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Keep on learning



EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES AGENCY
AGENZJA PROGRAMMI TA' L-UNJONI EWROPEA

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Grundtvig Sectoral Programme

Launched in 2000 and now part of the overarching Lifelong Learning Programme, Grundtvig aims to provide adults with ways to improve their knowledge and skills, keeping them mentally fit and potentially more employable. It not only covers learners in adult education, but also the teachers, trainers, education staff and facilities that provide these services. These include relevant associations, counselling organisations, information services, policy-making bodies and others involved in lifelong learning and adult education at local, regional and national levels, such as NGOs, enterprises, voluntary groups and research centres.

Adult education has a vital role in raising the level of knowledge, skills and competences among adult population, in providing a crucial second chance for the large number of adults who leave school early, and in helping to address the societal challenge of Europe's ageing population.

The increasing success of the Grundtvig actions has now led to the development of new kinds of opportunities for adult education staff and for adult learners. As a result of these new possibilities, from 2009, the Grundtvig Programme has a fully comprehensive action for adult education staff, encompassing mobility activities addressing all the various needs of people working in this highly diversified sector.

The conclusions were very positive and they attested to the intrinsic value of theatre methodology in raising community awareness and motivating action.

Mario Azzopardi,
Malta Drama Centre

Countries involved: Austria,
Greece, Malta

Project title: C Europe on Stage

Grundtvig Learning Partnerships

The Grundtvig Learning partnership is a framework for practical cooperation activities between organisations working in the field of adult learning in the broadest sense - formal, non-formal or informal. Grundtvig Learning partnerships focus more on process, and aim to broaden in particular the participation of smaller organisations wishing to include European cooperation in their education activities.

In a Grundtvig Learning partnership, trainers and learners from at least three participating countries work together on one or more topics of common interest to the cooperating organisations. This exchange of experiences, practices and methods contributes to an increased awareness of the varied European cultural, social and economic scene, and to a better understanding of areas of common interest in the area of adult learning. Grundtvig Learning partnerships also gives the opportunity to both staff and learners to be actively involved in both the project and in the mobility.

Grundtvig Workshops

The objective of this action is to enable adult learners to participate in Workshops (learning events and seminars) taking place in another European country participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme. This is a completely new form of mobility offered to adult learners.

Workshops bring together individual or small groups of learners from several countries for an innovative multinational learning experience relevant for their personal development and learning needs, in which learners are also encouraged to share their competences and insights actively with others. It is not the purpose of Workshops to provide further vocational training for professionals.

The action is open to any institution wishing to organise activities for adult learners. Applications for a grant to organise a Workshop must be submitted to the National Agency in the country of the Workshop organiser, and the Workshop itself must take place in that country.

Each Workshop will have a minimum of 10 learners and usually up to 20 learners. Nationals of the country where the Workshop takes place are eligible to participate in these Workshops but cannot be funded from Grundtvig and should not account for more than 1/3 of the total participants in the Workshop. Such a format increases the European dimension of the Workshops by providing a wider multi-national group of participants.



Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Projects

Senior volunteering is a new initiative under the Grundtvig Sectoral programme, which consists of a scheme of grants to support Senior Volunteering Projects between local organisations located in two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

Volunteering is increasingly recognised as a very valuable informal learning experience for people of all ages. In particular, it has been recognised as a way of offering new learning opportunities to senior citizens in Europe, promoting the process of active ageing and emphasising the contribution of seniors to our societies.

Indeed, senior citizens are a rich source of wisdom and experience from which society should derive far greater benefit than has usually been the case in the past. This Action therefore offers a new form of mobility to European senior citizens and will allow them to learn, to share knowledge and experience - and to "give" - in a European country other than their own.

The term "volunteering" refers to all forms of voluntary activity, whether formal or informal. It is undertaken out of a person's own free-will, choice and motivation, and is without concern for financial gain. The individual volunteers, communities and society as a whole will benefit from these projects. Volunteering is also a vehicle for individuals and associations to address human, social or environmental needs and concerns, and is often carried out in support of a non-profit organisation or community-based initiative. Thus, voluntary activities add value to society, but do not replace professional, paid employees.

This new form of mobility is also a new form of cooperation within Grundtvig, fostering collaboration between the organisations, which will send and host volunteers. It should allow new types of organisations to join the Grundtvig programme, enrich their work, through the exchange of good practice, and create sustainable European collaboration between them.



Grundtvig In-Service Training for Adult Education Staff

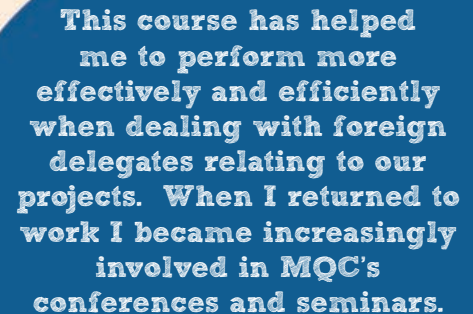
The objective of this action is to help improve the quality of lifelong learning by enabling persons working in the field of adult learning, in the broadest sense, or who are engaged in the in-service training of such persons, to undertake a training course in a country other than that in which they normally live or work. In this way, participants are encouraged to improve their practical teaching / coaching / counselling / management skills and to gain a broader understanding of adult learning in Europe. The course concerned must have a strong European focus in terms of the profile of trainers and participants.

The training for which grants are awarded must relate to the candidate's professional activities in any aspect of adult learning, whether formal, non-formal or informal.


This may have to do with:

- the content and delivery of adult education, in particular course content and teaching methodology;
- the accessibility of learning opportunities for adults, in particular for disadvantaged social groups;
- the management of adult learning, including governance at local and regional level, administration, quality assurance, support services such as counselling and guidance, developing community-based schemes for adult learning etc.;
- the system/policy-related aspects of adult education including all types of strategic issues, funding models, development of cooperation between providers in the context of learning regions, indicators and benchmarking etc.;
- an on-line database of training activities, known as the Comenius-Grundtvig Training Database, is available to help applicants identify training which is eligible for funding under this action and which best meets their training needs.

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase>



This course has helped me to perform more effectively and efficiently when dealing with foreign delegates relating to our projects. When I returned to work I became increasingly involved in MQC's conferences and seminars.





Sylvana Caruana,
Malta Qualifications Council

Destination: Oxford, United Kingdom

Course title: Intensive Professional A -
Business Communication

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Since I learnt this new technique, I can teach it to other specialists at Mater Dei Hospital and thus further develop the service in Malta.

Pierre Ellul,
Department of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, Mater Dei Hospital
Destination: Milan, Italy
Course title: Observation / Job-shadowing

Grundtvig Visits and Exchanges

The objective of this action, is to help improve the quality of adult learning in the broadest sense (formal, non-formal or informal) by enabling present or future staff working in this field, or persons who are engaged in the In-Service Training of such staff, to undertake a work-related visit to a country participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme other than that in which they normally live or work. Grundtvig Visits and Exchanges can last from one day up to a maximum of 12 weeks.

Participants are encouraged to gain a broader understanding of adult learning in Europe and depending on the purpose of their visit, to improve practice in teaching, coaching, counselling, management and/or support the work of the host organisation by providing an input in their field of expertise.

The visit activities for which grants are awarded must relate to the candidate's professional activities in any aspect of adult learning, for example by:

- carrying out a teaching assignment for an adult education organisation;
- studying aspects of adult education/learning in the host country;
- studying and/or providing expertise on system and policy-related aspects of adult education;
- undergoing less formal types of training for adult education staff, such as a period of "Job Shadowing";
- attending a conference or seminar (including European Conferences related to Grundtvig Learning Partnerships), which will have a demonstrable element of added value for the candidate and his/her organisation.

Grundtvig Assistantships

This action, launched in 2009, enables present or future staff involved in adult education (formal, non-formal or informal) to spend between 12 and 45 weeks as a Grundtvig Assistant at an adult education organisation in another European country participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme.

The objective is to give participants the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the European dimension to adult learning, enhance their knowledge of foreign languages, other European countries and their education systems whilst improving their professional and intercultural competences.

Contributions as a Grundtvig Assistant may include:

- facilitating learning or aiding in some aspect of managing adult education;
- providing support for adults with special educational needs;
- providing information on the Assistant's country of origin and assisting in the teaching of its language;
- introducing or reinforcing the European dimension in the host institution;
- initiating, developing and assisting in the implementation of projects.

Assistants should be fully integrated into the host organisation's life. As Assistantships are open to all adult education staff, the level of experience and seniority of the participants varies considerably. Depending on their specific profile, the Grundtvig Assistant may either:

- play a mainly ancillary role at the host organisation, assisting in various teaching or management activities; or
- take full responsibility for one or more courses or a particular aspect of management at the host organisation (such cases are known as Expert Assistantships).





In need of partners for your Grundtvig project?



http://llp.eupa.org.mt/partner_search.php

A **Partner Search Database** has been developed by the Maltese National Agency (EUPA) as an effective tool to assist those who are looking for partner institutions for their projects. The **Partner Search Database** is open to organisations in all the countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme. By entering your details in the **Partner Search Database** a foreign institution may also approach you to join them in a project.

In order to search on the **Partner Search Database**, you are first required to register your organisation. After registration you will receive an e-mail confirmation including a password that will allow you to search for partners already registered in the database. Once you login with your personal details, the system shall then provide you with a list of organisations that match your search criteria.



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