

BP-News!

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Experiences of the Blended Programme project

by Danny Barron from CIELS



The Blended Programme has seen much activity over the last two years. In Carlow, the Dutch and Finnish students have done themselves, their colleges and the EU proud. There is a very strong network of partner organisations available in Carlow and this is due to the respect that BP participants earned while on work placement here. These students have proven that many of the concrete goals of BP are achievable in real terms:

- Conducting an internship in another EU country through a language other than L1.
- Having workplaces in many EU countries accredited to receive students.
- Studying VET modules that benefit all participant students' professional development.
- Learning how to travel, live, study and work in a fellow EU state.

As educators, the most important development CIELS staff have noticed in the students is the development of soft skills and 21st century skills. We regularly have past BP students return to Ireland independently to visit friends, former colleagues and the far corners of this country. This proves that BP awakens these students to the possibilities of unhindered travel within the EU and provides them with the skills necessary to interact with fellow EU citizens through a common language.

We wish to see the ethos of BP last long into the future: informing, encouraging and enabling VET students to travel within the EU and experiencing integration the various nationalities their fellow EU citizens are made up of.

Visit us at:
<http://blendedprogramme.net/>

Contact:
mleest@landstede.nl

Experiences of the Blended Programme project

by Sabine Torgler from EfN Ltd



We are an international Overseas Nurses network from Bristol / UK and operate within 6 EU countries. We write and teach our own nursing and medical terminology workshops and engaging with the international nursing scene with Europe. We are very delighted to part of the amazing BP-programme – as we strongly believe that intercultural learning within the healthcare profession is the way of sharing skills and knowledge. Medicine and Nursing are very fast developing professions and to keep us with the knowledge might be a challenge. The BP-programme offers an insight of the world of nursing and medicine and we are very happy to be advocates for this exciting journey. We work closely with Ms. Margriet Leest from The Netherlands and Mr. Daniel Baron from Ireland. Over 3 EU- countries we organise the workshops, which take place in Carlow in Ireland.



+44 (0)7900445075

sabine@englishfornurses.org

www.englishfornurses.org

FB: Englishfornurses

T: @EnglishforNurse

It is a beautiful co-operation and the work with the Dutch and Finish students is a real high-light for us. The co-operation will continue in 2017, which is just wonderful.



Blended Programme is really about Experience, Adapt and Adopt Study and Culture Away from Home.



Experiences of the Blended Programme project

by Margriet Leest
Project Coordinator
Landstede

It was on September 15, 2014 when BLENDED PROGRAMME project officially started. After 24 months, successfully completed tasks and more than achieved objectives it reaches its end of its lifetime on August 31, 2016.

Looking back on these two years I would like to indicate the meaning of strategic partnership for Blended Programme:

Strategic Partnership KA2

*offered the opportunity to cooperate with partners on this very project. Finland, Ireland and The Netherlands worked closely together, most of the times from a distance by means of e-mail. And sometimes we met for our project meetings. By this cooperation all of us were to learn more of our own countries regarding the many aspects demanded by BP. We also learned about the partner countries: not only on the necessary subjects for BP, but also the human aspects of each other. BP brought these three countries closer in understanding of each other's everyday life, working life and leisure time.

Next to cooperation between partners BP also brought us cooperation with students and BP participants. We worked together with them in developing BP. Their practical involvement and feedback helped us in many ways to stabilize the foundation and offer of BP.

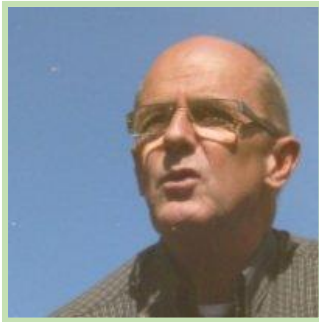
*to innovate and modernize education for the cooperating partners was achieved. BP was a lively, human and human-centered project. This not only referred to the close partners' cooperation but also to our passion for the wellbeing of our participants. The chances BP offered to innovate and modernize their current education/home curricula and to prepare these participants for their future at home, anywhere in the EU and possibly beyond. The most rewarding was when these young people told and showed you their gratitude for the work we put aside to build up BP, to modernize education.

*to implement practices leading to higher quality teaching, training and learning. By means of BP all of us adapted and adopted means to deal with and work in an international team. We familiarised ourselves with other ways of thinking and working. Not only did we acquire vocabulary of partners' languages but we definitely also improved our English language for better cooperation within an international team, now and later. In addition to all personal achievements, we were able to bring along higher quality of teaching and learning not only to BP participants but also to other students in our institutions. Teachers, colleagues, field professionals and tutors who attended our workshops, who accompanied us and visited work placements abroad or who were involved as externals in BP all became aware of new possibilities for teaching, training and approaching students on internationalization and their own fields of profession. Above I already mentioned the fact of cooperation with students. But it was also because of BP we as educators, became more aware of the fact that we can also learn from our students. On their return their stories and presentations inspired other and more students and colleagues.

Blended Programme not only blended and modernized home curricula of the involved partners, but it also blended international participation and involvement in EU and beyond in many different ways, social involvement, languages and cultures, personal awareness and much more to each and everyone involved, to be taken with one lifelong.

As the coordinator of Blended Programme, I would like to say my gratitude from the bottom of my heart to all who actively cooperated constructing BP: Marko, Leena-Kaisa, Outi, Anne Laine, Minna, Petri, Danny, Sean, Claire, Estrellita, Claudia, Sjoerd, Yvonne. My acknowledgement also goes to all organisations that warmheartedly coacted in all three partner countries.

Margriet Leest, The Netherlands



Experiences of the Blended Programme project

by Sjoerd Ganzinga
from Landstede

From the very start of the project, the aim has been to develop a programme for VET [social- and health care] students by which they would be able to grow as a professional, as a person and last but not least to grow in their communicative skills in English and their abilities to adjust to a foreign multicultural environment.

Right from the start the enormous impact of the programme on the personal development of students showed itself. English language skills, both passive and active, improved in an impressive way especially because of the impact of combined efforts by CIELS, QQI [VET institute in Carlow Ireland] and the workplacement institutions. Tremendous personal growth and, part of that the Integration into the Irish society, is one of the major hidden competences resulting from BP.

Irish institutions, not being used to the hands-on mentality of Dutch and Finnish students, were surprised by their professional and communicative skills. The preparation programme, a 2 months' period before leaving for the host country, being a very important instrument to help students develop their basic skills to start with this programme.

On their return to the home countries both students and their parents acknowledged the value of this life lasting experience. QQI certificates, IQF qualified, were handed out and in some cases even job perspectives were formulated by Irish institutions.

The necessity of further implementation into present curricula is clear to all parties involved, also in other curricula than social and health care. Erasmus+ mobility a way to make this work.

As manager at Landstede Raalte VET, the place where it all started, witnessing the development of this project I strongly recommend BP as a way to enrich VET curricula.

Sjoerd Ganzinga

Experiences of the Blended Programme project

by Marko Kempainen
from Sataedu



Ever since Sataedu decided to strengthen the internationalization work by taking part to Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships, our goal has been to implement to project work straight to the study fields. From that point of view, Blended Programme has been a successful story. At its best, two teachers from Social and Health care sector have been involved in this project, taking part to the Project Meetings in every country, developing content to the curricula, sending and receiving students among BP etc. The implementation has been very fruitful, and the knowledge of the opportunity to acquire part of the qualification abroad has expanded significantly among our students.

Thanks to Blended Programme, Ireland has become one of our main partners in students' mobilities. Values like hospitality, quality, safety and nature mean a lot for a modern young person, and that is just what we found from Carlow and CIELS.

I personally want to thank our coordinator Margriet, who composedly solved many cases between 3 partners, and sturdily navigated the project to the close. Without her, our full range of outcomes and activities would have been left unfinished.

Marko Kempainen

Head of International Affairs

Blended Programme is really about Experience, Adapt and Adopt Study and Culture Away from Home.



Being a part of Blended Programme

by Leena-Kaisa Hyllinen

from Sataedu

I was very happy, when I heard that Sataedu is one of the partakers in BP-programme and I can join it. I read the project plan: The student is able to execute his/her on-the-job-learning period abroad, and in addition, also could continue his/her theoretical studies and same time learn foreign language. Still in no-English speaking countries, VET-teachers have to encourage to keep they lessons in English, while the school hosts the foreign students. BP-programme have not been easy for students, but rewarding. And afterwards the most of students really think so.

I met during this 2-years period many new, interesting and lovely people from Netherlands, Ireland and Finland. I have also thought that there is no problem, if your work with people from other European countries. We are culturally so close. That is true, we are so similar, but same time so different. But we were, all partners, also very sophisticated and could solve all, almost all, problems and misunderstandings. Not always with emails, but when we met each other face to face.

I have improved my English language skills very much in BP-project, and so have every student, who have participated this programme. They have used language in classrooms, in house they lived together with other nationalities and of course at the workplaces. And also students from Netherlands improved they Finnish during their period in here. Happy Finnish, a course of basic every day vocabulary (hopefully in future Happy Dutch, Happy Germany etc.) is one of good practice we found during the BP.

I have visited two lovely countries, and both took a part of my heart. From now on, I'll wait when get back.

We have made marvelous guide for young people who are planning they first international change –period. Even they are not in BP-project, they can use that. Already the headlines tell, where should be paid attention.

I'm going to miss all people with whom I was working with during these two years. But we all believe in international cooperation and importance of an international change, so we meet again.

Leena-Kaisa