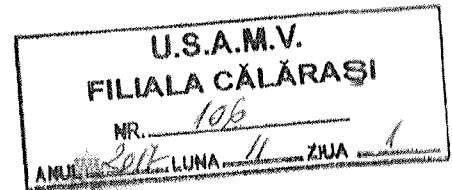


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**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLABORATIVE
WORKING GROUP UNDER THE PROJECT
“Career Paths to Youth Labor Mobility”
Project code 16.4.2.021,e-MS-ROBG 156
Ruse, 30th-31st October 2017**

Under the activity A.2. Encouraging integration and cooperation among the stake holders - 5 meetings of a Collaborative Working Group on 28th and 29th August 2017 developed in Ruse the third meeting of the Collaborative working group.

The first part, of the first day, was to welcome the guests from Romania and Bulgaria, for guests and project partners accommodation.

The meeting title was „Youth Employment and Labor Market in the Cross-Border Bulgarian-Romanian Region- Condition, Challenges, Policies and Solutions” and reunited experts in the field of labor force and activities for youth in the two cross border areas.

The meeting was opened by the representatives of partner B5, host and organizer of the event, followed by the presentation of the project and of the implementation phase of the project activities until October with the responsibilities of each partner made by the partnership lead.

The first speech was of Labor Directorate, Directorate Labor Office Ruse, Active Labor Market Policy Department, the title being Youth Employment Initiatives. In introduction missis Tanya Raykova highlighted the specific position on the labor market of the young graduates. After graduating the studies, they are included on the labor market and, in most cases, they do not have professional experience in the field of the specialization they acquired.

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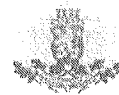
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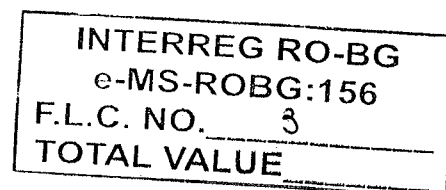
In a series of cases, the employers refuse to employ them because they do not have professional experience and, therefore, adequate professional skills and needed work skills. A key point in creating opportunities for youth to find their place in the society, to obtain economic independence and to develop is to find an adequate job. The society should offer opportunities for youth to work on the labor market, to prevent long term unemployment, social marginalization and exclusion. The youth employment initiatives presented were: Scheme "New opportunities for youth labor force employment"; Scheme "Youth training and employment"; career launch program.

EURES expert, Elena Bogdanova, had as topic "the first job with EURES" - to support youth employment in EU, Norway and Island. Youth represent the target group with the largest mobility, they are: foreign language learners; gaining innovative work experience; lack of family responsibilities; source of innovation in enterprises; positive set to change. On the other hand, the identified obstacles to the youth free movement are: poor information on employment opportunities in other countries due to legal and practical issues; ignorance of costs; the uncertainty of travelling abroad. The measures taken to stimulate youth mobility are: at the EU-EURES level; Mobility programs: - Erasmus + Education, Training, Youth and Sport Program; Erash for Young Entrepreneurs; National instruments - to a large extent, countries are based on EURES network. The invited expert presented the network and types of information and services offered by EURES network as well as the beneficiary target group of the services provided. The participants in the meeting asked questions about helping people with disabilities and the extent to which such people can access these services. The answer was related to mobility and the fact that there are no facilities for this category of people.

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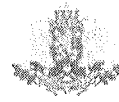




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During the second presentation „Target Mobility Scheme for Young People up to 35 Years of Age” he presented the opportunities and funds allocated to SMEs for mobility.

There were questions regarding the number of applicants from Ruse for the Youth Mobility Scheme, up to 35 years - the answer being that it is a project and is not known at this moment, perhaps at the end of the project; if students, applicants from ERASMUS + program, also use EURES resources - the answer is that they do not represent double funding.

The fourth topic was "VISA - Agency for Cross-Border Mobility of the Workforce", Lora Saekisyan, PR of VISA project. The first part highlighted the business needs and attitudes in the Romania-Bulgaria region for the cross-border mobility of the labor force. Bulgaria-Romania Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) was established in 2003 to support Bulgarian and Romanian business for business partnerships, business contacts and information exchange. Its main objective is to support the economic development of Romania and Bulgaria by expanding cooperation between local companies, organizations and municipalities on both sides of the Danube as well as partners from other EU countries.

VISA project - Agency for Cross-Border Mobility, was funded by INTERREG V-A Romania - Bulgaria, Leading Beneficiary - BCCI, Partner - Agency for Sustainable Development Slatina, Romania, EU funding value - 423,995.55 euro. Reasons why VISA Agency was created: it has been noticed how many obstacles the business faces with when it needs to hire workers in the neighboring country; there was a lack of institutions and services for the benefit of labor mobility between the two countries; it was found that information on labor market legislation and practices was insufficient; thus, the Agency for VISA was created to fulfill the mission of supporting interactions between business structures in both countries.

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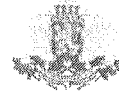
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The Association the Bulgarian-Romanian Mediation Institute was present at the Collaborative Group meeting by Mr. Ivailo Ivanov with the topic on "Without borders in employment". The Association is actively working in the field of youth employment in Bulgaria and implements the experience of leading countries to meet the NEET indicators since 2012. It started from defining the term of NEETs as a target group for the projects implemented by the Association. Attention was given to young people who do not study, do not work and do not learn in order to stimulate employment.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ruse was present at the meeting with Mrs. Petya Gancheva with the topic Collaborative Economics and new forms of development. It started from employment solutions, national and international findings, stimuli and best practices. The key terms of the concept are "I need" - "You have"". The collaborative economy is a type of economy in which two parties share the resources they have in addition (they do not use them 100%) and can earn extra income from it. The main condition in this exchange is trust. There are two types of work: one on the site (technical specialists, plumbers, mechanical, engineers, etc.) and digital (web pages maintenance, translations, social networking profiles, programmers, etc.). Learning is important for long-term unemployed and job seeking youth; young people looking for an independent job; companies looking for new forms to hire the labor force; directors/managers/experts, human resources.

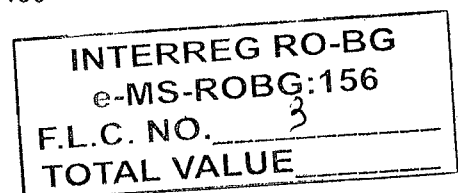
Association Youth Activities and Volunteering elaborated the topic „Participation in Youth Activities and Non Formal Education". The association activity, projects and activities developed for youth, importance of volunteering for youth and attractiveness of non formal activities for youth were presented. The important activities developed for youth were: Youth Festival, Youth Parliament; Volunteering for youth - Club.

Anghel Kankev University in Ruse was present to the event with the topic „THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER- KEY FACTOR FOR THE

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PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION OF STUDENTS". Professor Ivan Evstatiev presented the main purpose of the center for career, objectives, important activities and its results. The database and the information program „information university portal for business partners”, an information product that links permanently the university with the business sector representing a direct contact between employers and students without work experience. Organizing some presentations of firms, potential employers, career forum, career day, preparing for interview are examples of types of activities organized by the University for its students.

In the end the responsible B5 thanked guests for participation, launching the invitation to participate also in the forth working meeting of the Collaborative Group.

Project Manager,

Daniela Crețu

Manager Assistant,

Mariana Năstase

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