

# *SOS - Network Social Inclusion of Students/Learners with Special Needs into Mainstream VET and Labour Market*

First Newsletter - April 2012

## **What is SOS Network?**

The SOS Network is a newly funded EU Leonardo da Vinci Network project that aims at contributing to social inclusion of young people with special educational needs and social disadvantages into mainstream vocational and educational training, labour market and society. It intends to develop and introduce new concepts for approaching the issue of social inclusion and to provide teachers, trainers and others working with these young people in learning or job-related activities with adequate, well-proven and relevant methods and tools easily applicable in daily life. The network project runs until mid-2014.



## **SOS Network catalogue on barriers to education soon ready.**

On March 26th and March 27th the second meeting of SOS Network took place in Vienna. In this meeting the partners decided the next steps of the working plan. So far, SOS Network has explored the characteristics of the potential target groups going through more than 60 cases in the 12 partner countries that participate in the Network. The final output of this phase, that is about to be delivered by City College Norwich, UK, is a catalogue with descriptions of target groups obtained with the contribution of all partners.

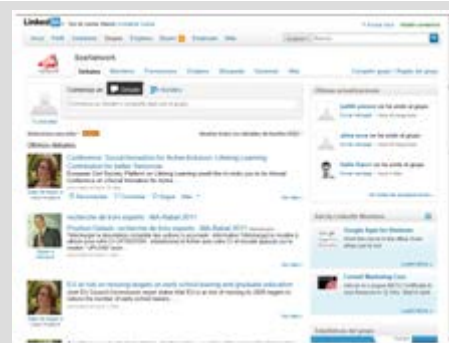


SOS Network meeting in Vienna

## **Next Steps**

**SOS Network has  
linkedIn and  
Facebook profiles**

Next steps accorded will include the mapping of institutions and locations in which the dealing with those problems is taking place. Once they will be identified the professionals that work there with youngsters in peril of exclusion will help SOS Network to identify the best practices that are being developed in those places. The outcome of this process will be a catalogue of best practices that will, in the future, be the basis for the final outcome of the project, a catalogue of proved methods and tools that are able to reduce dropout of schools and training centres and by that means to increase the social and labor inclusion of groups at risk of exclusion.



[Linkedin profile](#) [Facebook group](#)

## SOS Network - Spreading The Word...

Lorna Powell, Nuala Whelan and Julie Mc Cafferty, from the Ballymun Job Centre, in Dublin, Ireland were invited to deliver a guest lecture to Masters Students of two different courses in The University of Limerick on the 15th March 2012. The two courses are: MSc. in Work and Organisational/Behaviour & MSc. in Human Resource Management. As part of this guest lecture, the SOS Network Project was presented. There was a very positive reaction, and plenty of debate and discussion with one of the students asking to be part of the advisory group as she is a trainer and works with young people who are autistic.

SOS Network wants experts and interested stakeholders to participate in the project through Advisory and Local Reference Groups. Those groups will be aimed to feed on the discussions of different issues within the thematic field “employability”. If you think that you have something to say and want to participate in those Groups, please contact SOS Network member in your country, it will give you the necessary guidance and support.



Sos Network Dissemination is being Successful

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