



Erasmus Plus 2016

VETPRO Mobility

Global Skills Network

PIC 936464385 * CIF/TAX ID J66359399

Mailing address: Apartado Correos 19029 08027 Barcelona Spain

Email: info@erasmusactions.com

www.ErasmusActions.com



Training, Professional Exchanges, Trade Missions



Global Skills Network

Email: info@erasmusactions.com
www.ErasmusActions.com

Transnational Mobility Projects

Erasmus+

Global Skills Network, scp, is the corporate structure for mobility programming in Barcelona. We have served as enthusiastic partners in European projects since 2003, first as MS Barcelona Lifelong Learning and later as separate entities focusing on work experience (Europe Work Experience – www.EuropeWorkExperience.com) and workforce development (European Career Connections – www.EuropeanCareerConnections.com). Our labour market preparedness programming benefits both European youth and professionals; lifelong learning and mobility programming that focuses on the teaching and study needs of those in adult education and alternative education streams is sponsored through the new Erasmus Plus Programme, replacing Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig. Participants who successfully complete programming are able to transfer new skills, knowledge, contacts, and cultural awareness to their situations upon returning to their country of origin.

- Location

We call Barcelona home, tucked away in the northeast corner of Spain in the province of Catalonia, one of 17 autonomous communities in Spain. With a rich history and culture, Catalonia offers the best of the past and the promises of the future, serving as the European hub for innovation in the Mediterranean region. Because Barcelona is a magnet for international commerce and technology advances, you will hear lots of languages spoken besides Catalan and Spanish.

Barcelona is an excellent destination for people of all ages to enjoy. Situated directly on the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona as a cosmopolitan city is full of cultural venues like museums, theatres and cinemas, extensive nightlife and leisurely activities, and a wide range of sports. The city is a blend of modern and medieval, progress and traditionalism, all while remaining typically Mediterranean. The diverse range of commerce and industry present in this region of Spain make it an excellent place for work, study, rest, play and inter-cultural exchanges.

Barcelona is recognised as a global city because of its importance in technology, finance, commerce, media, entertainment, the arts and international trade. At Global Skills Network, we have come to specialize in a few industries and sector that are of paramount economic importance to this region of Spain: hospitality and tourism; fashion and retail; entrepreneurship; management, administration and digital learning; international trade; ecology, sustainability and architecture; language training; and the wine industry . These sectors offer the most availability of host companies willing to participate in the framework of training and expert exchanges. Furthermore, we have been successful at arranging placements and visits not only in a wide range of sectors, we also have a good track record of placements and visits in esoteric subject matters and unique interests for all types of mobility programming.



VETPRO and PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES

We are quite fond of VETPRO projects, as they provide us with unique learning opportunities, and have organized professional visits in a wide range of sectors, as well as seminars and other activity, providing expert interpretation from Spanish or Catalan during programmed activity. The staff at Global Skills Network has facilitated some interesting and invaluable contacts to enable partners to continue the dialogue long after the project had finished. These projects are geared toward professionals and educators wishing to gain transnational experience in their chosen field. Observation programmes primarily sponsor study visits for specialists in education, government, vocational training, and business. The prime objective of this programme is to encourage exchanges and discussion on subjects of common interest. Study visits provide an opportunity for participants to study and observe the techniques and innovative methods in the field of interest that are being following in Spain through visits to a wide variety of enterprises and institutions. Visits are usually limited to two weeks or less.

Since 2003, we have participated in the Professionals in Vocational Education and Training (VETPRO) projects that aim to support transnational mobility of persons responsible for vocational training and/or human resources. The general objectives of mobility actions:

- To support participants in training and further training activities in the acquisition and the use of knowledge, skills and qualifications to facilitate personal development, employability and participation in the European Labour Market.
- To support improvements in quality and innovation in education, vocational training, teacher training, educational systems, institutions and practices.

A specific priority is given to the development of the competences of teachers, trainers and tutors and to cooperate with SMEs. VETPRO mobility projects focus on the transfer, improvement and update of competences and/or of innovative methods and practices in the field of vocational training. It can also cover vocational language learning of professionals.

Other programmes support lifelong learning and mobility that focuses on the teaching and study needs of those in adult education and alternative education streams, as well as the institutions and organizations delivering these services. Specific aims are to:

- Increase the number of people in adult education and improve the quality of their experience, whether at home or abroad;
- Improve conditions for mobility to enable people to benefit from adult education abroad;
- Improve the quality and amount of co-operation between adult education organizations;
- Develop innovative adult education and management practices, and encourage widespread application;
- Ensure that people on the margins of society have access to adult education, especially older people and those who left education without basic qualifications;
- Support innovative ICT-based educational content, services and practices.

Actions include support for:

- Mobility, including visits, placements, 'assistantships', adult education exchanges (i.e. staff training and professional development) and the preparations needed to plan the exchanges;
- Learning Partnerships focusing on themes of mutual interest to participating organizations;
- Multilateral projects for improving adult education systems through the development and transfer of innovation and good practices;
- Networks of experts and organizations working on developing adult education, spreading good practices and supporting partnerships.

These projects are now supported under the new Erasmus Plus projects, including KA1 – the mobility of individuals, KA2 – strategic partnerships, and youth programming. More information about Erasmus Plus can be found at www.ErasmusActions.com.

The specific objectives of any professional exchange programming should be made clear in advance so that appropriate visits can be arranged. Upon completion of the programming, each participant will receive a Europass. Our final report contains all the contact information of the visits and relationships established during the programme.

VETPRO and PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES

Organizing a VETPRO project takes approximately 6-8 weeks, and is contingent upon the availability of host organizations to receive the group in a professional visit and/or experts to conduct seminars and other organized activity. We require an application form accompanied by a list of beneficiaries with their titles and a short description of their duties and functions in the organization promoting the project. We look for indicators that inform us of the applicant's background and interests so that we can match these with colleagues at the same level and undertaking similar responsibilities in the spirit of a true expert exchange. Once an appropriate host is identified, Global Skills Network staff work on organizing logistics and calendars, and prepare background material to be made available to participants once they arrive.

Most VETPRO programming is conducted in English, and our interpreters always accompany the group on all official activity to translate for the group. Therefore, we require that all groups come with at least one person who can translate from English to the target language of the group. VETPRO programming is usually carried out over a period of one week, and occasionally two. We discourage organizing VETPRO programming that is longer than two weeks. We are also able to offer auxiliary services such as group airport transfers, local transportation and accommodations at hotels and university residences with rooms for adults, as well as a whole range of cultural programming.



A study visit is an encounter — but it is first and foremost a journey in small groups (participants are constantly on the move visiting places of importance to their fields). This allows participants to meet and interact with specialists in the host country.

Examples of Professional Visit Programmes include:

- ❖ delegate fact-finding visits for other EU countries and non-Community members alike;
- ❖ school administrators studying best practices in collaborative learning environments;
- ❖ staff at a regional employment office studying re-employment and other back-to-work initiatives for the un- and under-employed;
- ❖ a group of trainees visiting vinicultural enterprises in Catalunya's wine country;
- ❖ a delegation of entrepreneurs visiting for business acumen;
- ❖ a group of architect professors taking the Modernist Tour or studying sustainability issues related to urban development;
- ❖ a trade mission sponsored by a regional Chamber of Commerce;
- ❖ the founders of a start-up enterprise that aspire to global markets;
- ❖ faculty observing child development training;
- ❖ human and social service staff expanding programming for social inclusion;
- ❖ programmers working in the field of telemedicine, e-commerce and distance learning;
- ❖ university professors, government agency administrators and business executives wanting to learn more about Barcelona's technology parks and innovation initiatives, smart growth, entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships.
- ❖ a group of executive chefs exploring culinary dishes and molecular gastronomical



- Induction

Once the beneficiaries arrive and get settled in, they participate in an induction, or orientation session, that explains the programme. It is the time when expectations are expressed, concerns addressed, and questions answered. They will already have received their orientation material prior to their departure from their country of origin.

- Capacity

The staff of Global Skills Network organize mobility projects throughout the year. In terms of being able to accommodate groups with specialized service, we can receive groups of up to 20 beneficiaries at one time for either placements or professional exchanges. These partnerships have worked extremely well, and we have a long list of success stories from participants successfully finishing the programme. We attempt to avoid scheduling VETPRO activity during the months of July and August and during the time between December 15-January 10, in consideration of the traditional vacation time of Spanish enterprises and institutions.

- Timetable/schedule of the programme

Our personalized attention to the needs of participants begins with our introductory correspondence prior to their arrival, where they are informed of tentative placements and are given information on their project and a lot of information about Barcelona, its landscape, people, language and culture. Upon their arrival to Barcelona, they are met at the airport by our staff. Participants will also receive information about the public transportation system for the metropolitan area and receive their passes for public transportation if they require this service. This is an important note to make about transportation passes, as the success of their programme will depend on their ability to move around freely on public transportation, the most cost-effective and efficient transportation mode available. For this reason, we make recommendations on accommodations that are located within walking distance of a metro, bus or train where they can use the passes that are provided by the programme.

We have come to realize that having the public transportation option leads to participants achieving a more intense cultural experience during their time in Barcelona, as they are able to explore the different areas of the city, immerse themselves in the culture of the people, and improve their language skills as they visit with the natives. Barcelona is an important cultural centre and a major tourist destination with a rich cultural history. Particularly renowned are architectural works that have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and these are taken-in and savoured by participants visiting our city. They also take advantage of their weekends to travel throughout the region and many have taken the initiative to travel beyond our province to explore other areas of Spain. Augmenting these experiences are the cultural outings we organize for the groups to expose them to the uniqueness of our region.

We look forward to welcoming you to Barcelona.

Sincerely,

The team at Global Skills Network

