



EQUIL Equality in Learning

EQUIL - Equality in Learning, which promotes the inclusion of people with mental health issue in labour market, is a project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme - Key Action 2 Strategic partnerships for Adult Education. In the two years of project, partners will develop four training modules for practitioners with the aim to increase their skills for supporting people with mental health issue into work.

The four training modules to be developed will cover the following topics:



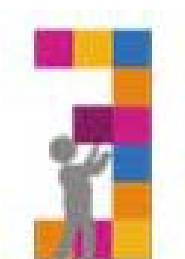
Employment Support Models

Analysis of different **job placement systems**, starting from the experience of the British partners with the IPS model (Individual Placement Support) based on the methodology "Place then train".



Educator / Practitioner Skills for Supporting People with Mental health issues who want to work

Development of tools and exercises to increase the skills of practitioners working with people with mental health issues using person centered approaches to support and motivate people to return to work. In addition, the role of **experts by experience** (with mental health issues) will be analyzed, key point of for the integration into labour market of people with mental health issue, who works in collaboration with educators/practitioners. The concepts of **recovery**, **stigma** and **competences developed by lived experiences** will be further explored and converted into tools and exercises in the training module.



Educator / Practitioner Skills for supporting Employers to Employ and Retain People with Lived Experience

Development of tools and exercises to increase the skills of the educators/practitioners, to support potential employers to hire people with mental health issue, and consequently ensure mental well-being of employees in the company



European Guide Toolkit for Co-Production

Based on existing models and experience of co-production, identified through research and also using experience from the development of training in EQUIL project, the Toolkit will be used by services and people with lived experience to develop training in a truly co-production manner.

During the project lifetime partners will work also in the development of a Positional Analysis and Sustainability Report which aims to:

- Identify requirements and concrete possibilities for a strategic development and improvement of employment service for mentally vulnerable citizens
- Analyze and recommend potentials and possibilities for interdisciplinary and trans-sectional solutions for a better and more efficient employment service for mentally vulnerable citizens
- Build the analysis and recommendations on the methodical and organisational experience gained through the training modules and described through the co-production toolkit

Partnership will develop this through the learning and findings related to the development of the four training modules above mentioned and through the conduction of a national research.

Co-production



In order to develop the four training modules above mentioned, partnership will use the methodology of Co-production - of which the British partner Mersey Care NHS Trust have a great experience - and effectively will support the partnership in the implementation and use of it in the different project phases.

On the basis of the Co-production practitioners and users (including experts by experience) contribute equally in the planning and development of a training program. In **EQUIL** to achieve this goal, **different actors will contribute and participate actively**, such as health workers, persons with mental health issue, potential employers, employment centres and training centres, through different activities depending on the type of target, in order to get a comprehensive overview. Thus these actors will be **co-creators** of the training modules mentioned above.

Blended Learning Mobility in Liverpool – First Step for Co-production



The **Co-production process** has been started in the International Workshop held in Liverpool the 25th to 29th January 2016, in which around 20 educators and people with mental health issue have been working for 5 days on the development of the above mentioned training modules.

This **learning mobility** (defined Blended Learning Mobility) gave the opportunity to learn from each other and also co-create the emerging resources by sharing their experiences. This sharing lead to the reflection on what skills, values and experiences are necessary for employment

advisers/practitioners to support them effectively. The results will be the basis for the development of the training modules mentioned above.

During the meeting in Liverpool, participants got the chance to learn about British Health Care System for people with Mental Health Issue and further about British experience for supporting them in getting into **Labour Market**. For example participants met an employer who regularly hires people with mental health issue, registering positive effects within the work team company. In addition, they have learned about **the role of the expert by experience**, relevant support for the employment of people with mental health issue in England.

The experience lived by the participants at international level in Liverpool will be transferred at local level, through several "focus groups" in order to involve a larger number of people with mental health issue and thus increase the results for the development of training modules. In fact partners are currently organising Focus Groups at local level with people with Mental Health Issue. Further information about their implementation and results will be described in the next EQUIL Newsletter.

Partners

The Coordinator of the EQUIL project is [Merseyside Expanding Horizons](#) from the United Kingdom. Project activities will take place in all partner countries: Denmark ([Mht Consult](#)), Italy ([CESIE](#)), Netherlands ([Zorgvragersorganisatie GGZ Midden Holland](#)), United Kingdom ([Mersey Care NHS Trust](#)) and Spain ([Action Laboral](#)).



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