achievement) have been translated into all partner languages & used successfully. In addition a detailed report (e-book) on the piloting process, a report of SME perceptions on soft skills, and various newsletters, articles and presentations have all been produced and are available on the project website at www.mass-project.org.

Angus College, Scotland, UK

Adult Education and Employment Bollnas Kommun, Sweden

Bureau Zuidema, Netherlands

Roc Aventus, Netherlands

Second Chance School of Neapolis, Thessaloniki, Greece

Teacher Training Centre of Bucharest, Romania