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ProEduca

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Main sector of activity:

Innovation in education.

Type, scope of work, areas of activity

ProEduca z.s. is a small private association of professional teachers providing supporting services, mainly training for education staff and youth, to schools and non-profit organizations in education. ProEduca has worked on over 35 different projects aimed at improvement of the educational system during the last 15 years. These projects were aimed at various issues in education such as curricula modification and development of new training programs for specific target groups (senior learners, unemployed people, teachers, employers, young people etc.). The experts associated with ProEduca also have many years of expertise in providing counselling and training services for the clients of the local labour office (preparation for work, counselling job placements, training of the basic skills necessary for the labour market). ProEduca cooperates with several schools of all levels, including universities. ProEduca has the experience, professional team members, methodologies and overall professional capacity needed for the work within Erasmus+ projects. Additionally, ProEduca has experience in coordination of the international project teams both in management and research.

ProEduca has many years of experience in design and development of educational products, including curricula, training programs and learning materials. The association has coordinated or has been involved in many projects dealing with the competency development of students as well as that of the training and teaching staff of the education providers, both on national and European levels. Our professional teams have broad experience with work in various research teams aimed at development of the capacity and competency of all three major players on the labour market: employers, employees and training providers.

From among the most significant projects, we can mention:

- development of Policy recommendation for the partner countries on role and importance of creativity and creative teaching in the education already on the elementary and secondary levels;
- design of the training program for VET school leavers on development of Entrepreneurship as one of the crucial transversal skills of young employees;
- development of the training program for micro-enterprisers aimed at e-commerce;
- development of a unique methodology of training for seniors based on the Walk and Talk method;
- development of an online tool for exchange of good practice in the age management;
- development of training for youth about circular economy;
- development of microlessons for schools and VET schools aimed at climate change

During the project work the professionals involved have gained valuable experience that is being further developed and exploited in the running projects and especially in training courses, where we mostly exploit and spread our own know-how and experience. Most of our courses are provided for foreign participants within the KA1 Erasmus+ projects. Starting from 2018 we provide series of courses aimed at career guidance under the licensed Finnish methodology TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL SENIORITY. The courses are aimed at two different target groups: school staff and young people.

Activities and Experience

Among the most significant topics that ProEduca has covered during the last couple of years are sustainability, green competencies and circular economy. With these topics, ProEduca has been involved in projects that were aimed at development of innovative tools for students and teachers. These innovative tools were mostly materials increasing the teachers' competence and providing new ways to teach sustainability in schools.

The most significant work in the area of this project was on:

- development of microlessons for primary school children in circular economy;
- development of training program for youth aimed at circular economy and acquisition of circular behaviour habit;
- development of microlessons for VET students on green competence acquisition;
- development of training for school teachers and pupils aimed at understanding the various "re-valuating" approaches to waste;
- development of microlessons for secondary school students on critical thinking in relation to climate change;

All of these learning materials were accompanied by assessment framework and methodology for teachers.

The team of professionals in the development team has gained rich experience in the aforementioned areas and they are experienced especially in:

- development of innovative curricula on sustainability, on climate change, and on circular economy;
- know-how on how to embed such curricula into the current school educational plans;
- skills in development of microlessons, lesson plans embedding microlessons and engaging visualization of the lessons.

The professional team intends to keep further developing these skills and utilizing them in project such as this one where these skills can be exploited to the maximum, ensuring a high quality of the outputs and their further usability in the sector.

Key staff:

The association members are enthusiastic teachers and trainers with professional expertise in teaching and training on all levels of education. The key staff dealing with the Erasmus+ projects are:

Lucie Brzakova works as the director of the association, project coordinator and manager. She graduated from Technical University Zvolen, Slovakia, in 1993 and Technical University Ostrava, Czech Republic in 1995. She has been working in the field of education and project management since 1997 and has coordinated a large number of educational projects in the field of education, human resources development, quality management and social services. She is a skilled manager and trainer as well as a designer of educational programs for various target groups. Every year she takes part at various conferences with the professional papers on the development of the educational system in the country and in EU. In 2017 Lucie completed a course for Auditors of the Age management, and in 2018 a course for facilitators "Towards Successful Seniority™". She speaks fluent English.

Katerina Drlikova has an MA degree in English and History from the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. She also passed a two year course in Pedagogical studies at the Faculty of Education of Palacký University in Olomouc and a course of New Methods in English Language Teaching at Dolphin Language School. She has twenty years of experience of teaching at public and private schools. Currently she works as a teacher and translator. She is also active at homeschooling, primarily focused on children with specific needs and creative approaches to teaching. She cooperates with the Czech Association for Home Education and various organizations providing training on creative teaching methods and promotion of new technologies in everyday teaching to teachers at public schools. Katerina has wide contacts with the public, private and alternative schools. She has profound knowledge of the educational system and its strengths and weaknesses. She has great organizational skills. She speaks fluent English.

Pippa Thompson

Pippa Thompson works as a project coordinator and manager, website developer and educational resource designer for ProEduca. She graduated from Edinburgh Napier University Business School in 2022 with a degree in Languages and Intercultural Communications and has completed several European Certifications in frontend web development. As a TEFL certification holder, she has previously worked in the education sector as a private tutor of English, French and Spanish.

We expect to include several professionals into the project team: 1 project manager and at least 2 teachers dealing with the allocated development tasks (storytelling, digital media, ICT, career guidance).

Our project teams are built up from the teachers and trainers with expertise in the respective topic of the project, who can contribute professionally to the common work. Apart from the key persons mentioned above we involve other external experts for work on specific professional tasks in the projects.

Comments and information to the summary of the organisation's past participation

ProEduca is focusing on development the most crucial topics resonating in the society – especially on the topics relates to climate change and sustainability of the life on Earth. These topics has become our priority lately, altogether with the digitalization process which we are trying to embed in all our activities, understanding this process as inevitable for the modern way of education and life.

The topics that we are focused on are mostly:

- Circular behaviour in youth life
- Training of circular behaviour – both for teachers and students
- Microlearning about circular behaviour
- Development of Green competencies in VET and adult learners
- Microlearning about acquisition of Green competencies
- Training for trainers about teaching green competencies