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3rd Partnership meeting in Ulvila

November 2015: Project Meeting III in Ulvila, Finland. The steering board visited four different locations of Sataedu and visited many work placements. We are looking and working forward to the second official BP group which we hope are going cross border.

During PMIII a mini-seminar was organized by Sataedu. Potential participants, policymakers and teachers attended. A skype meeting was held with three current BP participants which gave quite some information on how students are really adapting and adopting BP.



One student's feelings from the second part of BP in Carlow

1. Are you enjoying your experience on the Blended Programme? Why/ Why not?

Yes, it is an amazing experience to have in Ireland. Everybody is really kind to you and want to help you if you're struggling with something. Danny, Claire and Sean are always attainable in case of emergency. I like to travel a lot. To go abroad for this time is a new, amazing and beautiful experience for me. If someone asked me if I would do it all again, I would do it without any doubt.

2. Are you improving your English while in Ireland?

Yes, my English wasn't too bad before I came here, but I really improved my English writing and speaking skills. I can see and hear that I'm making progress.

3. Do you like working in an English speaking work placement?

Yes, I do like working in an English speaking work placement. At the beginning it was very difficult because they had this Irish accent, but I'm already used to it nowadays.

4. Do you like living in the intern house? Why/Why not/?

Yes, it is a fun placement, everybody is very nice and wants to help with everything if I don't get it. The only disadvantage is that my break time is very long, I don't have so much to do between 13:00h and 14:30h.

5. Do you enjoy studying the modules at Carlow Institute of Further Education?

You learn a lot. The school system is very different from the Netherlands. We learn a lot of new things here, such as a lot of theories from theorists. This is something you learn, I think to less, in Holland. It is very handy to know how to deal with certain situations. You also improve your English speaking, listening and writing by doing this course in Ireland.

6. What is the best part of the Blended Programme?

The group, we have a lovely, nice group. Everyone likes each other and the atmosphere between each other is very very good.

7. What is the most challenging part of the Blended programme?

The first few weeks was really difficult because everything was new to me. Right now it is a challenge to finish all the tasks before the deadline. Until now I did succeed in this.

8. Is there anything you would change about the Blended Programme?

Mix the Dutch students with Finish, or other students, from different countries.

9. If you were to choose again would you choose Ireland or Finland? Why?

Finland, this is another experience. The culture difference is very different than in Ireland. I hope to see a lot of the world in my life, so if I could go to Finland, I see more. Besides that, I now know how it is working in Ireland, and I did this BP also so I could see the different cultures. When I go to Finland I can see more cultural differences.



Summary of Blended Programme Questionnaire

Reading through the answers there are common themes from all the students

1. They are all really enjoying their experiences in Ireland.
2. They are improving their English as they speak it in their workplaces and in class.
3. They are enjoying the Human Growth and Development and work placement modules they find them difficult but interesting
4. They really like the combination of the modules and work placement and think it works extremely well.
5. They suggest having mixed nationalities in the intern houses to increase the amount of English spoken as currently there is too much Dutch spoken in the houses (For the next intake there will be mixed nationalities in the intern house).
6. They would like more grammar classes at the beginning of the programme (This was the intention of CIELS but due to the full schedule of the students we had to have the cultural integration activities at the time scheduled for class so they wouldn't miss work placement or CIFE. It is currently being reviewed by CIELS and will be altered for the next intake).
7. They find it a really good experience as they have to deal with problems on their own and become independent.
8. They enjoy the cultural integration activities.
9. They enjoy living in the house together and working out their own schedules for cooking, cleaning etc. there are issues that arise but they are usually dealt with, within the group.
10. They don't think Blended programme is for everyone the person must be suitable, independent, hardworking etc. but it is a great programme for suitable students.
11. Yes they would recommend it to their fellow students.



Coming soon

16 February 2016: conference Blended Programme

In today's 'global world' it's getting more and more important that young people develop themselves as world citizens. Establishing contacts with other cultures, exchanging knowledge and learning by doing at suitable locations are very effective ways to reach this goal. Blended Programme [BP] at Landstede VET school in The Netherlands offers its students the possibility to combine study and apprenticeship abroad in a unique manner. We do this together with Carlow International English Language school (IE) and VET- Sataedu (FI). This programme started in September 2014 and is partly subsidized by the European programme for education, youth and sports: Erasmus+. We would like to share our experiences of this international project with you, with colleagues of other schools, policy officers and others who are curious about the possibilities of 'BP'; at the same time, we would like to invite you to talk about prospects and visions towards the future.

Therefore, on Tuesday 16 February 2016, we are going to organize the conference Blended Programme: "Adapt, Adopt and Experience living alone together abroad". During this afternoon there will be time to talk to participating students whose enthusiasm for 'BP' is really inspiring.

We will soon publish the detailed programme, but please mark this date already in your agenda!

Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2016

Time: 13.00-17.00h

Location: Raalte, Netherlands

Press [here](#) to sign up already for the conference.

Visit the website www.blendedprogramme.net

Visit us at:

<http://blendedprogramme.net/>

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