



Newsletter

Vocational English and German Language Course for Au pairs

"Developing English and German Language Course and Vocational Thematic Materials for Au Pairs"

Number 1

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1. Introduction

The mobile labour market nowadays requires constant upgrading of one's skills and competencies among which foreign languages play a vital role, especially commonly used English and German. People who go abroad to take care of children as their new vocation very often lack any preparation at all, either linguistic or vocational.

Prior to project design we did the Internet research into the materials available for au pairs as well as conducted a survey among potential au pairs on Internet forums. The results indicate that there is a lack of such a training tool and this is why its creation would be greatly beneficial to this target group.

2. Brief description of the project

The aim of the project is creation of a professional 90-hour training course providing practical knowledge about child care both in English and German at an intermediate level.

The project addresses an urgent need for complex and specialised language training of professionals working within childcare environment. The aim of the project is to prepare them to participate in childcare more effectively, by increasing the level of their language competences in the specialised area and understanding children and their parents needs. This modern training tool also creates opportunities for the unemployed to gain new qualifications at their own pace and outside the formal educational system. Besides, receiving a certificate after completing the course will be a significant part of one's CV while looking for job.

So far, there has been no course designed especially for potential au pairs using the CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) approach for this particular target group.

The specific aims of the project are:

- to provide a user-friendly course by developing CDs with both theoretical and language modules which can be done with or without a trainer at one's own pace

- to create opportunities for people who choose taking care of children as their professional career
- to increase the quality of childcare which can have a considerable impact on their upbringing and multicultural awareness of the European society
- to provide a modern training tool for anybody willing to start a new vocational career at any stage of their lives or gain extra qualifications (life-long learning)
- to promote learning English and German as foreign languages in thematic specialised contexts (the CLIL approach)

The project was launched on 15.06.2007 and is planned to finish on 31.03.2008.

3. Partnership

Project Coordinator:

Academy of Humanities and Economics in Lodz www.wshe.lodz.pl

Partners:

1. Pacificstream Information Limited (Psi, UK)
2. IDEC SA (EL) www.idec.gr
3. JAUNIMO KARJEROS CENTRAS (LT) www.vdu.lt/jkc
4. Annur – Formación – Kultura (ES) www.annur.org
5. WBS Training AG (DE) www.wbstraining.de
6. Institute of Creative Proceedings (IPT, PL) www.ipt.pl



4. The project target groups

The **target groups** of the project are: au pairs, the unemployed people, students and those interested in working as au pairs in an English or German speaking countries.

Thanks to the project they will be able to:

- gain professional qualification relating to childcare
- gain foreign language skills
- enter the international job market with good qualifications
- gain experience in a foreign professional environment
- receive vocational training

The **target sector** of the project can be: health and social care institutions, educational departments, training centres, au pair agencies, job agencies, language schools, pedagogical departments.

Thanks to the project they will be able to:

- increase their job offer
- provide a modern training tool
- broaden their educational curriculum
- teach a subject matter through a foreign language

5. Description of the course contents

MODULE A: PREPARATORY

1. Education and care principles and values
2. What is an au pair? Finding out if you're suitable for this kind of job
3. Looking for a job as an au pair
4. First contact with parents

MODULE B CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. Stages of child development
2. Case studies focusing on dealing with childcare at specific age brackets
3. Diversity and inclusion
4. Communication with children

MODULE C PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF CHILD CARE

1. Health and safety
2. Emergencies
3. Everyday routines
4. Outdoor games
5. Indoor games

6. Project website

We encourage you to visit the project website www.aupair-guide.net. You can find a lot of information about the project there.



7. Future events

Next stages of the project will be creation of the modules in English and German and creation of the exemplary implementation of the courses as the tool for self-studying.

Moreover, the materials supporting students in using the course (Student's E-guide) as well as materials containing the most useful phrases and vocabulary (Au pair Survival Kit) will be created.

Anybody who is interested in the project is asked to send inquiries or comments to Daria Olejnik at:

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