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Erasmus + project - Strategic Partnerships for Youth „Developing an Innovative Tool in Youth Work for Teen Parents”

In February 2020 Association MINTIES BITĖS (MB) has started to coordinate and implement the project entitled ‘Tool4Teen - Developing an Innovative Tool in Youth Work for Teen Parents’, agreement number: **2019-3-LT02-KA205-006638**, which has been co-funded by Erasmus Plus Programme.

The project is a 24-month initiative, which started on 01-02-2020.

The project coordinator, Association MINTIES BITĖS (Lithuania) is supported by the following project partners WYŻSZA SZKOŁA BIZNESU I NAUK O ZDROWIU (Poland), FUTURE IN PERSPECTIVE LIMITED (Ireland), WILLINGNESS (Malta), THE CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON SOCIAL WELFARE IN SOUTH-EAST (Finland). Together we will collaborate in order to develop a bespoke Toolkit of Comic Strips for Teen parents and a Digital Guide for Youth workers, to accompany the Toolkit.

When bringing these partners together, the coordinator aimed to work with institutions representing different geographical areas and those partners who are experienced in transnational cooperation.

The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- ❖ to improve the quality of youth learning.
- ❖ to offer youth workers access to **informal learning materials** – such as the “**Toolkit -Teen Parents COMIC STRIP Integration Road Map**” to help them in their role as providers of non-formal learning opportunities to different targets.
- ❖ to give youth workers an easy tool that they can use in their daily work.
- ❖ to empower youth workers and teen parents.
- ❖ to provide easy-to-use, tailored educational resources that they can use to support teen parents to live full and active lives.

The following results are expected to be achieved upon completion of the project:

1. improved access for teen parents to educational materials that will support their social integration.
2. increased confidence among teen parents to use their individual strengths, abilities, and qualities for their social integration in general.
3. increased attitudes of responsibility, independence and resourcefulness among teen parents.
4. empowered teen parents who are comfortable using positive parenting methods.
5. improved self-esteem of teen parents, leading to their feeling of empowerment, inclusion, and participation in society.
6. raising awareness among youth professionals and organisations of the European priorities to support teen parents to be fully active members of society.

On May 26, 2020, a meeting of project partners took place online through Skype. The first Transnational Meeting was due to be held in Malta on this day, however, due to the travel restrictions due to COVID -19, partners decided to hold an online meeting instead.

During the meeting, all partners approved the project logo, discussed the financial requirements of the project and also agreed the next steps in the project. Partners agreed that we will all not undertake some research to inform the development of the first project output:

IO1 Teen Parents COMIC STRIP Integration Road Map

For this output, all partners will conduct online surveys and focus groups. The target groups of this research include teen parents with different backgrounds and youth workers and people working with teen parents. The answers of the questionnaire will help project partners to respond to the needs of the target groups.

To keep up to date with project progress, follow the news at:

www.mbites.lt