



KnowProVip Update

Issue 2 – October 2008

Curriculums are ready to be tested

Throughout the summer the curriculums for the courses developed in KnowProVip have been finished and are now ready to be tested. The aim of the courses is to give a brief but highly informative introduction for professionals who are going to work in a new area within the field of visually impaired people.

Refugees/immigrants:

It starts with a game

To illustrate possible misunderstandings and raise awareness of the differences between cultures the course is going to start with a game of cards. The game is played without talking and the rules are placed on the table. Each player gets a copy of the rules so the players think they have the same understanding of the game. But the rules are different for each person and the lack of conversation makes confusion and misunderstandings inevitable. This game of cards is the start of reflection on working with people who play by different cultural rules.

Later on in the course the participants will learn about cultural meetings, working with an interpreter, assessment and the differences between refugees and immigrants through working in groups, hearing presentations and discussions of cases, and by talking to an immigrant who is vision impaired as have successfully integrated in society.

Ages 60 and over:

The aging of the eye and changing identity

Sight loss due to aging is needs special attention because the population is aging and the increasing prevalence of age related eye diseases. Sight loss together with ageing can cause changes in identity, i.e. not only does the person have to come to terms with sight loss but he or she also has to adjust to the fact that he or she is getting old.

This course is for professionals who are going to work directly with older people with vision impairment and is

KnowProVip is...

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.

therefore focused on the eye and identity. The course also introduces aids and techniques that can help when a person has an age related eye disease. This could be using special lighting, using a computer with aids or mobility.

The participants in the course will learn through recommended reading, simulations, demonstrations and discussions.

Acquired deaf blindness:

A complex communication situation

When you're becoming both deaf and blind communication with others becomes very difficult. This includes communication with professionals. Therefore the course developed in KnowProVip focuses both on understanding the physical circumstances related to dual sensory loss and the communication between the client and the professional. For example communication via an interpreter, a hearing aid or tactile communication i.e. writing capitals in the hand.

On the basis of understanding of the conditions for people with acquired deaf blindness the participants will learn about what is different in ADL and mobility training when the client has an added hearing disorder.

The methods of course delivery will include simulations, mind-mapping, demonstrations, instructions and Powerpoint presentations.



The project is part funded under the EU's Leonardo Da Vinci programme.
LLP - Transfer of Innovation

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.

Partner Organisations



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 impair-

ment. 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 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 re-introduce 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



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 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



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