ICARO is a transnational cooperation project funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission that focuses on Soft Skills.

ICARO will work with long-term unemployed adult learners, low-skilled and people facing difficulties to access to labour market.

It will recognize the skills acquired by the learners after the practical application of the curriculum.

www.icaro-softskills.eu

Intellectual Outputs results

1

Transnational Report on accredited tools/programs on soft-skills for adult learners

This transnational report will gather all available know-how existing in partners’ countries.

The methodology for collecting the data for the State of Art review “Accredited tools/programmes on soft-skills for adult learners” was based on using the Focus Group Method.

2

Accredited tools/programme on soft-skills for adult learners

The assessment toolkit is designed to assist adult educators/employment counsellors in assessing the level of knowledge in soft skills of adult learners participating in the project with the aim of accrediting the already existing soft skills and, at the same time, to be able to design personalized and customized training strategies for each unemployed adult participating in ICARO.

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The second project meeting was the opportunity to share the lessons learnt during the last month by partners. Local Action Groups, are gathering together experts in the domain of adult learners who have been unemployed for a long period and support to collects background information. Besides this, it has support the development of the first Intellectual Output the report on ‘Transnational Report on accredited tools/programs on soft-skills for adult learners’. This report represents a departure point as today, there is not much available information regarding soft-skills and how this could improve the employability of adult learners. The transnational report collects information about the situation in the partners countries on Educational, Training and Consulting Services to Improve the Employment-Related Soft Skills of Adults.

Following the approval of the transnational report, partners are keep working on the collection of soft-skills assessment tools, at the moment. These tools will help to develop ICARO’s assessment tool. This is targeting adult educators, adult education organisations but as well adult learners who have been unemployed for a long term and with a need to reinforce their basic skills.

The development of the training curriculum aims to provide learners with the information, knowledge and skills to increase their ability and opportunity to obtain employment. On the completion of the curriculum, the learner will have to create a portfolio of resources and competences that will inform their capacity and capability for job-seeking and job-keeping. The course should be delivered over 120 hours through an online learning platform. The programme is presented as 12 modules. Each module intended session length of 10 hours. The online programme will be complemented by a series of workshops/sessions (40h). Partners will start to work on the training curriculum as from October 2018. Five adult counsellors or trainers per organisation will be invited to attend to face to face training in Hamburg in November 2018. One of the goals of the project is to reinforce the collaboration with different organisation that works on the domain of soft-skills and adult learners education. That’s why partners had the opportunity to meet the work of AONTAS - the National Learning Adult Organisation during the meeting in Dublin. In the same vein, ICARO has set up a Community of Practice at EPALE platform, in order to work closely with adult education experts.
Local Action Groups

1. **Spain: LAG in Murcia**

At the end on April, SEF (project coordinator) organized the 2nd meeting of the Local Action Group (LAG) that it is promoting in Murcia Region (Spain).

Members from NGOs, educational foundations, business associations, training companies and counselling departments of SEF has participated.

Transnational report on training tools on soft skills was validated by the LAG member organizations.

Participants also discussed about Soft Skills Assessment tools and how they could work with different target groups. Members shared their experience working with soft skills with low-skilled people during the meeting.

2. **Greece: LAG in Heraklion**

The second LAG meeting took place in Heraklion in May to discuss the draft version of IO2. There have been present 5 members, representing 3 organizations experienced in Adult Education (TIHC, STEPC and Youthnet Hellas NGO).

The Group has also discussed the modules to be produced for IO3 and their potential to improve employability of adult people who are out of the job market.
Lithuania: LAG in Kaunas

The second LAG meeting in Lithuania took place in August 2018. The main objectives there were to discuss the progress of the project’s intellectual products and coming training events. The candidates for international training in Hamburg, November 2018, were proposed and selected.

It has been started the dissemination of information about the project and it’s coming products – ICARO newsletter has been shared on SIF facebook and sent to Kaunas Regional Coordinators of Lithuanian Adult Education Association (LAEA); and the leaflet with basic information on ICARO project has been shared several times on SIF facebook and also sent to LAG organizations for wider dissemination among their clients.

The question of further dissemination of information about project activities, methodologies and coming local training will be discussed and action plan prepared on the third LAG meeting which is planned at the beginning of October.

Germany: LAG in Hamburg

The second meeting of the LAG members of Germany has taken place on the 19. August. 13 members were present, representing the State Department of Education, the Chamber of Skilled Crafts, the trade unions, AE providers and other stakeholder.

The results of the international survey were discussed and the surprising fact that the results in the different countries are very close. The members discussed where the results could be disseminated, especially since there is an initiative on Federal Level of Germany to enhance training for long-term unemployed persons. The local training for this group is of high interest and will be tried out by several of the members.
Project coverage

ICARO at TV Creta
Maria Symeonidou-Sideris, Ph.D. Imperial College EU Projects Manager (ICARO partner Κεκ Τεχνικές Σχολές Επιμελητηρίου Ηρακλείου -Technical Institute of Heraklion Chamber of Commerce & Industry) had the opportunity to explain what’s ICARO project about at TV Regional Channel of Heraklion (between 32:01 and 34:37)
Greek version only.

ICARO featuring in New Zealand
The magazine “Adult Education Community Newsletter – Winter 2018” by the “Adult and Community Education in Aotearoa (New Zealand) “Adult Education Community Newsletter – Winter 2018” selected ICARO to explain its experience to the Adult Community of Learners.

Bringing soft-skills for adults to LLLP Conference
EfVET partner participated at the Lifelong Learning Anual Conference where it had the opportunity to disseminate ICARO project among the participants.

Ms. Ricarda Motschilning, representing the ICAE (International Council for Adult Education) and Mr. Per Paludan Hansen (President of the European Association for the Education of Adults) showed their interest in ICARO. Afterward Mr. Per Paludan Hansen expressed his commitment to disseminated the training curriculum/handbook through the European Association for the Education of Adults network.
Next steps

Partners Local Training dates
Each partner will organise a 20h face to face training + 20h self-study with their team of 5 adult professionals/ employment counsellors. During this training adult professionals, will be trained on the following topics: pedagogical training/ pedagogy of the mobility and English language training

- 17, 18, 19th October TIHC (Heraklion, Greece)
- 15th, 22nd and 23rd October, SIF (Kaunas, Lithuania)
- 19 and 26th October, DCU, (Dublin, Ireland)
- 22, 24, 29, 30th October, SEF (Murcia, Spain)
- 2nd November, VHS (Hamburg, Germany)

Next meeting in Hamburg
The next partners meeting will take place on the week of 12th November in Hamburg. This will include as well 5 days training mobility for adult tutors/employment counsellors selected in their local action groups. It will be a practice-oriented approach on:

A. Existing good practices
B. Online teaching environments and tools
C. Explanation on different training modules
D. Practical tests among peers on different potential situations
E. Workshops activities, debates, roundtable discussions, exercises and practical activities, case studies…

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