Conference Summary Inclusion in Mobility – LbL20 Conference

The <u>Learning by Leaving Conference 2020</u> – a joint conference for the European mobility networks Eures, Eurodesk, Europass and Euroguidance continued the series that aims to establish closer cooperation between the European mobility networks through regular exchange of information, best practices and peer learning, thus creating synergies to increase the quality of service provision.

In times of lockdown due to Covid-19, the Austrian organizers were faced with a sudden decision, and opted to go ahead with the planned conference as a virtual meeting on June 4–5, 2020.



LbL20 Zoom "family picture"

The focus of the 2020 conference was **inclusion in mobility**, a topic that will also be at the heart of the new Erasmus programme period. How can we best support learners and workers with special needs, including those from underprivileged backgrounds and migrants? Are our existing tools and information sufficient or do we need to make changes to make successful mobility achievable for everyone?

In her opening speech Alison Crabb (European Commission) stated: "As we look ahead to recovery from the economic and social impacts of Covid-19, one feeling is emerging from the crisis – there are also opportunities opening up for some fresh thinking and cooperation on e-guidance and on digital approaches and for smart investments."

An inspiring speech by Ali Mahlodji, founder of the whatchado platform (originally an Erasmus+ project) with more than 6000 interviews on professions & life, and EU Youth Ambassador set the scene for intense discussion on inclusion, and how to achieve inclusive learning and work mobility: "No one is a system error and every person, regardless of gender, color, religion, origin, skin color, disability or sexual orientation, should have a chance to find their calling."

More than 120 colleagues from over 30 countries entered into discussions during this 2-day virtual conference. When asked about the most important aspects to consider in order to achieve the overall goal of "inclusion in mobility", members of the four European mobility networks identified "co-operation" as the most prominent starting point.





The Austrian team not only relied on the work of a perfect technical support team in this completely new situation, but also on the great flexibility of the colleagues from all networks, who offered to hold 3 workshops on Zoom instead of face to face (as originally planned), and who led nine inspiring table discussions in a virtual format.

The workshop themes included:

- DINAMO A distant training on mobility in guidance
- 'Euro-Quest' and 'Time to Move' promoting educational and inclusive mobility across Europe
- Future Time Traveller Digital inclusion in career guidance for generation Z

The nine 20-minute table discussions offered a lot of inspiration and recommendations implementable by the four networks in their future work. The following trends were identified as most relevant by the participants through voting (in order of relevance):

- 1. Make role models visible, use **peer to peer** stories.
- 2. Intensify collaboration between networks and use unconventional outreach to reach more students and more diverse students.
- 3. Involve the target groups in building inclusion strategies
- 4. Develop and use a shared learning environment of the 4 networks in next programme period
- 5. Share tools (such as Euroopportunities board game) between the networks
- 6. Prioritize competence development of guidance professionals (i.e. on inclusive learning mobility)
- 7. Provide **information much earlier** to prepare for a potential mobility experience.
- 8. Use tailored and low-threshold **online communication channels** to reach young people
- 9. Facilitate access and safe participation in mixed ability mobility projects
- 10. Connect / create synergies between the "EU skills profile tool for Third Country Nationals" to the New Europass

Further recommendations (including outcomes of the whole conference) for policy makers were identified and shared among the networks – to enable participants carry on the message in their national contexts.

How to go on from here?

In a session called "The Past, the Present and the Future," colleagues from the German and Italian teams gave insight into the conferences in Cologne (2018) and Cagliari (2019), as well as the virtual Viennese LbL20 conference.

A Mentimeter-poll among participants gave a clear mandate to work on a continuation of the Learning by Leaving series. 84% opted for the option to have the conference every year. 58% stated that blended or online meetings would be of interest, 38% would only go for a virtual meeting if face to face meetings are not possible. 3 % said "they had enough virtual meetings to last a lifetime".

Several centres stated that the were interested in hosting a LbL Meeting in the future, which should be taken into consideration when drafting applications in the new program period starting in 2021.

In the quick poll that followed, participants spontaneously came up with the following topics to be discussed in future Learning by Leaving conferences:



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The Austrian LbL team wishes to thank all presenters and participants for their active contributions.

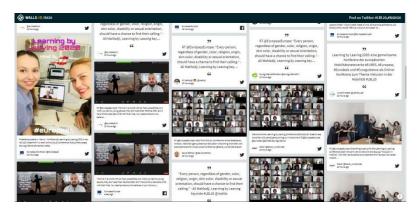
"Alone we can do so little, Together we can do so much."

(Helen Keller)



The LbL20 organizing team

Additional pictures:



Social Media during the #LbL20



© eurodeskUK, twitter screenshot of Ali Mahlodji's presentation