



A quality framework for mobility providers in Flanders

A bottom up approach

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Colourful Flanders: What?

In 2003, the Flemish Government launched an action plan called “Colourful Flanders. One of the aims was to give every youngster the opportunity for a stay abroad. A “Platform of cooperation” was created with the following partners:

- Youth-Eurodesk (initiative);**
- LLL programma NA EPOS(leonardo, Grundvig, Erasmus, Socrates & Europass);**
- Eures;**
- Wegwijzer (Independent information centre for travellers);**
- Youth organisations of trade-unions (ACV & ABVV);**
- VLORHA-ADINSA (organisation of HE) VLIR-UOS (organisation of universities);**
- Different organisations working with the third world;**

- EUROGUIDANCE.**





Colourful Flanders: Objectives



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- Detecting the information needs of young people;
- Better coordinate and reinforce information on international mobility;
- Work together on concrete initiatives.



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Colourful Flanders: results



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- Fair GO STRANGE (every 2 years) on international mobility;
- Website KAMIEL on administrative procedures concerning social security, child allowance, unemployment, visas...
- Study on “The needs for support and guidance of young people before, during and after international mobility” (in Dutch);
- A quality framework on quality in guidance;
- And much informal cooperation and communication between the partners!



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A quality frame for mobility

In **March 2008** conference "De Grote Trek" on mobility. One of the results was the need for a quality frame for mobility... Not obligatory... But practical... And usable in different contexts.

Different workgroups worked on this quality framework.

In **March 2009** conference "De Grote Trek 2" where the quality framework was presented and accepted by 150 participants of different organisations dealing with mobility.

The Flemish quality framework contains 10 fundamental values and principles:





1. Accessibility

Meaning that motivated youngster should get a chance to go abroad. We do this by adapting our communication, content and financial contributions towards these youngsters.



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2. Participation of the youngster

Participation of the youngster in the design and implementation of the project will foster its accessibility and positive long term effects.



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3. Guidance

Not only the preparation, but the stay and the follow-up are equally important and enhance the quality and the learning opportunities for all partners involved.



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4. Cooperation between partners in Belgium and abroad

Both the parties here and abroad should all participate in the preparation, the stay and the follow-up of mobility and communicate with each other on an equal base.



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5. Clear roles and goals

Clarity of the goals of the project, the expectations of everyone involved, the role which they play, together with their responsibilities are very important issues.

An open dialogue with respect for everyone's individuality is necessary.

Certain flexibility is necessary, because practise can be more complicated than what is written on paper.





6. Durability/sustainability

Mobility will have an impact on local communities which can be positive or negative. It can have a socio-cultural impact on behaviour, clothing and technologies. It can support the local economy.

The way the youngster travel and consume can have an ecological impact.

In organising mobility one should always look for the most durable solutions and taking in account negative effects.

The partner abroad play the most important role in assessing the impact.





7. World citizenship

A stay abroad can be at the base of a learning process where the young person develops competences which are important for personal and/or professional development.

Mobility forms a fruitful ground for the development of world citizenship. Youngsters should be motivated to look behind stereotypes and prejudices.

As a world citizen, a youngster can spread a more positive approach on foreign cultures with his friends, family and community.

(S)he can also do the same while abroad on stereotypes and prejudices of his/her own culture.





8. Practical assistance

Research has shown that youngsters undertaking mobility are in need of practical information linked to food, health, housing, travelling.

The providers of mobility have to create a safe environment for the young person and provide all practical information for the stay abroad.

Also the young person has to observe the safety rules and engagements.





9. Qualified staff

If we want to offer quality guidance to youngster, we need qualified staff. Quality guidance will bring added value to the stay abroad and contribute to a positive impact.

The staff must get the chance to continuously take further training, and to meet each other in order to exchange experiences and good practices across sectors and organisational boundaries.





10. Monitoring and evaluation

A system for monitoring and evaluation is necessary to know whether goals have been reached, to react quickly when problems arise and to assess the impact of the mobility.

Generally speaking monitoring during the stay and evaluation after the stay abroad is seldom used to learn how to adapt and improve the mobility experience of other youngsters.

It is also important here to involve the partners at the destination side.





Quality framework: some thoughts...

However this quality framework cannot help when external factors are disturbing the mobility process, like natural disasters.

Next to that there are still a lot of obstacles like rules and laws on social security or complicated procedures to get a grant that can have a negative impact on mobility.

It is also important to pinpoint to certain obstacles young people originating from outside the EU experience when they want to come to Europe: Visa, financial problems...

This quality framework is also a call for action directed to all competent authorities to solve these obstacles ones and for all.





Thank you!

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