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Final Multiplier Event

Bridging the Gap – Supporting Sustainable Learning and work for NEET Experienced Young People

30th June 2022 University of Huddersfield



The final Multiplier event of the ITER project took place at the University of Huddersfield and was able to be a face-to-face event rather than via Teams due to the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions in the UK.

The event provided a holistic overview of the project and showcased key outputs developed by partners over the course of its work. 27 delegates attended including university academics, postgraduate researchers, FE college lecturers, careers advisers, youth workers and local authority policymakers. Representatives from all participating organisations also attended and presented at the event (Antares SLR (Italy), Eulab Consulting (Italy); Bekes County Government Office (Hungary); Extern, GEMS NI, Time Associates, University of Huddersfield (all UK); Desincoop (Portugal); and the University Polytechnic of Bucharest (Romania).

The day was introduced by Professor Hazel Bryan, Dean of the School of Education, at the University of Huddersfield. It began with the keynote lecture *Mapping Interventions for Young People at Risk of becoming NEET* by Dr Lisa Russell and Dr Ron Thompson (also of the University of Huddersfield), which covered initial findings from their ongoing research, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The main focus of the event, however, was the ITER project, with participants



from each partner organisation presenting on different aspects of the project and showcasing different intellectual outputs. It commenced with an overview of the project from GEMS NI and was followed by a presentation by Eulab

Consulting and Antares on the ITER Platform – an innovative electronic resource for mentors working with NEET young people based on navigating four related aspects of participation in education and employment: Life, Leisure, Learning, and Work. The presentation featured a live demonstration of the Platform and engaged with some of the challenges and opportunities for mentors using this resource to work with young people on the margins of education and work. Delegates were shown how to access the Platform online.

The next presentation, ***Supporting Successful Transitions of Young People from NEET to Mainstream***, from the University of Huddersfield, covered another key output from the project, the mentor handbook. It focused on the underpinning research carried out with policymakers, practitioners, and young people in each participating nation, as well as some of the main challenges facing unemployed youth in different parts of Europe. All delegates were provided with a hard copy of the handbook to take away with them. The presentation finished with a discussion about some of the approaches and strategies learning mentors might employ when using the handbook to engage or re-engage NEET-experienced young people in education and work.

TIME Associates then gave an update on the ITER pilot programme and provided an overview of some of the challenges and opportunities for mentors working with marginalized youth across a range of different settings. There was some significant discussion about how the ITER Platform might be developed going forward. This was followed by 'Partner Perspectives' – a series of short presentations featuring 'quick-fire' feedback from participating organisations based in the UK, Portugal, Hungary, Romania and Italy, including a video presentation providing insight into the views and opinions of mentors and young people using the ITER platform on Extern's 'Moving Forward, Moving On' project in Northern Ireland. Closing comments were provided by Professor Robin Simmons from the University of Huddersfield.

The multiplier event finished with lunch and networking providing opportunities for delegates and participants to mix and discuss the ITER project, and different ways of using its outputs in different settings with particular individuals and groups of young people.

Celebrating the achievements of the ITER Project



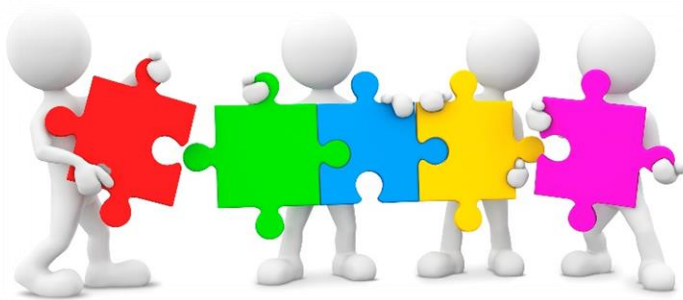
Staying on track and delivering the ITER project results against the backdrop of the Covid-19 global pandemic has been challenging. With restrictions regarding travel and face to



face meetings we had to very quickly develop an online project structure using video conference meetings to develop and plan our work programme and to complete the

project intellectual outcomes. We did this very successfully from March 2020 until we held our first face to face ITER Partnership meeting in Guimarães in April 2022.

How did we do?



Intellectual Output	Title	Performance
IO2	The ITER Platform in English, Italian, Hungarian, Portuguese and Romanian	✓ Achieved
IO3	ITER Transitions Management Handbook In English, Italian, Hungarian, Portuguese and Romanian	✓ Achieved
IO4	The ITER Pilot Programme and evaluation report in English, Italian, Hungarian, Portuguese and Romanian	✓ Achieved
IO5	The ITER Framework – publication of the complete ITER suite of tools and resources in English, Italian, Hungarian, Portuguese and Romanian	✓ Achieved



Next Steps



We will continue to share the ITER resources and materials and ensure that these are available to organisations and institutions that are working to make a difference to the lives and life chances of NEET-Experienced Young People.

We know that because of the pandemic many young people have struggled to connect with their next steps choices on leaving school. We also know that there are less opportunities for disadvantaged young people in terms of employment and that we will see another economic downturn/cost of living crisis.

We remain committed to building on the work and lessons of the ITER project and will continue to support NEET-Experienced young people to begin their own amazing stories.



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