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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Project number: 591854-EPP-1-2017-1-DE-EPPKA2-SSA



MeMeVET

Mechatronics and Metallurgical VET for sectors' industries

DELIVERABLE DESCRIPTION

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REPORT

ON PRE-DEPARTURE PARTICIPATIVE ORIENTATION MEETING

CCIS

Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Spain

July 2019

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PRE-DEPARTURE PARTICIPATIVE ORIENTATION MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

This deliverable has been done in order to guide sending organizations in preparing participants to mobility and to reinforce and make them aware about the opportunities given by an experience abroad.

A common format has been developed to allow partners, and the coordinator of that task, CCIS; to have a framework in which carrying on a pre-departure orientation participative meeting.

Participative means that the meeting must be done bilateral, among participant and sending organization, in order to have a proper feedback from the participant.

The Pre-Departure Orientation is mandatory and typically only happens once. Pre-departure meeting is a session organized a few days prior to the participants' departure. The meetings are designed to prepare participants before they leave on their trip.

It aims to:

- solve doubts;
- provide participants with relevant info;
- make sure that participants are prepared for the experience abroad;
- prepare and facilitate the integration of the participant into hosting society and working place;
- go in deep to the inputs provided by the pre-departure training.

FORMAT

Method: Face-to-face or online session

Duration: 30 minutes-1 hour

Responsible: sending organizations

Minimum Contents: info about the project, objectives and results, practical info about mobility, as hosting and sending organizations, travel, accommodation, health system, internship, job shadowing and working place.

Aim: to make participant aware that an experience abroad is an exciting opportunity to experience another culture, educational and labour system by pushing participants out of their comfort zone.

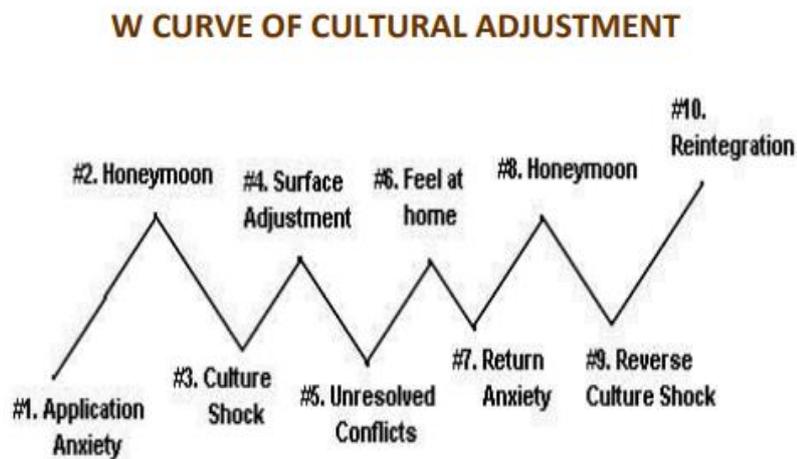
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Cultural integration

Please recommend to participants to take into account that when they will be in another country should always try to respect its rules and customs even if they don't have to agree with them, but it's not your place to tell these people they are wrong.

In the figure below the **curve of cultural adjustment**, according to "Study Abroad", Western Michigan University:



THE STAGES OF CULTURE SHOCK			
STAGE	SITUATION	APPROACHES	REACTIONS
HONEYMOON	First contact with the new culture	Observe, use preconceptions and stereotypes to understand the new culture	Excitement, curiosity, slight anxiety
INITIAL CONFRONTATION	First intensive interaction with the culture; must solve some basic survival problems	Respond behaviorally as one would in own culture; solve problems in familiar ways	Surprise and confusion; concern that we don't have an answer for new problems; can't understand why our own behavior doesn't produce the desired results; puzzled about others' behavior
ADJUSTMENT TO CRISIS	Ongoing confrontation with the new culture; problems intensify	Respond now with a mix of old and new ways of doing things; some tentative experimentation with new behaviors	Becoming judgmental about new culture; feelings of anxiety, embarrassment, frustration, anger; confusion about own identity
RECOVERY	Accommodation with the new culture replaces confrontation; sense of belonging to culture emerges	Creative use of a variety of coping strategies (see below) to help one function effectively	Regain confidence; feeling that the culture is understandable; very positive sense of personal accomplishment; enjoy many aspects of this culture

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ADJUSTMENT STRATEGY

The following adjustment strategies can help participants accommodate to the culture

Avoidance



Effective Form: Temporary, occasional withdrawal to overcome “cultural fatigue”



Ineffective Form: Frequent or complete withdrawal; no interaction with the culture

Participation



Working to learn the ways of the culture (assertive behavior)



Fighting against the culture (aggressive behavior)

Utilizing Resources



Using resources to promote learning and self-reliance



Becoming totally dependent on resources

Utilizing Stereotypes



Using only as a tentative guide to the culture; constantly challenging them



Using as a complete guide to the culture; never testing them

Studying the Culture



Striving to acquire cultural insights; learning new perspectives



Fitting new culture into own framework; rejecting new insights, perspectives

Utilizing the Culture



Developing effective coping strategies; enlarging skills; maintaining own identity



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“Going native” – totally adopting the culture as one’s own; losing own identity. Most cultures don’t want you to “go native” – they want you to learn and respect their culture

TRAVEL TIPS

Before the Airport:

Do NOT pack or bring prohibited items to the airport. Leave gifts unwrapped. They may need to be opened for inspection. Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal. Metal items may set off the alarm on the metal detector. Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film. Carry-on baggage is frequently limited to one carry-on bag plus one personal item. Personal items include laptops, purses, backpacks, briefcases, or camera cases. Place identification tags in and on all of your baggage.

At the Airport:

Before you get in line... Do NOT bring drinks or other liquids to the security checkpoint. Once you get in line... In, Out, Off. Put metal IN your carry-on bag. This includes jewelry, loose change, keys, mobile phones, papers, and PDAs. Take OUT your laptop computer. Place it in a bin, separate from its carrying case. Take OFF your outer coat. Place it in a bin. Suit Jackets and blazers do not have to be removed, unless requested by the screener.

Consideration by sending organization after they arranged the PRE-DEPARTURE PARTICIPATIVE ORIENTATION MEETING

Personal talks

We contacted the other partner involved in the mobility; we collected information on all aspects of it and then informed the people who were going to carry out the mobility. An exhaustive selection was made of both the teacher and the student who were going to carry out the mobility and the European project team of the institute informed them of all aspects of the mobility

Through frequent email contacts with host organization and through the pre-departure documents and training provided by the WP8 leader

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