

iter



improving transitions  
enabling results

# Newsletter

## Issue 1: April

## 2020





## Welcome

Welcome to our first Newsletter for the ITER Project. We bring this to you in very changed circumstances; a world that is battling the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic and where restrictions to travel and working from home (where possible) and socially-isolating ourselves, are things that we are all doing to disrupt the spread of the virus and to save lives.

For our **ITER** partnership, we are working together, albeit remotely to ensure we work towards achieving the project results.



Taken at the ITER project launch in The Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania 21 February 2020



## About the ITER Project....

### Partners

- UK: GEMS NI (Coordinator) , Extern, Time, University of Huddersfield
- Italy: Antares, Eulab
- Hungary: Békés County Government Office
- Portugal: Desincoop
- Romania: Polytechnic University of Bucharest

We are working together to improve methods to engage NEET young people:

- To identify their individual barriers to mainstream VET
- To empower them to co-design and implement their personal action plan
- Addressing their needs and barriers across 4 'Zones'
  - **Learning**
  - **Life**
  - **Leisure**
  - **Work**
- Building in the customised assistance they need to support their transition from NEET to mainstream VET and
- Supporting them and their receiving VET organisation/College with a
  - **Transitions Action Plan**
- Setting out their support needs and an agreed plan that prepares them for transition,
- supports them during transition and
- offers support to their VET Organisation/College

## ITER Project Design

### Building on earlier work

The ITER project combines an innovative package of active measures that have been designed to create the dynamic platform for the delivery of quality VET outcomes to young people aged 16-24 who are not in education employment or training (NEET) The ITER project has been developed and designed to build on the innovative approaches of two previous Erasmus+ projects EC-YP (Extended Choices for Young People in VET) and DayPlot (Diagnosis and Actions for Young People Looking for a Better Future)

The ITER project will consolidate and improve the EC-YP collaborative mentoring model with specific emphasis on developing an improved initial point of entry NEET needs and barriers diagnostic and developing guidelines and practical solutions to improve the transitions of young people who are NEET to mainstream Vocational Education and Training.

### The new model

The ITER project will develop a **web-based platform and interface/dashboard** using the DayPlot gamification methodology to design a young person friendly interactive platform which will encourage the engagement of NEET young people in the initial assessment, action planning and transitions readiness stages of their customised assistance and support their transitions to mainstream VET reducing dropout/withdrawal and increasing completion/qualifications rates for previously-NEET students/trainees.

The project work plan will be delivered through **4 integrated intellectual outputs** that will design, test and share an innovative approach and model that will contribute to meaningful vocational education and training pathways for NEET young people who experience complex barriers to participation

## Intellectual outputs

### Focus on IO2 The ITER Platform



Looking at first ideas for ITER game characters February 2020, Bucharest

Our partnership is currently working on **Intellectual Output 2**; jointly led by our Italian partners **Antares and Eulab**, IO2 brings together the technical design experts with the NEET subject experts to design an online young person friendly and exciting interactive platform adapting gamification methodology in three inter-linked elements: Analysis, Innovation and Validation to develop a suite of assessment, action planning, transitions planning and complimentary reports and reviews; these are designed to support a NEET young person to identify the learning, life, leisure and work factors that contribute to their being NEET, design their customised action plan (with the co-navigation support of a personal mentor) schedule and review progress on tasks and activities, generate reports and develop next-steps transitions planning to prevent drop-out from mainstream VET.

Notwithstanding the challenges we and the world are facing, we remain 'on-track' to have the game storyline across 4 zones **Learning, Life, Leisure and Work** completed by the end of May 2020. Whilst we had hoped to share progress with IO2 at the planned partnership meeting and Multiplier Event in June 2020, we have postponed this meeting and public event until October 2020. By then, the platform will be up and running and we will be able to provide a real-time demonstration of how it works.

### Intellectual Output 3

IO3, the ITER **Transitions Management Handbook** starts in June 2020. Here the partnership will develop guidelines to building improved transitions management partnerships between NEET-focused organisations and mainstream VET. IO3 is led by our Portuguese partner **Desincoop**.

### Intellectual Output 4

IO4 is the **Pilot Testing of the ITER model**; this Intellectual Output starts in February 2021 IO4 will be led by our UK partner **Extern**

### Intellectual Output 5

IO5 the ITER **Framework** will be the online publication of the final ITER suite of tools and materials following review of the testing phase findings. IO2 starts in October 2021 and will be led by our UK partner **Time**.



## We need your help!

The 'voice' of young people will be through their participation in the pilot and their feedback on their experience.

We are establishing an **ITER Knowledge-Network** in each partner country. The ITER Project Knowledge-Networks will inform and support the development of the ITER project in each partner country and disseminate the project's 'journey' and results as it progresses to completion in June 2022.

We want our ITER Knowledge-Networks to be representative of organisations and institutions working with NEET young people or developing policies and services for NEET young people, researchers, employers and public/government education/employment departments. The 'voice' of young people will be through their participation in the pilot and their feedback on their experience.

At this time our contact will be by video conference and email but we are hoping to be able to bring our Knowledge-Networks together soon.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues/networks. Get in touch with us to find out how you can be part of the ITER knowledge-network:

Please get in touch!

**See our contact email addresses on the back page....**

# iter



improving transitions  
enabling results

## ITER Contact Email addresses

**Hungary** [vidovenyecz.eva@bekes.gov.hu](mailto:vidovenyecz.eva@bekes.gov.hu)

**Romania** [tcris@gmail.com](mailto:tcris@gmail.com)

**Italy** [a.murzenkova@eulabmail.it](mailto:a.murzenkova@eulabmail.it)

**Portugal** [ceciliadesincoop@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliadesincoop@gmail.com)

**UK** [anne.downs@gemsni.org.uk](mailto:anne.downs@gemsni.org.uk)

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This project is the sole responsibility of the publisher and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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



University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals



[www.iter-project.eu](http://www.iter-project.eu)