



Newsletter

35th Edition/ January 2025

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AIDLEARN, CONSULTORIA EM RECURSOS HUMANOS, LDA

Training, Research–Action and Consulting Company, which has been operating at national and European level since 2003, dedicated to design, implementation and evaluation of studies, projects and training activities that favour individual and/or organisational development. It is a training entity certified by DGERT (Directorate General for Employment and Labour Relations) in various areas of education and training.



Studies and Projects

- *Innovation in education/training systems*
- *Encouraging organizational learning, diversification of the training offer and renewal of practices*
- *Design and development of studies and projects*

Vocational Educational and Training

- *Skills management for organizational development, innovation and competitiveness*
- *Professional and business training*
- *Planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of interventions for skills development*

Newsletter AidLearn

The publication of the AidLearn Newsletter is addressed to partners and customers of the company's networks.

It aims to:

- Promote business activity;
- Keep in touch with all stakeholders;
- Provide useful and timely information.

In this 35th edition (January 2025), we will present the main news about national and international projects coordinated or partnered by AidLearn, from October to December 2024.



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HIGHLIGHTED

*Final Project Events EASY & Introduction
to EUVET-P & MedSEVa*



Vocational Education and Training Policy
in the European Union



MedSEVa

*CHECK OUT THE NEWS FROM
EDUAI, AND IntCultAE*



EUVET-P: European Union Vocational Education and Training – Policy project seeks to bridge the gap between EUVET policy and its application in daily teaching and training practices.

Learn more at:



Introduction to the Project

The goal of EUVET-P is twofold: first, to investigate how EUVET policy instruments and tools are addressed in VET programs across partner countries, and second, to a better understanding of EUVET policy and thus may help improve the image of EUVET policy. By fostering dialogue between partners in Northern, Central, and Southern Europe, the project will provide a broad and diverse perspective on improving the integration of EUVET policies into educational practices. The core outcome of the project is the development of learning units that support VET providers with implementing the “European idea”, EU VET policy strategies and tools. The project addresses VET staff in Europe focusing on the following partner countries: Estonia, Germany, Greece, and Portugal. It thus covers VET teachers and trainers, and VET providers and schools. Indirectly, it also covers VET learners (students, apprentices, adult learners) as they can benefit from well-informed teachers and trainers.

Aims of the Project

We strive to enhance the practical application of these tools through the following key objectives:

- Exploring the implementation of EU VET policy as part of VET programmes
- Identification of interests, challenges, and best practices;
- Developing learning units that support the European idea, illustrating core ideas and benefits of EU VET policy (tools), and contribute to a better understanding;
- Fostering exchange to enhance EU VET policy.

Key Outcomes

- Four Learning Units: We will develop learning units that support VET providers with implementing the “European idea”, EUVET policy strategies and tools.
- Increased Awareness: The project promotes a deeper understanding, of public awareness and reception of EU VET policy and related tools and instruments.
- International Collaboration: the interconnection, mutual learning, and mutual exchange of the involved project partners in four European countries.

Focus Group of the EUVET-P Project

The EUVET-P (European Union Vocational Education and Training - Policy) project conducted focus groups in partner countries to identify good practices in VET (Vocational Education and Training). These sessions aimed to gather national perspectives, needs, challenges, and experiences from VET teachers, trainers, and providers regarding the application of EUVET policy tools and instruments.



Focus Group in Portugal

On Friday, November 29th, AidLearn hosted the focus group in Portugal as part of the Erasmus+ EUVET-P project. The session brought together eight representatives from seven key organizations involved in VET across Portugal. These representatives included technicians, consultants, researchers, VET managers, and regional body representatives. The entities participated in the discussion and represented diverse regions, including Centro-Norte, Greater Lisbon, Baixo Alentejo, and the Algarve.

The conversation focused on the use of European policy instruments and tools in VET programs. Participants explored how these tools can enhance education and training initiatives, and they shared good practices, emerging needs, and current challenges in the field.



The discussion was lively and engaging, with active participation from all members, providing insightful national perspectives on the subject.



Key Objectives of the Focus Groups

The focus groups sought to identify and share good practices in the implementation of EUVET policy tools and instruments. They explored how these tools were currently being applied in VET programs and gathered insights into national perspectives, needs, and challenges within vocational education and training.

Impact of the Focus Groups

The focus groups provided a vital forum for VET stakeholders to exchange knowledge and experiences related to EUVET policy tools and instruments. By fostering dialogue among VET providers, researchers, and trainers, the EUVET-P project aims to strengthen vocational education and training across Europe.

Next Steps

The insights gained from these focus groups will be discussed at the first face-to-face meeting of the project, which will be held in January at Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) in Dresden, Germany.

EUVET-P PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator: TU Dresden Technische Universität Dresden, Chair of Adult Education (Germany)

Partners:

- AidLearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos, Lda. (Portugal)
- KDBM Axia (Greece)
- ANDRAS (Estonia)



MedSEVa

MedSEVa: Cultivating Sustainable Economies in the Mediterranean through Valorisation of Bushland Ecosystems is an Erasmus+ funded project aimed at promoting sustainable economies and preserving the Mediterranean bushland and maquis ecosystems.

Learn more at:



Introduction to the Project

The MedSEVa project officially began on 1st December 2024 and is set to run for 24 months.

Why is this project being implemented?

The Mediterranean regions, renowned for their rich natural resources and diverse ecosystems, offer a fertile ground for advancing a sustainable economy, particularly among higher education students. This aligns with European policies aimed at strengthening the connection between higher education and the labor market. Promoting a sustainable economy provides students with opportunities to apply their academic knowledge and innovative ideas effectively.

Historically, Mediterranean communities have thrived on traditional practices deeply intertwined with the use of natural resources, notably the maquis vegetation. Despite economic challenges, these communities have demonstrated resilience by adapting to the ecological rhythms of the region. Maquis ecosystems, celebrated for their biodiversity and hardy vegetation, host a wealth of plants and herbs traditionally used in local cuisine, medicine, and ecological management. However, these resources remain underutilized in mainstream agricultural practices and markets.

Wild herbs, grains, legumes, fruits, and nuts, in particular, offer significant nutritional benefits and are well-suited to the region's challenging climatic conditions. These crops embody the principles of sustainability and conservation, presenting opportunities to discover new flavors, promote health, and support economic growth. Integrating these underutilized species into commercial agriculture enhances agro-biodiversity and bolsters the resilience of local food systems.

Additionally, exploring and valuing minor crops align with sustainable development goals by encouraging more sustainable consumption patterns and fostering a deeper connection between communities and the ecosystems that sustain them. This project aims to tap into these potential benefits, leveraging the Mediterranean's ecological wealth to cultivate innovation and sustainable practices among the next generation.

Visual Identity

In alignment with the project's aims, several logo designs were proposed to the partnership. Through a collaborative voting process, the final logo was selected. It features a small plant with flowers, depicted in Mediterranean-inspired colors, symbolizing growth, resilience, and the rich natural heritage of the region.



MedSEVa



The Partnership

The project is being carried out by a consortium of 5 partner organizations from Greece, Türkiye, Cyprus, and Portugal. This partnership brings together expertise in environmental management, agriculture, education, and geoinformatics. MedSEVa will contribute to the development of educational content, tools, and innovative practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of Mediterranean ecosystems and local economies.

Aims of the Project

The project has three main objectives:

1. Enhance professional opportunities for students by providing them with a holistic understanding of Mediterranean ecosystems and their economic potential.
2. Promote conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean ecosystems, including their medicinal, food, and cosmetic applications.
3. Revive and preserve traditional ecological knowledge while encouraging the integration of minor crops into sustainable agricultural practices.

Key Outcomes

- MedSEVa Handbook: A report combining scientific findings and traditional knowledge to guide sustainable conservation of Mediterranean bushlands and maquis, including economic analysis and input from collaborative focus groups.
- MedSEVa Storytelling Resources: Learning materials, short films, and podcasts showcasing conservation practices, production cycles, and insights from practitioners and local communities.
- MedSEVa HUB: A digital platform integrating resources like story maps to promote knowledge transfer and support students' professional development.

First Meeting

The first meeting took place on the 12th December, online. This was an opportunity for all partners staff assigned to the project to meet each other, as well as each partner organisation. The meeting focused on the brief presentation of the entire project, how the financial



management will be held, the basis for the visual identity of the project, and planning the first face to face meeting, to occur in Türkiye. Everybody seemed very engaged, proactive, and enthusiastic with the project.

MedSEVa PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator: ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS (Greece)

Partners:

- EGE UNIVERSITY (Türkiye)
- TECHNOLOGIKO PANEPISTIMIO KYPROU (Cyprus)
- AidLearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos Lda. (Portugal)
- The USE Concept, Lda. (Portugal)



EASY: Educating Adults Against Stereotypes aims to promote understanding of age and gender stereotypes that can lead to discrimination in different sectors of society among adults. It will provide teaching resources for adult educators to use to facilitate inclusion and diversity.

Learn more at:



Final Events of EASY Project

The EASY project reached its grand finale in October 2024, with two inspiring events in Portugal, specially dedicated to adult educators!

On October 29th, at Universidade Lusófona, in collaboration with the Escola Superior de Psicologia, and on October 30th at Escola Secundária Poeta Joaquim Serra, together with Centro Qualifica, we enthusiastically presented the final products of EASY. Each event was a true immersion into the project results, with a detailed showcase of our achievements and a practical session where participants were able to try out some of the EASY Toolkit activities. The involvement and interest of educators was incredible! We are excited to see the impact EASY will have on your practices. Make the most of the resources we've developed, and continue transforming adult education! Thank you to everyone who was part of this journey!



EASY PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator: UNIWERSYTET LODZKI (Poland)

Partners:

- AidLearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos, Lda. (Portugal)
- HF & VUC FYN (Denmark)
- OLYMPIAKI EPAIDEFTIKI KAI SYMVOULEFTIKI EPE (Greece)
- Asociația pentru Educație și Dezvoltare Durabilă (Romania)
- ACTA Foundation (Bulgaria)



EDUAI: Empowering Educators for AI-Integrated Learning aims to empower social sciences Higher Education (HE) educators with the necessary skills to integrate AI technologies into their teaching methods.

Learn more at:



Shooting the EduAI documentary

On November 19th, we had the opportunity to film the interview with professor Manuela Francisco at Universidade Aberta, protagonist of the EduAI documentary, produced by AidLearn. The Professor. is a specialist in distance education and eLearning, considered a pioneer in the integration of AI in the social sciences of higher education.



The EduAI project aims to foster innovative learning and teaching practices. Through this initiative, we're creating multimedia resources that tackle the challenges, explore the opportunities, and highlight effective strategies for AI integration.

Stay tuned for more updates as we bring you inspiring and practical insights from educators who are at the forefront of AI integration in social sciences!



EduAI Project Research Article

We are thrilled to announce the publication of our research article, "AI Integrated Learning for Higher Education Social Science Educators." This article dives into the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education, with a specific focus on the social sciences.

Highlights of the Research:

- A comprehensive overview of AI's global use in education.
- Insights into integrating AI into higher education while addressing challenges, opportunities, and ethical considerations.
- Strategies for enhancing student engagement and fostering essential digital literacy skills.
- Innovative approaches to develop AI-integrated teaching competencies.
- Recommendations for future research in advancing AI's role in education.

Our findings provide a critical perspective on the potential of AI to revolutionize teaching and learning in higher education, paving the way for innovative and inclusive educational practices.

Read the full article here:



RESEARCH ARTICLE

EDUAI PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator: ISTANBUL UNIVERSITESI (Türkiye)

Partners:

- AidLearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos, Lda. (Portugal)
- UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO (Portugal)
- MITROPOLITIKO COLLEGE ANOYMI EKPAIDEYTIKI ETAIRIA (Greece)
- EUROPAISCHER VERBAND BERUFLICHER BILDUNGSTRAGER (Germany)
- KRAKOWSKIE FORUM EDUKACJI SPÓŁKA Z OGRANICZONA ODPOWIEDZIALNOSCIA (Poland)



IntCultAE

IntCultAE: Intercultural Competences for Adult Educators is an innovative initiative that aims to enhance the intercultural competencies of adult educators and it strives to create an inclusive and diverse learning environment by bridging cultural divides.

Learn more at:



Catch Up on Progress: Newsletters Available

Newsletters 1 and 2 are available and provide comprehensive updates on the project's progress, milestones, and upcoming activities. Stay informed about how the project is fostering intercultural competencies through innovative resources and initiatives.

NEWSLETTER 1

IntCultAE

Intercultural Competences for Adult Educators

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES AND ADULT EDUCATORS

Intercultural competencies are essential, not only for the European Union as a whole but also for adult educators within the EU. In our increasingly diverse society, adult educators play a pivotal role in shaping individuals' attitudes and behaviors. As Europe continues to evolve as a multicultural society, equipping them with intercultural competencies enables inclusive learning environments where people from various backgrounds can thrive and learn together. These competencies empower educators to address the specific needs of adult learners, respecting their cultural backgrounds and adapting teaching methods accordingly.

REAL-LIFE AND FICTIONAL STORIES

We are taking a dynamic approach to enrich your learning experience. In addition to comprehensive course content, we are integrating real-life stories of migration and thought-provoking movies and scenes into our program. These real-life stories of migration will serve as powerful examples, showcasing the rich experiences that individuals from diverse backgrounds bring to the table. By sharing these narratives, we aim to foster empathy, understanding, and appreciation for the complexities of intercultural interactions. Moreover, movies and scenes are a fantastic medium for vicariously exploring intercultural contact. They provide a lens through which we can analyze various scenarios, dilemmas, and interactions. Our IntCultAE movies and scenes catalog will offer an intercultural competencies perspective on how to appreciate them.

THE PROJECT

The IntCultAE project is a transnational consortium funded by Erasmus+ and brought to life by organizations from five diverse countries: Portugal, Poland, Greece, and Germany. Our mission is to promote intercultural cooperation among adult educators and provide valuable resources for everyone interested in fostering understanding.

ONLINE COURSE COMPREHENSIVE COURSE FRAMEWORK CATALOG OF FILMS AND SCENES REAL-LIFE STORIES WORKSHOP GUIDE

PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Our partnership met in person for the first time during our inaugural transnational meeting in Bonn (Germany) in February, where we organized our subsequent operational steps and enhanced our ability to conduct high-quality interviews for our real-life stories through a filmmaking workshop. More recently, in July, the IntCult team convened in the Polish city of Lodz for our second transnational meeting, where we continued shaping the project's development and delved into crucial aspects of our results. Our team has been working behind the scenes, too. We've been focused on developing a comprehensive course framework that will benefit our course and serve as a valuable resource for others in the field. We've also gathered real-life stories from people who kindly shared their migration and adaptation experiences with us. Plus, we're in the final stages of our movie and scenes catalog, ensuring that our materials are both engaging and informative. We're excited and can't wait to share more updates on our progress!

FOLLOW US

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instagram.com/IntCultAE

Partners:

Co-funded by the European Union



NEWSLETTER 2

IntCultAE

Intercultural Competences for Adult Educators

OUR PRODUCTS:

THE IntCultAE COURSE FRAMEWORK AND SCENES CATALOG

Our first major milestone, the Intercultural Competencies Course Framework, has been finalized. This comprehensive framework serves as a foundation for any organization or individual to develop activities aimed at enriching adult educators with essential intercultural competencies. It outlines learning outcomes, content modules, and the necessary resources to empower educators in creating inclusive and respectful learning environments.

THE IntCultAE FILMS AND SCENES CATALOG

We have also completed the Intercultural Competencies Films and Scenes Catalog, a curated collection of multimedia resources. This catalog features films and scenes depicting intercultural interactions, serving as a dynamic teaching tool to illustrate complex concepts of cultural diversity and interaction in relatable and engaging ways. The Catalog is available in English, Portuguese, Polish, German, Italian, and Greek!

OUR 1ST REAL-LIFE STORIES

Another significant achievement is the ongoing completion of Real-Life Stories of Acculturation. Through interviews and narratives, this collection brings forth authentic experiences of cultural adaptation and integration, offering deep insights and fostering empathy among educators and learners alike. Our first two movies are readily available on our YouTube page. Like the Catalog, the real-life stories are available in English, Portuguese, Polish, German, Italian, and Greek.

THE IntCultAE PROJECT: EMPOWERING EDUCATORS, UNITING CULTURES

The essence of intercultural competence has never been more crucial, particularly within the realm of adult education in the European Union. In an era marked by increasing diversity, the role of adult educators is pivotal in modeling the perspectives and behaviors of learners. The IntCultAE project, supported by the Erasmus+ program and a collaboration among organizations from Portugal, Poland, Italy, Greece, and Germany, stands at the forefront of this transformative journey. Our aim is to enhance the intercultural competencies of adult educators, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate diversity and create inclusive learning spaces. These environments encourage mutual growth and understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering a multicultural society where education transcends cultural barriers. By fostering educational approaches to meet the unique needs of adult learners, respecting their cultural identities, and adopting adaptable teaching methodologies, we empower educators to be catalysts for positive change. Through the IntCultAE project, we are not just promoting cross-cultural understanding but also knitting the fabric of a more cohesive, inclusive Europe. The IntCultAE project proudly presents to you innovative products: the Intercultural Competencies Course Framework, the Films and Scenes Catalog, Real-Life Stories of Acculturation, along with the under-development Intercultural Competencies Online Course and Workshop Guide, all designed to enrich adult education with deepened intercultural understanding and competence.

PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND NEXT STEPS

In December 2023, our partnership met in person for the first transnational project meeting in Lisbon for the proper finalization of the 1st draft of our first project results and organization of their subsequent external evaluation. Ever since, we have been diligently working on the final touches of the products already made available and on the products yet to come!

ON FUTURE UPDATES ON OUR PROGRESS!

US @ facebook.com/IntCultAE
instagram.com/IntCultAE

Partners:

Co-funded by the European Union



Explore the Films and Scenes Catalogue

We are thrilled to announce the release of the "Intercultural Competences Through Films and Scenes" Catalogue!

This engaging resource is designed to foster meaningful discussions about intercultural interactions by showcasing:

- 15 carefully selected films (or series)
- 15 impactful scenes

Each example has been chosen to highlight various aspects of intercultural competences in action, offering valuable insights into how these skills manifest during real-life intercultural encounters.

The catalogue includes in-depth analyses of these examples, making it an invaluable tool for educators, trainers, and anyone passionate about fostering intercultural understanding.

Download the Catalogue

The catalogue is now available for download in all partner languages!



IntCultAE PARTNERSHIP

Coordinator: UNIWERSYTET LODZKI (Poland)

Partners:

- EKPAIDEFTHRIA KALOSKAMI S.A. (Greece)
- EURO-NET (Italy)
- Erasmus ME Academy (Germany)
- AidLearn, Consultoria em Recursos Humanos, Lda. (Portugal)

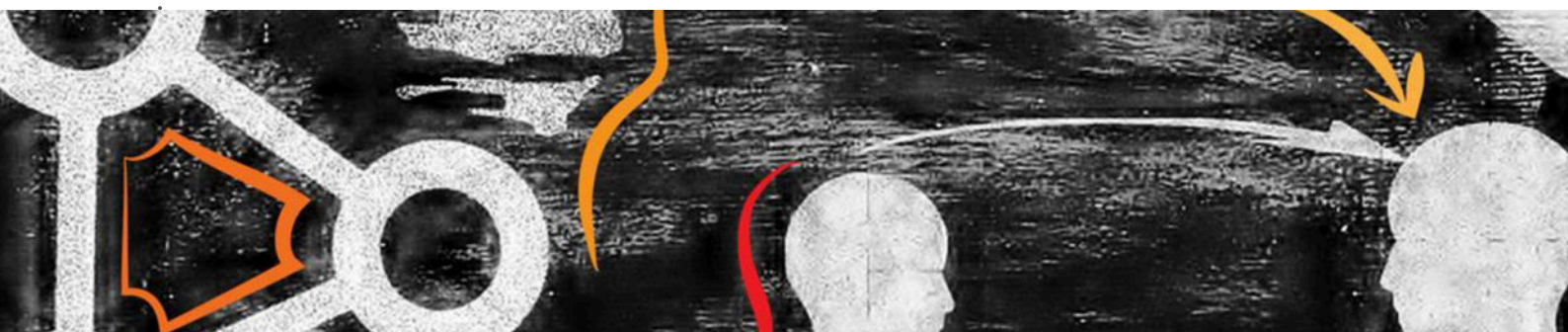
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