



KnowProVip Update

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Summary of Project

The KnowProVip project aims to develop training for professionals working with people with vision impairment to enhance and strengthen their knowledge and expertise.

In particular, the project will develop training to improve the professionals' interactions with groups of people who have vision impairment and also fall within one of the following three groups:

1. Refugees/immigrants
2. Aged 60 and over
3. Have acquired hearing impairment.

People with vision impairment will benefit as a result of this project as the training of the professionals who work with them will improve the service they receive. The project will base the development of the training packages on the training materials developed by a previous project, ProVipTrain and will supplement this training programme with three new modules relevant to the specified target groups.



Aims

The main aim of this project is to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals working with people with vision impairments by developing training modules which deal specifically with issues relating to working with people who are vision impaired and are refugees and immigrants or are aged over 60 or have acquired hearing loss.

The project will also provide a forum for networking and website for the exchange of specialised information.

The partners will:

- Research and collate information to identify existing barriers for the three specific groups of visually impaired in all the partner countries
- Establish strategic advisory committees in all countries to provide feedback and viewpoints during the project. The strategic advisory committee will also play an important part in the valorisation strategy.
- Develop training modules which will allow the trained professionals address the needs of the three specific groups: immigrants, people aged over 60 and those with acquired hearing loss,
- Test and validate the training modules in training seminars for professionals working in the field

Through the process of the KnowProVip project the partner organisations will develop and improved the platform for the continuous education and training of professionals working with people with vision impairment. The sharing of expertise and knowledge will be beneficial to all partners and people with vision impairment within the EU. The project will also provide and opportunity for networking among professionals who do not normally work together including inter organisational contacts.

ABOUT KnowProVIP

Building on previous research done under ProVipTrain. ProVipTrain was an EU project, part funded under Leonardo da Vinci pilot projects programme, which included seven partners from five countries (France as promoter, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and Poland). Over two years (2004-2006), ProVipTrain developed and implemented training courses on vision impairment, for professionals working in the field, to allow them acquire basic knowledge on vision impairment, to ensure better support and advice.

The training is of two weeks duration and is composed of four modules: psychosocial aspects; ADL and mobility; Braille and technical devices; and low vision. This course, the first of its kind in the EU, is based on practice and experience and delivers basic skills for professionals working in the field of vision impairment to provide them with the knowledge necessary to enable them to support, welcome, help or advice blind or partially sighted people. The course is registered on the European Grundtvig database.

Transfer of Innovation

The KnowProVip project is all about transferring innovation between the participants in the project on a European level. The mixture of the different cultures and traditions within the field of working with people with disabilities gives a unique result by developing courses for professionals working with visually impaired refugees/immigrants, older people with vision impairment and people with acquired deaf blindness.

Research and Development

During the first phase of the project the partners have been transferring knowledge and innovation by researching and sharing information about the three target group areas within the partner countries and collating the information necessary for the development of the outlines for each of the three courses. The research process allowed us to develop a clear picture of the issues that require consideration within the project. The result shows that we face many of the same challenges in the participating countries but the way we deal with the challenges are different – therefore we can learn a lot from each other.

Progress to Date

The kick off meeting for the project was held in Copenhagen in October 2007. This meeting introduced the partners to each other and established the way forward for the project. At the second meeting in Düren, Germany, the work groups collated the research and developed an initial outline for the curriculum of each course. Work has continued on course development since the meeting in Germany by online working and email exchange. National advisory boards have been established to advise on course development. The third project meeting took place at the end of May in Angers, France where the groups continued with project management, finalised the drafts of course, and set about organising the pilots of the courses.



Next Steps

The newly developed courses will be forwarded to the advisory boards for comments, they will then be finalised and piloted. More information about the KnowProVip Project can be found at www.knowprovip.dk

Partner Organisations

Instituttet

for Blinde og Svagsynede

IBOS (Denmark)

– Project Coordinator

The Institute for the Blind and Partially Sighted Institute (IBOS) provides services on a nationwide basis to young people and adults with visual disabilities with the aim of helping them function to the best of their abilities in a seeing world. Services provided include counselling, teaching and education. IBOS works in co-operation with their local authorities nationwide and delivered at both a local or residential basis as required. The Institute offers consultancy and supplementary training to professionals working with visual impairment. We also offer tailor-made courses. Professionalism is at a very high level, continuous in-service training and focus on special methods of teaching people with vision impairment. There are 120 members of staff, divided into 30 groups of professionals, employed to carry out and develop Institute activities.

www.ibos.dk



Institute Montclair (France)

Montclair Institute is a resource centre for people with vision impairment, which provides many services to support blind and partially sighted people at every stage of life to improve school, social and professional inclusion. Montclair provides knowledge and expertise on rehabilitation; adapted documentation, low vision and training for people with vision impairment. Montclair is managed by Mutualite Française Anjou-Mayenne, which also manages several organisations in the field of disability (hearing impairment and brain damage). Montclair works with these organisations on a daily basis to provide training and awareness on these disabilities.

www.montclair.fr



Folkuniversitetet (Sweden)

Folkuniversitetet is an adult educational association offering a wide range of education through 40 centres in Sweden. It is an association of five foundations: the extra-mural departments attached to the Universities of Stockholm, Uppsala, Göteborg, Lund and Umeå.

Folkuniversitetet first emerged as a national organization in 1942, but its origins can be traced back to 1917 and the creation of an association for the development of a people's university. By the 1930's, university students and teachers were organizing evening courses and lectures for people lacking formal qualifications. In 1947, Folkuniversitetet was established as a state supported organization within adult education, an open university in the true sense of the word. One of FU's main activities is to develop new innovative methodological and pedagogical approaches for specialized target groups: unemployed, immigrants, women, disabled, social disadvantaged and general adult education.

www.folkuniversitetet.se



BFW Düren (Germany)

The BFW Düren is a vocational rehabilitation centre for blind and partially sighted persons. It was established in 1978 and has a staff of about 122 employees. The R&D section of the BFW Düren is responsible for carrying out all projects and is active since 1998 in 19 national and European projects.

www.bfw-dueren.de



Working for People with Sight Loss

NCBI (Ireland)

NCBI is a not for profit charitable organisation which offers support and services nationwide to people experiencing difficulties with their eyesight. Established in 1931 to promote the full independence of people who are blind or vision impaired, NCBI now provides a range of services to over 13,000 people. NCBI also provides a range of services to public and private organisations so that their services are accessible to people who are blind and vision impaired. Our vision is for people who are blind or vision impaired to have the same opportunities, rights and choices as other to fully participate in society.

www.ncbi.ie



BFW Halle (Germany)

The BFW (Berufsförderungswerk) Halle is a regional and national social services company, which offers a variety of vocational rehabilitation and accompanying services for people with vision impairment. The aim of their training is to reintroduce their course participants to the labour market. Founded in 1898, it received the status of a Berufsförderungswerk in 1991, one of only 4 special institutes in Germany for retraining of people with vision loss. It is the only Berufsförderungswerk that exists in East Germany.

www.bfw-halle.de

v i s i o

VISIO (Netherlands)

Royal VISIO is a non-profit organization serving the needs of people with vision impairment of all ages from birth to seniors in the Netherlands. It includes regional centers, a rehabilitation center, schools, centers for day activities and homes located nationwide. VISIO supports clients by providing education, assessment, rehabilitation, vocational training, consultancy and R&D and has specific expertise concerning the healthcare, education, training and social support of the target group.

VISIO also work with clients who have additional impairments such as deaf blindness, psycho-neurological problems and mental health difficulties. VISIO co-operates with the Dutch Blind Union and other special and mainstream training institutes at a national and European level. The department VISIO international works with partners in Asia, Africa and Southern America.

www.visio.org

