

### FIRST TRAINER TRAINING ON THE MIGRANTS+ SOFTWARE: A MILESTONE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The first training session on the Migrants+ software had 30 participants from 8 different countries which took place in Paris on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009.. The group was composed of trainers and mediators working in different type of organisations and with a broad panel of migrants that deal with diverse issues: asylum seekers, refugees, family reunification, language training, promotion of citizenship, professional insertion and more.

Taking this into account, the hosting partner, Itinéraires Formation, focused the training programme on the flexibility of the Migrants+ tool. Trainers and mediators may find it necessary to assess a variety of different skills other than those already implemented in the software and to provide specific orientation resources at a local level. It will be possible for them to add new topics and easily adapt the contents according to the needs of the migrants they work with.



While this training was a great opportunity for mediators and trainers to exchange on their practices, the Migrants+ partners could collect relevant feedback and information to keep improving the Migrants+ software. To pursue the collaboration with the 30 participants, the Migrants+ partnership will keep them informed of the further developments of the project and the software.

### SOFTWARE TOOL NEWS

The initial version of the MIGRANTS+ software tool has been tested and evaluated during the Trainers/Mediators training that took place in Paris on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

The software tool has been designed to detect the learning needs in basic skills such as numeracy, ICT, use of the internet, communication skills, human relations, occupational health and safety and propose individualised training curricula. In the later stages of the project, further skills such as: language literacy (English, Czech, German, Greek, French, Italian, Polish, and Turkish), legislation (civil rights, employment laws and social security) and knowledge of the culture of hosting country will be added.

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## SOFTWARE TOOL NEWS

The software tool includes a user area and an administrator area and is fully parameterised.

The conclusions of the software training in Paris were that it is simple, flexible, interesting and useful but there are areas of improvement such as:

- Making sure that all features are operational
- Improving the quality of questions especially in social fields
- Adding new topics.

The software tool will be evaluated again in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trainers'/Mediators training that will take place in Greece on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2010 and will be pilot tested in six countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Turkey and UK) from May until October 2010.

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD MEANS BUSINESS DISSEMINATION EVENT

This event is held annually for local businesses in Hertfordshire – the main event is to showcase local businesses and they can support the local communities. The event also runs a number of seminars that support businesses in terms of Employment Law, Financial matters, legislative issues. This year's event saw a record number of exhibitors, and the most visitors to date at nearly 250, despite the poor weather on the day.

Several notable people visited, including Mark Prisk MP, who opened the Exhibition before addressing an audience on the business prospects for Bishop's Stortford. BBC Radio 4 correspondent, Jonty Bloom, also attended and interviewed several exhibitors and Bishop's Stortford Town Mayor, Colin Woodward.

Bryan Steward, a retail consultant and former general manager of Pearsons, described the service as "excellent".

Very many of the exhibitors reported doing business on the day or expect to do so as a result. Exhibition organiser, Robert Lee of Business Kinetics said, "We are extremely pleased with the day, we had more exhibitors than ever before, and we had the highest number of visitors.

This is the seventh time that we have put on Bishop's Stortford Means Business, and to be able to continue to grow it, especially during the present economic climate, is very pleasing. The intention of the exhibition is to help the local economy, and hence local prosperity. With many exhibitors reporting that they will definitely get business as a result, it seems to be working.

Academy of Learning Ltd utilised this popular event as an opportunity to raise awareness of the Migrants project and the issues relating to employing and supporting the development of Migrant workers. Within Bishops Stortford a vibrant Migrant community exists and local businesses employ a high number of migrants mainly from Poland. In the last 2 years 2 new Polish supermarkets have opened and are thriving. The feedback received was very positive and many have agreed to provide employees for the pilot stage of the project.

The challenge now is to do even better next year"



For further information you may address to: [www.migrantsplus.info](http://www.migrantsplus.info).



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## PARTNERSHIP

### OBES (Federation of Industrial Worker's Union)

address: Kanigos 31, 106 82 Athens, Greece  
tel.: +30 2103304120, fax: +30 2103825322, web site: www.obes.gr  
contact person: Aristidis Hatzisavvidis (President)  
e-mail: info@obes.gr

### IDEC S.A.

address: Iroon Polytechniou 96, 185 36 Piraeus, Greece  
tel.: +30 2104286227, fax: +30 2104286228, web site: www.idec.gr  
contact person: Lila Anthopoulou, e-mail: lila@idec.gr

### M&J Consulting, spol. s r.o.

address: 8. května, 530 06 Pardubice, Czech Republic  
tel./fax: +420 466 510 444, web site: www.mjc.cz  
contact person: Petra Dufková, e-mail: petra.dufek@seznam.cz  
contact person: Miroslav Horký, e-mail: mjc@mjc.cz

### Kolping-Bildungswerk Wuerttemberg e.V.

address: Rosensteinstr. 30, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany  
tel.: +49 711 95590322, fax: +49 711 9561216  
web site: www.kolping-bildungswerk.de  
contact person: Bettina Killinger  
e-mail: Bettina.Killinger@kolping-bildungswerk.de

### Itinéraires Formation

address: Rue des Bluets 27, 75011 Paris, France  
tel.: +33 143555550, fax: +33 143555771  
web site: www.itineraires.fr

contact person: Vincent Joseph, e-mail: europe@itineraires.fr

### CIES (Centro di Informazione e Educazione Allo Sviluppo)

address: Via Merulana 198, 00185 Rome, Italy  
tel.: +39 0677264611, fax: +39 0677264628, web site: www.cies.it  
contact person: Alessandro Bernardini, e-mail: a.bernardini@cies.it

### Akademia Humanistyczno - Ekonomiczna w Lodzi

address: Rewolucji 1905 r 64, 90-222 Lodz, Poland  
tel.: +48 422995631, fax: +48 426315032  
web site: www.projects.pl  
contact person: Daria Olejnik, e-mail: dolejnik@ahelodz.pl

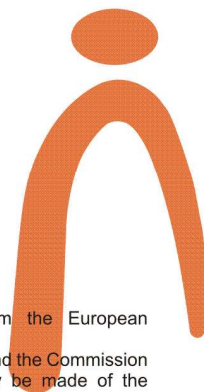
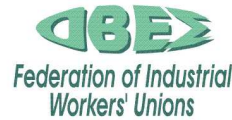
### Business Consulting & Development Ltd.

address: 3. Levent, Sakayikli sok. 17, 34330 Istanbul, Turkey  
tel.: +90 2123248129, fax: +90 2123248129  
web site: www.bcdtr.com

contact person: Alper Eliçin, e-mail: aelicin@bcdtr.com

### Academy of Learning Ltd

address: Parklands Business Centre, Stortford Road, Leaden Roding, Dunmow, 9-10, CM6 1GF Essex, UK  
tel.: +44 1279877902, fax: +44 1279877903  
web site: www.academyoflearning.co.uk  
contact person: Linda Johnston  
e-mail: linda@academyoflearning.co.uk



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