



evi project

**A professional exchange between Spain,
Germany and the Netherlands**



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Dear readers,

we hope you will join us in looking back over three eventful and exciting years of the evi project!

Our project is part of the Erasmus+ educational programme and took place from 1/9/2018 – 31/08/2021. Naturally, the end of the project does not mean the end of the exchange between the participants from Majorca, Bedum and Oldenburg. We aim to continue our fruitful European cooperation and achieve even more progress in the drive for more participation for people with disabilities.

Over the last three years, there have been many great encounters between the participants, thought-provoking discussions between the experts and above all lots of laughter at the meetings.

Read our closing brochure to find out what we experienced and learned in the past three years.

We hope you enjoy the read!



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The evi project

The project was initiated by the various workshops for these reasons:

- To cooperate in the development and practical execution of a recognised educational concept in the hospitality sector
- To enable the vocational and personal further development of the participants with disabilities, as well as the experts
- To examine the elements of other systems and workshops
- To strengthen European ties

The name evi stands for European vocational inclusion. It was coined at the first meeting of the steering committee. It expresses the aim of creating more participation options for people with disabilities by promoting mobility on the labour market.

Thanks to evi, the participants had the opportunity to acquire new vocational and personal skills and to gain unique experiences from the exchange with colleagues from other countries. These experiences were designed to give them the confidence over the long term to tackle new professional challenges.

The cooperation between workshops in various countries also benefited the experts professionally and strengthened the (partly longstanding) network. This actively brings the concept of a united Europe to life.

Various meetings took place during the course of the project:

14 – 15 November 2018 First meeting of the steering committee

14 – 17 May 2019 First meeting of the experts

02 – 04 December 2019 Second meeting of the experts

23 – 29 February 2020 Exchange trip

24 – 25 February 2020 Second meeting of the steering committee



The project partners



Gemeinnützige Werkstätten Oldenburg e.V.

Gemeinnützigen Werkstätten Oldenburg e.V. (GWO) is a workshop (WfbM) in Oldenburg. It consists of a vocational training area with various teaching programmes, a work area and a support area. GWO also has a range of residential options for people with disabilities. Currently, almost 900 people with various disabilities work at GWO. Apart from the working groups in its workshops, GWO also runs a café, a canteen and a shop which sells products from its own workshop and from other workshops for people with disabilities.



Baumhaus Werkstatt gGmbH

Baumhaus Werkstatt gGmbH is also a recognised workshop for people with disabilities based in Oldenburg. It offers workplaces and training in the fields of catering, housekeeping, laundry, soap production, gardening and bike repairs. Apart from the workshop, the organisation also runs in-house and external living projects. Since 2017, Baumhaus Inklusion gGmbH has been running the Villa Stern, a hotel in Oldenburg which employs people with disabilities. A total of 80 people with disabilities work in the Baumhaus companies.



Mater Misericordiae

Mater Misericordiae (Mater) is an organisation in Majorca which organises various support services for people with special needs and their families. Its goal is to enable people to live as full and socially integrated a life as possible on the island.

The support and care options provided by Mater range from early learning for children with special needs to various residential models, daily life organisation and recreational activities to work opportunities. Jobs are available not only in the workshop, but also in the hotel Es Convent, various guest houses on the island and the Restaurant Puig de Santa Magdalena.



As many as 920 people with disabilities use the various services.

Stichting s'Heeren Loo Zorggroep

Bedum is the home of the branch of Dutch organisation s'Heeren Loo which caters to the north of the Netherlands. s'Heeren Loo supports approx. 10,000 clients throughout the Netherlands. The branch in Bedum has 350 clients. All clients live in a flat adapted to their particular needs. Their ages range from 12 to 80 years old. The workshop for people with disabilities consists of the workshop itself and a day centre. s'Heeren Loo also runs a small shop in Bedum selling its own products. There are also various canteens where people can gain qualifications in hospitality and housekeeping.



's Heeren Loo



Meetings of the steering committee

The first meeting of the steering committee



On 14 and 15 November 2018, the steering committee of the evi project met for the first time since the project launch. The aim of the meeting was to prepare for the project together. The steering committee is responsible for supervising the project throughout its course. Its members consist of the senior managers and the project coordinators from the various organisations.

They used the two days to get to know each other in person and to learn more about the organisation s'Heeren Loo and its work. Other topics discussed were the project structure plan and budget as well as the opportunities and risks involved.



The second meeting of the steering committee

On 24 and 25 February 2020, the evi project steering committee came together for the second time. The meeting took place in parallel to the meeting of the participants with disabilities and the experts in Majorca. There were numerous overlaps, which led to a close exchange between everybody.



The experts compared the project progress with the original plans, resolved the next steps and agreed on the budget. They also presented the project to local politicians who were invited to visit.







Meetings of experts

The first meeting of experts



For the first time, the expert team members came together in Bedum from 14 to 17 May. They all work within their organisations in the areas of hospitality / housekeeping. There was a stimulating discussion of the similarities and differences between the various programmes and methods of the workshops. One focus of the meeting was drawing up a suitable vocational training concept to qualify participants for jobs in hospitality / housekeeping. Jointly, the team produced an initial draft of the learning modules. The experts also visited the workshop and saw what is on offer at the Dutch facility. Finally, a traditional canal trip through Groningen was a fun highlight for everybody.



The second meeting of experts

The experts met up again in Oldenburg from 2 to 4 December. They devoted most of the time to working on the content and form of the planned qualification courses in the hospitality / kitchen areas. The team developed 11 different learning modules. What's more, the experts from Oldenburg took the opportunity to present their places of work to the visitors. All the participants were especially impressed by their tour of the Berufsbildende Schulen 3 (vocational school), where students learn professions in hospitality. The BBS 3 cooperates closely with the two workshops in Oldenburg. The guests from Spain and the Netherlands were very interested to learn about the unique dual system of vocational education in Germany. The meeting concluded with a stroll through Oldenburg's Christmas market.



The learning modules

Learning module 1	Personal hygiene
Learning module 2	Workplace hygiene
Learning module 3	Framework conditions at the workplace
Learning module 4	Operating simple devices and machines
Learning module 5	Product knowledge and storage
Learning module 6	Scullery
Learning module 7	Food preparation
Learning module 8	Being a host
Learning module 9	European experience
Learning module 10	Working in a team
Learning module 11	Communication



The exchange trip



Finally, in February 2020, the first major get-together in person: From 23 to 29 February 2020, a total of 23 participants, nine experts and the managers of the workshops came together in the Mater Misericordiae in Majorca.

Ahead of the event, the participants prepared at home for the trip and the meeting with colleagues. Just before departure, the excitement was palpable at Bremen Airport. For most of the participants, this was the first flight of their lives, which was already a big deal.

After arrival in Majorca, not only the weather was excellent, but also the spirits of the Spanish colleagues. They gave a warm welcome and made it clear they were looking forward to this special event. The German and Dutch guests were delighted with their accommodation in the Mater-run country hotels Es Convent d'Ariany and S'Hort des Convent.



Any nerves on the part of the participants were quickly dispelled with a visit to the Spanish Carnival. Everybody got dressed up and joined in the singing and dancing. Language barriers were quickly overcome with the help of more or less wild gesticulations and smartphone translators. Cooking together and interpersonal communication went smoothly as a result.

Everybody will remember our time in Majorca especially for great experiences, learning activities and delicious food. The meals were largely prepared by the participants themselves, who tried out local specialities such as seafood. This was a very practical way of trying out the effectiveness of the Personal Hygiene and Food Preparation learning modules developed by the experts. A special highlight was the paella party on the final evening. Hosts and guests cooked food in huge pans on the patio of the restaurant Puig de Santa Magdalena before enjoying the meal together.



After seven eventful days and lots of joint activities, there were some tearful good-byes between the new-found European friends. The participants were united in looking forward to the next exchange and opportunity to see each other again in Bedum in September 2020.



The coronavirus pandemic

During the first exchange trip to Majorca, the term "coronavirus" cropped up again and again. On the return flight, some passengers were already wearing face masks. However, the scope of the pandemic would only become clear in the following months.

The second half of the project was marked by massive restrictions due to the virus. It became increasingly clear how lucky we had been that the first big event could take place as planned. Right up to the end of the project, we continued to hope that the other planned get-togethers would still take place. However, the project team ultimately decided to cancel all further personal meetings to avoid putting anybody at risk. The disappointment for everybody involved was huge. After all, the personal contact and exchange with other European facilities had been the main goal of the evi project. What's more, it was conceived as a perfect way to practically try out the learning modules. Suddenly, all this was no longer possible.

We had to look for alternatives: new ideas about how to keep the exchange alive and stay in contact. One idea was to send greetings to all friends in Germany, Spain and the Netherlands in the form of posters with an important message:

We're thinking of you! Keep up your spirits, make the best of the situation and above all stay healthy!





The European Experience learning module

European Experience is a learning module developed by the experts. It includes a learning video.

- The video explains Europe and the special features of the European Union step-by-step and in simple language.
- A narrator provides a commentary throughout the video.
- Images are used to illustrate what is said.
- The result is a learning video structured like a graphic story.
- It has been translated into the three languages as well as English.



Examples from this Video:



What is Europe?
+
What does European Union mean?





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