

## First year Activities and Achievements of this project

VET students combine living and studying abroad together with doing their traineeship and exchanging of cultural knowledge in a second language.



We have a third group currently actively experiencing the programme, helping the steering board upgrade this challenging and very rewarding programme.

Blended Programme (BP) engages '**Adapt, Adopt and Experience**' living-alone-together abroad.

[Visit us on http://blendedprogramme.net/](http://blendedprogramme.net/)

### What is Blended Programme?

- VET students travel abroad and experience international traineeship and assessment.
- Follow a curriculum-based module at a VET institution.
- Attend extra classes of English and learn more about fellow-participants who are also from other countries within EU.
- Become culturally aware regarding their profession, the EU and beyond.
- Develop personally through living in and with different cultures.
- At the end of the period students go back without delay in their education in their home country.

## Phases

- VET participants enroll after attending an **information event** followed by a sit down meeting on details. Students follow a **preparation phase** of two courses to complete: a **Cultural Awareness** and one on the **Use of English**. Students study their booklet '**Know before You Go**'. Shortly after the preparation students leave for the host country where they are accommodated and well looked after.
- VET participants find BP a demanding programme but they still say '**they never regret one minute of their decision to participate**'.
- VET students are the participants, the ones experiencing the demands of BP. They help us achieve results, they challenge the curriculum making highlighting areas for improvement, and they are challenged to think about their own position both personal or professional.
- VET students gain knowledge of their own and of other cultures by living with and within new ones. They become more adaptive, adoptive and grow professionally and personally.
- *After return home* students reflect on their experience and the programme is complete when they receive their Vocational module results.

## Activities

- Three pilot have taken place in Ireland. Two of these groups were made possible by KA-1. This helped the steering board with development of the programme. January 2016 will see the second official BP-group which is to go cross border, meaning VET participants can choose to do the programme in the other partner countries, i.e. Finland and The Netherlands.
- Two steering board meetings have taken place in Ireland. The third is being organized and will be in Finland in November 2016. A mini-conference will be held in Finland on November 11. All are welcome!
- In 2016 there are two more consortium meetings: February in NL and April/May in Finland. On 16 February 2016 a conference on the achievements is held in The Netherlands. All are welcome!
- One training on Assessing was held in Ireland enabling students to be assessed on-the-job. One extra training is arranged to be given in Ireland due to expansion of departments participating in the programme. One training to be held in November 2015 in Finland in order to assess students when going cross border.



## Results

- Increased awareness of development of a competitive programme which is in harmony with curricula in home countries
- Developments of courses for the Prep-phase, preparing students, helping them gain more confidence in order to step into the world of BP.
- Trainings given abroad not only help BP by enabling students being assessed but also creates networking opportunities among these participating organisations.
- Students help develop an extra part of their home curricula, having more aspects of life and profession integrated in those.
- Obvious improvement on students' use of language
- Respect of own and other cultures
- For further information please contact

