

CONNECTED LEARNING

February 2020

Newsletter n°2

A Transnational Partnership:

The **Connected Learning** project involves: United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria and Cyprus. The consortium favours a transnational approach to the subject.

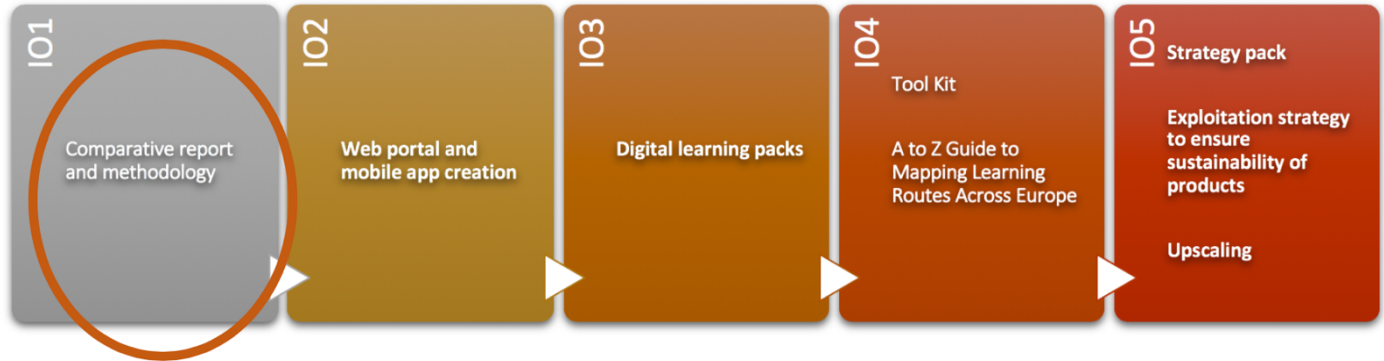


Connected Learning @ YW

This 30 months Erasmus+ project aims to improve young people's access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities through the mapping of the various programmes which are available. The project's main aim is to create an interactive online platform and an equivalent mobile application, which will feature an interactive map that allows young people to easily find courses or training workshops that they are interested in, to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

Connected Learning @ Youth Work News

We are just over a year into our project, and it is time to reflect and look back on what we have done so far. But first let us remind you of our project implementation steps below.



We have now completed our work on Intellectual output 1 (IO1) and developed the handbooks for Young People and Educational Providers showing how they will use our content and platform. We did extensive research and conducted surveys with the Young People and the Providers to obtain a baseline in each partner country. Then each partner compiled a national report on the landscape in their nation for digital skills, national strategies and the status of both formal and non-formal learning. Ulster then collated this transnational research into the **Comparative Index Report**. Generally, the report provides strong evidence to support the need to support non-formal learning among young people which will have an impact for employers in terms of supporting their scrutiny of applicants and learning.

We found significant differences between partner countries in relation to their current digital competitiveness. While Sweden, UK (NI) and Germany are on the higher performing end of Europe's median, Cyprus, Italy and Bulgaria are placed below average. There was consensus, on the importance of digital skills, and this was evidenced in the partner countries' digital strategies where emphasis was on the introduction of IT classes in the school curricula, in some cases as early as elementary school.

Despite the obvious significance of having skilled young people for a country's future, and encouraged by supranational entities such as the EU, there was no overarching formal definition as to what Youth Work constitutes and, in some cases, there were no official figures of the number of youth workers. Each participant country offers its own interpretation of Youth Work which also translates into its implicit activities and/or initiatives. This has bearing on the other stakeholders involved including those bodies looking after youth-related matters, the youth work providers and those involved in education and training.

There were noted variances in the types of Formal, Non-formal and Informal digital education, their providers and qualifications offered. Among partner countries, Sweden is a particularly good example as their digital education and qualifications offered, run in parallel with, and even outperform non-digital ones.

The EU focus is on marginalised youth and there is a recent shift from all young people to disadvantaged young people. In the harsh realities of today's world, most participant countries identified marginalised communities as the immigrants and/or asylum seekers and rural inhabitants among other categories. It makes this particular project all the more important and poignant in acting as a medium to bridge the gaps existing not only within one country but across all partner countries involved.

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COMPARATIVE INDEX HIGHLIGHTS

Non-Formal Learning is less regularised or monitored than Formal Learning hindering an EU wide approach to delivery and accreditation. Connected Learning is working towards this.

There is no one source of information on Non-Formal Learning providers or offerings - a critical gap which we address in Connected Learning

Create agreed national and EU frameworks for developing and governing/supporting youth work. Cross national youth work programmes are vital, as is an agreed EU definition of youth work.

Better connection between national youth work strategies across EU - to help more efficient achievement of EU goals.



Engage young people early to develop their digital skills and an EU wide approach is needed to capture all types of learning -

Connected Learning maps and accreditation support this...

Connected learning and badges accreditation will provide an EU-wide platform/solution for accrediting learning for all stakeholders using the open badges system.

Connected Learning@YW: an innovative learning tool to boost ICT and the development of digital competences among European youth.



Excited to be developing Connected Learning@YW Open Badges

Open Badges are a new idea to recognize the learning that happens in many places and share it in the places that matter.

We continue our work on activities designed to create a sustainable youth-oriented and participatory solution for youth organisations, cities, regions or councils to map, provide assess, recognise and validate diverse learning opportunities for young people across Europe to meet the growing needs of employers and young people, in particular, in relation to digital skills. Meanwhile, Vudutek from Bulgaria are working hard on developing the Connected Learning Platform and Mobile App, whilst the remaining partners are working to create our training offering and content. Lots to talk about at the 3rd Transnational Partner Meeting in Sweden, stay in touch to hear more! Keep an eye on our social platforms including Facebook and Twitter, and our website for more details and updates as the project progresses.



THE 3rd TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

We are looking forward to meeting in Söderhamn, Sweden, hosted by Halsinglands Utbildningsförbund

The project partners are forging ahead with Connected Learning@YW tasks, and so far, we have completed the Methodology for mapping, providing and validating formal and non-formal learning as part of digital youth work, and produced both national indices and a comparative index (IO1).

We have made progress with our Mobile App and Platform (IO2), and partners have begun to develop the Digital Learning Suite (IO3). We will discuss and update in Sweden, as well as establishing the next steps of the project.

Stay tuned by visiting the project website!

www.connectedlearning.eu



COORDINATOR



PARTNERS



Keep up to date with Connected Learning



#connectedlearning



Connected Learning YW

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Erasmus+

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