



PRESS RELEASE

EU Training Pack to boost young immigrants' career prospects January 2010

Springboard Opportunities Limited has joined forces with six other organisations to help young migrants maximise their career potential in their new home countries.

Through the project Pathways to Work: An Employment Upgrade Training Programme for Young Immigrants, the groups will develop a training pack to be used across the EU Member States aimed at facilitating young immigrants' greater access to training and better jobs.

Funded by the European Commission through the Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation programme, the training pack's benefits will include fostering a greater understanding of labour market trends and employment rights and promoting the host country's training opportunities.

Springboard's Executive Director said "*The project will develop a new training resource, combining classroom teaching and online content, after the main barriers faced by young immigrants, aged between 18 and 30, in partner countries have been identified.*

Research indicates that migrants face specific barriers in the labour market, including prejudice and xenophobia, discrimination by employers and cultural differences in working practices and communication skills. This project and the course it will develop aims to help overcome some of those barriers."

The course will tailor learning materials originally developed by Springboard (the lead agency in the programme) to the needs of the participants. Needs will be established by conducting focus groups interviews involving young immigrants in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Poland, Spain and Italy and conducting surveys with young immigrants seeking employment in those five countries.

Italy's Conform Consorzio Formazione Manageriale, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Spain's Funacion Laboral del Metal, Uniwersytet Szczecinski – The University of Szczecin in Poland and Canice Consulting in the UK are the core partners in the project, while Athens-based iRed Institute for Rights Equality and Diversity is an associate partner.

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