



Ajuntament de
Cerdanyola del Vallès



Ajuntament de
Badia
del Vallès

COMENIUS REGIO PARTNERSEARCH

FACING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

PROMOTERS

Badia del Vallès (14.300h, 1km²) www.badiadelvalles.net , and **Cerdanyola del Vallès** (58.247h, 30km²) www.cerdanyola.cat are two neighbour municipalities in the urban area of Barcelona. They have deprived areas, high unemployment and early school leaving rates. In these zones job prospects are poor, and usually restricted to unskilled jobs – mostly disappeared due to the crisis.

Both municipalities are working together in the following directions:

- ✧ reinforcing community
- ✧ promoting skills leading to educational success
- ✧ preventing unemployment
- ✧ supporting families as key stakeholders in the community

PROGRAMME

***Comenius Regio Partnerships** are bilateral partnerships between local and regional school authorities, including schools and other stakeholders in school education and youth work. Comenius Regio fosters cooperation among local / regional school authorities to enrich the educational offer to young people at school age in the participating regions or municipalities.*

Comenius Regio Partnerships help the participating regions to develop and exchange best practice in school education, to develop tools for sustainable cooperation across borders, and to strengthen the European dimension in school education. The deadline is 21/2/2013.

Comenius Regio Partnerships consist of 2 "partner regions". Each partner region must involve:

- the local or regional authority with a role in school education*
- at least one school*
- at least one other relevant local partner (e.g. youth or sport clubs, parents and pupils associations, local teacher training institutes, other learning providers, VET institutions and local employers, museums and consulting services/ advisory boards). More info in http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc/call13/fiches/com8_en.pdf*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In most European deprived zones, many youngsters become early school leavers or do not get a school degree. This fact makes them certain candidates to unemployment, especially during periods of economic crises. Happily, it is possible to identify risk alerts very early and face unemployment at its very beginning.

Our proposal aims at creating a comprehensive community program of prevention, support, guidance, information and tracking of youngsters (12-19) training itineraries, useful for deprived communities with high levels of unemployment and early school leaving. Our goal is to help youngsters at risk of school failure obtaining an academic degree and thus avoid more easily unemployment. But to succeed, adults (at schools and community) and youngsters must work together to incorporate skills and habits (responsibility, effort, commitment) that may help them obtaining a good level of autonomy, creating a lifelong project and getting a job according to it.

The project will develop a sustainable methodology in order to prevent youth unemployment and school early leaving at an early stage, taking an comprehensive approach on youth lives. We want to create an versatile, interactive model where all

the dimensions (Bronfrenbrenner's microsystems) of youngsters life can be present. Secondary school will be the main scenario but not the only one. We'll work considering three dimensions:

- *community*: identification, activation and coordination of the existing resources in the community, professional or not; creation of local and regional partnerships.
- *youngsters*: development of effective tools based on individual educative guidance and the creation of a personal life project that includes school, leisure, family, commitment to the community; we will also consider peer training and parental involvement.
- *School*: school must redefine its role as a possible prevention or promotion factor of failure or drop out of certain youngsters.

In both regions, the program will have two phases:

a. *First phase*: professionals and stakeholders from the different institutions in the community concerned with youngsters will work together in order to map all the resources related to the prevention of school failure and promote academic success. They must first of all achieve a solid agreement and a good approach on what these resources might be and where could we find in the community a real help for children and youngsters. This work will help them to create an wide vision of all the community resources but also of how to work with youngsters comprehensively.

Actions: seminars among professionals; professional-community meetings; community actions intended to raise awareness about the potential of the community itself as an educational agent;

b. *Second phase*: considering the identified community resources, the following activities will start:

- creation of a *community device that enables monitoring individuals* in the definition of their training project and the tracking of their further itineraries.

This device must at least ensure the guidance of all youngsters at risk of early school leaving aged 14-19.

- group and individual actions (mainly at school but not only) aimed at improving personal and social skills (i.e. self-esteem)
- group and individual actions (mainly at school but not only) aimed at *building a personal long life project* and a training itinerary
- *extracurricular activities* where teenagers can have prominent strong role and discover abilities, create habits and get involved in their communities
- professional seminars intended to identify at which extent school institutional and personal professional attitudes may favor school failure and how to change them *community resources coordination* and establishing of a coordination circuit
- *involvement of volunteers and groups* (i.e. unemployed associations) in unemployment prevention

TARGET GROUP

Youngsters aged 12-19 in the following situations:

- youngsters that have left school without a degree
- youngsters that are still at school but with low performance and foreseeable bad results at the end of the educational stage

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

The project must involve in every city:

- secondary schools
- primary schools and other educational resources
- municipality (youth, education, development, gender...)
- community (families, youth groups, associations, sport groups, volunteers, neighbourhood initiatives...)

- other agents at local or regional level: associations, foundations, Universities, enterprises...

PARTNERS SEARCHED

Partners are expected to share with the organizers the development of the proposed methodology, develop experiences in their communities and evaluate them together. The resulting methodology will be useful for unemployment prevention at early stages in deprived areas.

We are looking for partners from the European Union preferably from deprived neighbourhoods in large urban areas.

We would like to receive expressions of interest before 15/1/2013.

CONTACT PERSON

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