
Title: looking for partners for the ESF transnational project: “towards effective & qualitative mentoring practices for migrants”

The university of Leuven (www.kuleuven.be) is looking for partners for a project that aims at:

1. Identifying critical success factors in mentoring to work practices for migrants.

Mentoring is a rather new concept within the field of immigrant integration/labour market integration that is getting growing attention. Mentoring seems to have a lot of potential when it comes to labour market integration of migrants, as mentoring does not only address the ‘economical capital’ of migrants but also broaden a migrant’s network (bridging), increase cultural capital... Despite the growing attention and potential of mentoring there is not a lot of evidence about elements of effective practice: which practices are effective (what works?), under what circumstances and for whom? Via mutual learning we want to address this question.

2. Developing minimum quality criteria for mentoring programs.

In Belgium the field of mentoring is a young field with a lot of small and/or starting organizations working with vulnerable groups. This carries some risks in terms of the quality of service delivery, as a guiding framework is currently lacking. Questions the project wants to tackle are: Can minimum quality be guaranteed? Is this feasible? What are possible options? Via exchange of information & co-creation we want to address the questions concerning quality.

3. Bringing clarity in terms of governance of mentoring programs

While in Belgium, there is a growing consensus about the added value of mentoring, there is a lot of ambiguity with regard to the organization and implementation. Labour market policy, and more particularly providing support in finding employment, is typically a field in which the government plays a strong role (through the public employment service). It is rather uncommon that citizens/volunteers (mentors) are involved within this policy field. To date, it is unclear where the role of the PES stops and where the mentor comes in, but also who has to carry out the mentoring projects, who will fund the programs, control quality, monitor results etc. In other words, the question of governance needs to be addressed. At this moment both public & private organizations claim the field of mentoring. In this project we want to exchange information about these questions and learn from other countries.

The output we have in mind is (1) a ‘manual’ for projects & governments about critical success factors when setting up a mentoring project (2) A (tested) quality label or other instrument to ensure minimum quality in mentoring projects (3) a blueprint concerning the governance of mentoring which has country specific elements (4) a blueprint for a knowledge sharing platform in Belgium (& Europe) about mentoring.

We are looking for partners in the broader field of immigrant mentoring who can contribute to minimum one of the 4 ‘outputs’ via the exchange of information, peer reviewing and/or co-creation.

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