

TEMPLATE FOR GOOD PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

Please use separate template for every project you try to introduce to the RARE team

Project title: Start Again

- Main focus of activity

Background: Project “Start Again” is focused on two Czech regions: Moravia-Silesia and Olomouc self-governing regions (NUTS III level) which are the regions with higher unemployment rate and higher ratio of long-term unemployed. Unemployment rate in socially excluded communities exceeds 80 %. Youth up to 30 years of age is the percentage even higher and in the case of women it is almost 100 %. Main reasons for this problem are low education level, lack of working experience and insufficient practice. In the Czech Republic generally the number of socially excluded communities is growing and the problems in such communities are accumulating.

Project: Project “Start Again” solves issues of disadvantaged youth from Roma minority, young job applicants and their persisting high unemployment combined with other barriers to find employment. The aim is an integration of the target group into society through foreign internships (at Malta and Great Britain/Scotland) and follow up training activities. Preparatory activities are designed for at least 40 participants; 20 of them had an opportunity to gain internship abroad. After internships’ completion participants receives further support matching to their needs to find employment, in further education or self-employment/entrepreneurship.

Main barriers to access job market is insufficient practice and working experience (very often working experience is entirely missing) including unrealistic ideas of job applicants (unreal work requirements, excessive wage demands, working hours, inability to adapt to company behaviour or gain insight into working method). One of the problems is also insufficient skills of self-presentation and ability to “sell” oneself to an employer.

Result: Internship’s effects and international practice’s effects may significantly change individual’s position on labour market (developing self-confidence, elimination of preconceptions, knowledge and skills improvement). Transnational mobility, opportunity to travel abroad, out of family (economic, social) environment is an important psychological tool that helps in personal as well as professional career, clarification of one’s own principles, personal goals and values.

- Labour market situation of the activity/project (open, protected)

Project intervention is oriented into Moravia-Silesia and Olomouc self-governing regions with higher unemployment rate and higher ratio of long-term unemployed than national average. Unemployment rate in socially excluded communities exceeds 80 %. Youth up to 30 years of age is the percentage even higher and in the case of women it is almost 100 %. Furthermore young graduates also usually have unemployment above average level of other age groups.

Issue of disadvantaged youth employment is being solved on various government levels, e.g. community plans of municipalities and shires and other strategic development documents. Cooperation of 3 key elements of labour market is essential – employers, employees and education.

In case of individuals registered at labour offices there is a possibility to receive subsidies to reimburse salary costs from Active employment policy (provided by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and administrated by labour offices).

- Specific target group (if any, such as young adults/women/men/with no educational background/ with entrepreneurial skills/rural/urban etc including the size of the target group, number of people reached directly)

Project's target group is disadvantaged youth for transnational mobility. It is Roma youth (15 – 30 years of age) without any limitation of accomplished educational level and without any time-limit to be registered as unemployed at labour office.

- Durability, security of the service: legislative background, duration of the project (ex: 3 year long project, included within national service provision, experimental project, etc)

Project “Start Again” is being implemented from 2016 till 2018 at Moravia-Silesia and Olomouc self-governing regions (NUTS III level). Transnational internships are conducted at Malta and Scotland/UK.

- Who is involved in service provision/initiative (list of institutions and their cooperation in 2 sentences)

Project is implemented by Centre for Community Organizing Northern Moravia in the partnership with the civic organization - NGO “Vzájemné soužití” (in English: Life together) which Roma-Czech team focuses on active aid in excluded communities at Ostrava and Karviná districts. Transnational internships are organized in cooperation with Scottish organization EDInet (European Development Innovative Network) and Maltese organization Easy Job Bridge.

- Financing source (where the money comes from: Institution's own budget, project funds)
 - EU funds (ESF): Operational Programme Employment

- Recommendation (for visit/for DR adaptation) Yes
 - If not: Why it did not work, why has it failed?
 - If yes: Why is the initiative innovative or interesting: (special focus, special cooperation among institutions, etc)

It is pilot testing in the Czech Republic.