



Photograph - EUSE Toolkit for Diversity Partners at the Launch of the project, Vienna, Austria (25<sup>th</sup> September 2014)

## EUSE Toolkit for Diversity Launch

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 in Kardinal Konig Haus Vienna Dachverband Berufliche Intergration (dabei) hosted the launch of the European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) Toolkit for Diversity. There was a full and varied programme giving not only the details of the toolkit but also many specialist areas of the toolkit and related subjects.

The Launch was opened by Dr Marco Nicolussi the President of Dabei who gave the welcome address to over 120 participants from over 14 countries. He reminded the audience that the toolkit was ideal for giving people a clear view of how to practice supported employment and how the toolkit reflected the quality of the work of supported employment. The Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs and Consumer Protection was represented by Dr Hansjorg Hofer who outlined the importance of new services for target groups such as young people not in education, employment or training and presented the efforts the Ministry made during the last 2 years. The Ministry had been the most important funding body for supported employment services.

Margaret Haddock, MBE, President of EUSE encouraged delegates “take the EUSE Toolkit for Diversity and use it” as there is a need to go forward using supported employment not only for people with disabilities but for many groups who are at a disadvantage in gaining employment. Margaret also reminded of the importance and quality of the toolkit and to use it properly that the five step sequence was vitally important for it to succeed.

They then followed the presentation of the actual Supported Employment Toolkit for Diversity by Edyth Dunlop MBE. Edyth explained that the toolkit comprised of position papers, how to guides and training guides. The basis of the toolkit is the five main principals of supported employment of client engagement, vocational profile, job finding, employer engagement, and on and off job support. Edyth explained the main objectives of the project have been to conduct a needs analysis and to adapt the toolkit to assist three target groups (young people not in education, employment or training, people recovering from substance abuse and offenders and ex-prisoners) gain employment. Edyth also explained that a training course had been developed to accompany the EUSE Toolkit and the partners had delivered and tested the training on over 50 target group organisations. The participants stated that they found the Supported Employment model very useful for their target group and that over 95% of the participates said that they implement the model of Supported Employment. The EUSE Toolkit for Diversity has also been translated in to 9 languages and is available to download from the project website [www.eusetoolkit.eu](http://www.eusetoolkit.eu)

There then followed an experts question and answer session with Margaret Haddock MBE President EUSE, Bertil Johanson, Vice President EUSE, Fernando Bellver Vice President EUSE and Ute Fagner DABEI where the results of the toolkit and the impact and sustainability was discussed.

Finally the audience had two experts in supported employment Jurgen Lange Supervision Organisationsentwicklung gave an informative and entertaining presentation on employer engagement with a final presentation by Wolfgang Laskowski University for applied science Upper Austria who gave a very informative presentation on social return on investment.

The conference was then closed by Robert Elston Vice President who reminded everyone that the toolkit would be sustainable because it was the best way of helping people of finding and retaining employment.

EUSE Toolkit for Diversity is funded under the Leonardo da Vinci Programme and supported by the European Commission.

For more information on the project go to the website [www.eusetoolkit.eu](http://www.eusetoolkit.eu) or please contact [robert@euse.org](mailto:robert@euse.org)

Notes to Editor:-

- For further information contact Robert Elston, Dissemination and Communication Project leader ([robert@euse.org](mailto:robert@euse.org) )
- EUSE Project Partners
  - Dabei Austria,
  - Rytmus, Czech Republic
  - Status Employment, England
  - Kiipula Foundation, Finland
  - Theotokos Foundation, Greece
  - Irish Association of Supported Employment, Ireland
  - Skinner Cooperativa Sociale, Italy
  - Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment, (N Ireland)
  - Associação Portuguesa de Emprego Apoiado, Portugal
  - Asociación Española de Empleo con Apoyo, Spain
  - Activa, Sweden
  - Supported Employment Schweiz, Switzerland
  
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