SCHEDULES & GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PREDIS ONLINE BLC
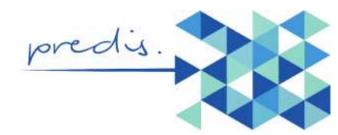
BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The PREDIS ONLINE BLC is a professional development program which is designed to strengthen the knowledge, competences, skills and abilities of teachers, VET trainers and other practitioners to better support disadvantaged youngsters of a migration and Roma background complete school and better transition to VET and employment. The rationale for the training are the very high rates of ESL amongst all youth and the disproportionate impacts on migrants and Roma as a result of discrimination, racism, migration status, language barriers and other social factors. Hence, new innovative methods are required in order to meet current challenges. The BLC responds to these needs, whereby contents focus on the needs of an increasingly diverse society and are applicable to the situation of other disadvantaged learners and other target groups.

Scope of Contents and Time Schedule

This online Blended Learning Course constitutes 6 modules all with internally differentiated units which address all central areas crucial to prevention of ESL amongst trainees and pupils. A wide scope of contents is provided in order to offer participants broad options. Participants do not have to cover all material.

The BLC is designed to take place online alongside daily teaching over a period of 10 months. Participants can participate at own pace and select contents of own interest which correspond with their areas of growth and can resolve challenges faced by youngsters they encounter.

For orientation, participants have the opportunity of training 8-16 hours per month:

1) Participants individually or as Schools/VET Institutions/Associations choose 2 or 3 modules to work with their students, trainees and other learners, at a given time until they complete all modules.
2) 4-8 hours participants work on their own or in groups with other colleagues and practice the learnt with their classrooms or communities of practice.
3) 2-4 hours participants share experiences and views with other participants on skype and chat.
4) **Mentoring:** Consortium partners are available for individual advising or group work for *up to 3 hours a week*. Specifics are worked out with individual participants in order to adjust the training to their specific time availability and support needs.

PARTICIPATION & PLATFORM FUNCTIONS

Participants participate via the Studi.IP platform where they access the course materials. For instructions on how to use the platform, see the instructions document in this folder.

The course is designed to be interactive in order to strengthen knowledge, abilities, skills and competences through promote peer learning and international exchange of good practices. Participants are invited to exchange ideas or provide feedback on contents and their links to practice through the chat function of the BLC program. Participants' evaluative feedback, comments, critique and suggestions of improvement will be incorporated into the modification of the modules by consortium partners.

TRAINING MATERIALS:
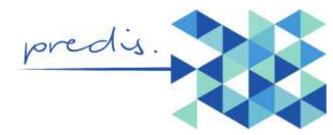
PREDIS Handbook and PREDIS Toolkit

The main materials are the PREDIS Handbook and the PREDIS Toolkit, which contain all six modules. They are sufficient for the BLC training and are designed as self-teaching materials. The Toolkit is a more comprehensive version which addresses topics in the Handbook in more detail and also addresses some of the topics that are not addressed in the Handbook. The toolkit includes illustrations. The Toolkit and Handbook are available in a separate file labelled toolkit and handbook.

Summary of Modules: Getting Started

The handbook is a sufficient summary. However, for those who are interested, a micro summary of contents of the modules is also available in the file containing the handbook and the toolkit.

Modules

Participants have the option of working with the separate modules of the handbook. These modules are separated into individual modules and put in the general file with all six modules. Here, each module is available in a separate folder. Participants should note that

contents of the toolkit are not included in these separate modules, while contents of the toolkit include all modules.

Handouts and Supplementary Reading Materials

Handouts and supplementary reading materials are available in the files containing the modules.

International Exchange

The BLC is designed as an interactive learning platform with the view to promote exchange of experiences and knowledge, and thereby promote peer learning and international mechanisms for tackling ESL. In addition to the forum, email and chat functions, online skype meetings will be organized for those who interested

 Participants come from five European countries. Germany, Austria, Rumania, Slovenia, Italy. They mainly include vocational trainers, teachers, social pedagogics and practitioners such as youth workers, representatives of employment agencies, migrants' associations, faith groups, and other multipliers of Vocational education, etc., who deal with the educational, social, cultural and employment integration of youngsters.

Each country works with the teachers separately partly in English and partly in the national language.
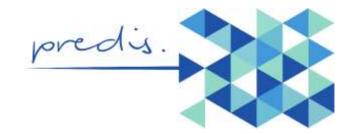
EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP PHASE

All PREDIS products will be evaluated multiple times. The evaluations are intended for modifying contents. Evaluation criteria explore the practicability of PREDIS contents or in other words, the links to practice.

3 MAIN EVALUATION PHASES ARE ENVISAGED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) During the first 1-3 months. Evaluations ask for platform functions, contents and applicability and suggestions for improvement.
(2) After six months of training. Evaluations ask for contents and applicability and suggestions for improvement.
(3) After nine months, a follow-up evaluation phase takes place, which evaluates the total BLC. During the follow-up evaluations, consortium partners discuss on phone or during face to face chats with individual participants or in groups about the total BLC, focusing on links to practice and suggestions for improvement.

ONGOING EVALUATIONS ARE ENVISAGED AS FOLLOWS:

Ongoing evaluations consist of participants ongoing feedback during mentorships with consortium partners or through interaction on the BLC platform via chats, forum, emails.

EVALUATION METHODS

Questionnaire templates with guiding questions will be provided by the consortium. They are available in the folder labelled evaluations.