

BLENDED LEARNING BEST PRACTICES

Meant to be a Mentor ERASMUS+	
October 2014 - May 2015	Partnership
Element	Guiding questions
Type of document	Workbook
Publisher	the Polish and Lithuanian National Agencies
Target audience	EVS mentors
Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurship - Volunteering - Education
Objective	Meant to be a Mentor is a long-term journey to discover and develop competences as an EVS mentor. This learning journey aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the mentors role as well as help develop competences necessary for carrying out the role and tasks as a mentor.
Location /geographical coverage	The project was carried out in Lithuania and Poland
Introduction	Meant to be a MENTOR - an innovative long-term support model for EVS mentors that encompasses raising their awareness of the importance of the mentors' role as well as developing competences necessary for carrying out the job as a qualified mentor.
Stakeholders and Partners	<p>Meant to be a Mentor was directed towards EVS mentors, who...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have experience as EVS mentor, • are currently starting or in process of being a mentor in at least one long term EVS, • value the subject of personal change, learning and are curious to explore more of it, • would like to commit themselves for a long-term involvement both in this project and in their organization and are at least 18 years old residents of Lithuania or Poland.
Financing Body	The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union
Context	<p>Mentors have played a significant role in the European Voluntary Service projects starting with the Youth, Youth in Action Programme till now, the Erasmus+ Programme. Over these years EVS support structure has been developed by host organisations and by National Agencies.</p> <p>Since 2011 the Polish National Agency has been supporting mentors by organising annual training courses dedicated specifically to them in order to ensure a high quality level of support for volunteers' learning process during EVS activities. Experience gained during the training courses and the need to</p>

	address this issue led to an innovative idea to create a long-term project guiding mentors step by step through the whole EVS project cycle.
The main objectives	<p>The project aimed at raising awareness of the importance of the mentors role as well as help develop competences necessary for carrying out the role and tasks as a mentor.</p> <p>The pilot project aimed also to raise the quality of mentoring within the EVS support structure. This project outline presents also a model for a long-term support of mentors within EVS that that combines online consultations, an ongoing online support with a classic training course.</p>
The description of the practice	<p>The “Meant to be a Mentor” workbook is a practical guide for EVS mentors working with their volunteer(s). Its content and activities guide mentors step by step through the whole EVS project cycle. Mentors can carry out the activities with their volunteers, reflect on their experience and share their good practise in an online community.</p> <p>The M2beaM Blended Training Course (BTC) was designed as a long-term course with mixed on- and offline elements (“blended”): one-to-one consultations, online learning and an international training course.</p> <p>The M2beaM combines different learning methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » individual learning support, » online learning, and » an international training course. <p>These elements are integrated into a coherent learning process which will consist of 5 major stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One-to-one consultations 2. E-learning 3. Training course 4. E-learning 5. One-to-one consultations.
Outcomes of the practice	The M2beaM BTC proved to be a valuable experience for the participating mentors. We recommend keeping, spreading and repeating this practice of an innovative, long-term support for mentors in order to raise the quality of mentoring within the EVS support structure.
Success Factors	Ensure volunteer participation in this project. Motivation is a crucial factor. One-to-one consultations is a helpful element to build the relationship and explore the diverse previous experience, current needs and expectations towards the project.
Constraints	A blended training course demands a certain level of digital competence from both, mentors and trainers. Available only in English.
Lessons learned	<p>It is important to keep an participants egaged by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » initiating and facilitating group building (online and during the training course), » supporting participants in overcoming challenges and developing the English language competence and digital competence, » offering an online learning space (or better: spaces) that motivate and inspire participants to learn, connect and exchange with one another, » suggesting practical tasks that allow participants to engage deeper with the course content, » offering additional one-to-one consultations during the overall process,

	» ensuring active online facilitation/moderation of online discussions.
Sustainability	The material is ready to use and free of charge. Therefore no costs occur for potential users. The only investment is the time of the educators to deal with the features and the handling before using.
Development of the practice	The material will remain available online and usable free of charge and may serve as a starting base for further projects. It can be easily adapted and carried out by other National Agencies of the Erasmus+ Youth Programme.
Conclusion	The material developed is usefull for EVS mentors and also can be adapted as a model for creation of some other blended training.
Related resources that have been developed	All the materials developed are available on http://lexicon-team.eu/meant-mentor-blended-training-course/
Language(s)	English
Contact details	
Name	Mean to be a MENTOR
Company/Institution	Partnership
Website	http://lexicon-team.eu/meant-mentor-blended-training-course/
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