![MEDIS - MEDITERRANEAN INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS]

Evaluation Environment for fostering intercultural mentoring tools and practices at school (e-evalinto)

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Section 1: Presentation

Tackling early school leaving (ESL) is a stepping stone towards improving the opportunities of young people and for supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as shown in the priorities for the EU 2020 strategy. Young people with a migration background are at great risk of ESL from school. To this extent, the gap between natives and young people born abroad is still very high. One of the factors leading to ESL is the lack of prevention and early intervention strategies, both at institutional and school levels that can promote the development of effective methodologies and support for these students at an early level.

Towards this end, the E-EVALINTO project aims to promote actions at a school level that will support the integration of migrant population and thus prevent ESL. On the one hand, it is intended to promote peer mentoring actions addressed to both tackling early school leaving in migrant students' population (secondary school) and to acknowledge the value of interculturality itself as part of an active and responsible European citizenship education. On the other hand, E-EVALINTO aims to develop an ICT framework for assessing, managing and developing activities for intercultural contexts, with particular focus to decision making processes and identification of different patterns that may be induced from the variety of potential situations to be analysed.

In detail, the project E-EVALINTO provides a prevention and early intervention strategy in order to reduce the gap between migrant and non-migrant students. E-EVALINTO focuses on the implementation of intercultural mentoring programmes and activities which are supported by an ICT environment, composed by a set of tools and practices that serve as a framework for evaluating intercultural issues within school contexts. Based on these methodological principles, E-EVALINTO has developed the following:

- **E-EVALINTO Framework**: the theoretical and methodological framework for peer mentoring and for evaluating the situation of a school with regard to interculturality, identifying at risk and potential peers to act as mentors.

- **E-EVALINTO Environment**: an educational portal, which will offer to schools and teachers a complete set of tools and activities to manage the implementation of the intercultural mentoring programme with their students.

- **E-EVALINTO Training Program Design**: to equip teachers with tools to deal with diversity and to apply them at school in order to work effectively with pupils at risk.

The piloting phase of the E-EVALINTO project carried out transnationally in order to prove to which extent the peer mentoring methodology and the use of an ICT environment for the evaluation of the mentoring activities are able to identify patterns and offer different action plans fitted to the potentially very different needs of students with migrant backgrounds from different cultures, in different school systems, etc.

The E-EVALINTO team was supported in this task by 13 pilot schools, located in the partner countries. Pilot schools were secondary school units that were selected based on their "multicultural profile".

During the piloting phase secondary school teachers who were teaching the host country language to migrant students set a timetable for the implementation of specific activities that were chose between five themes: 'Personal Wellbeing / Social Skills'; 'Language / Communication Skills'; 'My Culture, Your Culture'; 'Study skills'; 'Interests and hobbies'. The activities promoted experiential learning and a number of different techniques and strategies were used, such as role play, project work, presentations and discussions. During the piloting, three peer-mentors and eight mentees actively participated and produced different types of learning materials. Mentors had the opportunity to enhance their intercultural skills while mentees had the opportunity to refine personal and academic skills through peer mentoring.

One of the most important elements of the piloting was the evaluation that was held after the completion of each activity using the ICT environment. In detail, during this phase teachers and students had to complete short evaluations on their experiences of the activities, as teachers, mentors and mentees to the E-EVALINTO online portal.

In regards to the feedback received, teachers reported that it was a very interesting experience which equipped them with instructional strategies for promoting peer mentoring actions at schools. One of the strongest points was the E-EVALINTO open access elearning platform that offered teacher training opportunities and ICT tools and networking dynamics for enhancing intercultural dialogue across European schools.

Section 2: Resources

1) The E-EVALINTO elearning portal offers **a free online teacher training course without registration where teachers can find a number of useful theoretical and practical material on intercultural mentoring**. Specifically, the following content is available:
- theoretical background for intercultural peer mentoring actions
- guidelines for assessment peer mentoring actions
- lesson plans
- already developed activities (available for download)
- template for designing new activities

- references

For this activity teachers will need:
- PC/Tablet/Smartphone
- Internet connection
- Printer

2) **E-learning platform for the evaluation environment**
- the platform was built using the EVALCOMIX web-based programme which was developed by the University of Cadiz in Spain
- It includes a teacher forum

- There are assessment tools for: 1) mentors and mentees, 2) teachers
- Also, teachers can find online material

For this activity you will need:
- PC
- Internet connection

- Registration (email)

Section 3: Duration

It depends on the duration of the activities chosen and the number of mentors and mentees that will be involved during the activities.
It can last between a month up to a full school year.

Section 4: Expected results

By implementing this good practice, it is expected that you will achieve the following:
1. Analysis of participant schools' "intercultural profile"
2. Identification of migrant students potentially at risk.
3. Identification of potential mentors (peer students) and teachers' intercultural skills.
4. Design and implementation of training actions.
5. Develop peer mentoring activity plans to be implemented and monitored by teachers.
6. Evaluation of the impact of peer mentoring actions to promote intercultural values and improve migrant learning skills and integration.
7. Identification of "intercultural school patterns" addressed to learn lessons and take decisions.

Section 5: Evaluation

How can we adapt this good practice to our context?

This is a methodology which is available for every teacher that wishes to implement intercultural peer mentoring actions to his/her classroom and achieve better student results at an academic and social level.

The material is available in the following languages:
-Greek
- English
-Spanish
- Italian
- Polish

Thus, taking into consideration that the material is available online and free of charge to anyone who is interested to further develop a peer mentoring programme.
No particular experience is required. Yet, it is expected that the person who implements this good practice should have basic knowledge of technology in order to be in a position to exploit full access on the eLearning platform and use the material offered (training opportunities and ICT tools and networking dynamics for enhancing intercultural dialogue across European schools) with the best possible ways.
Each teacher can adapt the material to their school curriculum.