

Bulletin #2 – Austria (May / June 2011)

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Study visit to Austria

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From May 26 to 27, 2011, the 2nd Study Visit of the project took place in Austria, organised by SOL. We were hosted by “vamos – Verein zur Integration” who has a long experience with integration and inclusion (having given rise to the first integration class ever installed at an Austrian school – in 1984).



The schedule

| | Group A: Persons with Down Syndrome | Group B: Professionalists |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Thursday, May 26 | | |
| 09.30 | Bus from hotels in Pinkafeld to Markt Allhau | |
| 10.00 | Welcome, short statements of each national group, timetable | |
| afterwards | Work with M. Brandl and S. Miksanek | Questionnaire: As you know the Belgian partner is coordinator of the questionnaire task and they prepared a questionnaire but we couldn't make final decision on the questionnaire. We will decide the final version of the questionnaire. |
| 13.00 | Lunch | |
| 14.30 | Work with M. Brandl and S. Miksanek | Presentation of the report on "The Employment of People with Disabilities in each Partner Country" by Ireland. Views of partners etc. Logo: (Turkey prepared some logos for the project) We choose the logo of the project |
| 16.30 | | Presentation of the host project "vamos" |
| 17.00 | End of work, Bus from Markt Allhau to Pinkafeld | |
| 18.00 | Common dinner in Stadthotel Pinkafeld – with a surprise (a magician) | |
| Friday, May 27 | | |
| 08.00 | Bus from hotels in Pinkafeld to Markt Allhau | |
| 08.30 | Guided tour through the project "vamos" | |
| 09.30 | Work with M. Brandl and S. Miksanek | Homepage |
| 10.30 | | Discussion about next steps in the project (Rescheduling the task division of the project) |
| 12.30 | Lunch | |
| 14.00 | Exchange of results, presentations of both groups, closing of the meeting | |
| 16.00 | End of work | |

Especially remarkable was the fact that persons with Down Syndrome were not only welcomed as guests but worked on their own approach towards their problems concerning employment (group A) while the "experts" discussed their views and ideas (group B). The final exchange of results was a unique experience. The following pages give a comprehensive report by the trainer Maria Brandl of the work done in group A.



MARIA BRANDL

SCHRITTE team
team SCHRITTE

Employers' Education on Employment of Adults with Down Syndrome (EEEADS)

Meeting in Markt Allhau (Austria),
May 26/27, 2011

EMPLOYERS' EDUCATION ON
EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS
WITH DOWN SYNDROME
WELCOME TO THE
STUDY MEETING
AUSTRIA,
MARKT ALLHAU
MAY 26th + 27th
2011





Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer stellen sich vor

Introduction of the participants:
Who takes part in the meeting?
Where do the participants come from?



Die TeilnehmerInnen des Workshops starten.

participants of the workshop „work related integration for people with Down Syndrome“



workshop „work related integration for people with Down Syndrome“

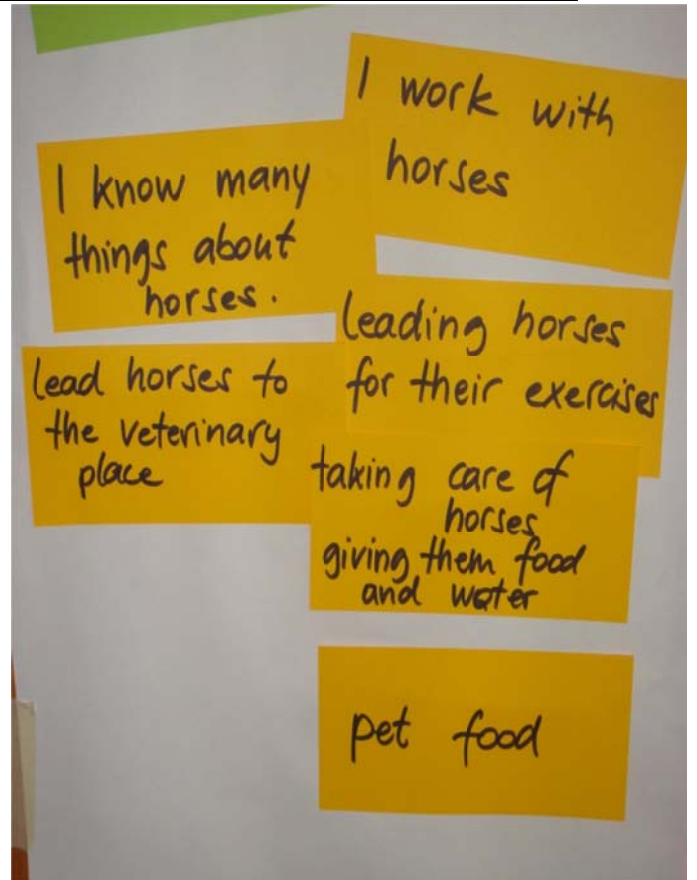
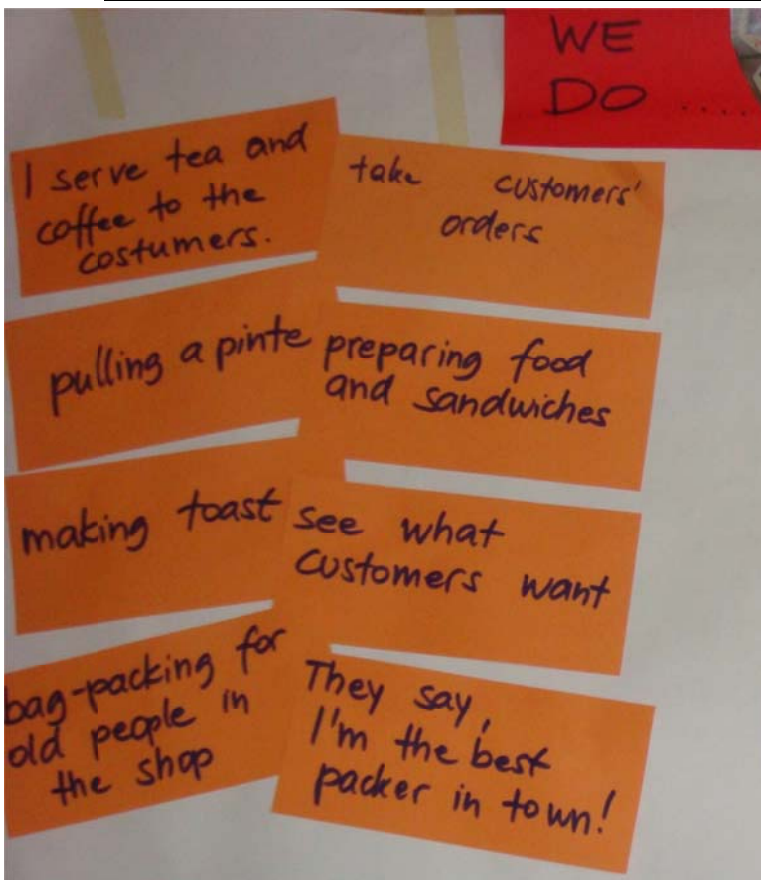
- 1) Introduction
- 2) I am really good at...
- 3) I need support in...





Präsentation der Ergebnisse

presentation of the results



gardening
 I work with flowers.
 planting flowers
 watering plants
 mow the lawn
 trim bushes
 power skythe

clean up after break
 clean the table
 wash the dishes
 sweep the floor after the break

I like talking.
 I work as a contract-worker

assamblage
 precision/fine work
 grinding wood-toys
 I paint woodtoys with colours, or colourless.
 working with silver metal
 I build wood models in different sizes.
 make a wall laying bricks
 do painting
 Trocken ausbau
 taking care of other people with disabilities
 helping children with Down Syndrome communicate

cooking
 giving massage
 taking care of animals
 taking fotos

I need support in...

Collection of the answers to the following lead questions:

What are your experiences with support? Where do you need support in your work? Who supports you? How do they support/assist you?

Who supports you?

- employer(s), boss (10x)
- (work)mates (3x)
- parents (2x)
- brother (1x)
- friends (2x)
- coach from the centre/ job-coach(es) (3x)
- issue-book-adviser (1x)
- reference person (1x)
- mentor (1x)
- supervisor (1x)
- personal assistant (1x)

How do they assist/support you?

- My employers support me so that I can do my job well.
- I learn to do things from my workmates. I have good contact.
- If I have any problems I ask my workmates.
- If there are any problems I can ask my chief anytime.
- I ask if I need support.
- My supporters help me to be well prepared.
- She helps me making a shopping list.
- My supporters guide me along.
- My chief explains what to do.
- He shows me what to do.
- My job coaches show what to photocopy.
- My workmate is my supervisor. He works with me all the time. We do the work together.
- My mentor tells me what to do. He protects me. He teaches me social competence.



@ My boss gives me support to do the job. He shows me the way how I pack the bags properly.

@ He shows me how to do all the things.

@ She shows me how to do it.

@ He shows me how to do the job.

@ He shows me once and afterward I do it on my own.

@ I know how to do it, because there are pictograms on the recipe. I can do it step by step.

@ My coach from the centre supported me for the first two years on the job.

@ His confidence in me gives me self-confidence.

@ He encourages me.

@ My job-coach found me job.

@ She writes up my job coaching-file.

@ My personal assistant guides me to the centre.

@ I have a supporting environment



Report of our Visit to Liege/Verviers

Tina Schindl / Ulli Schindl-Helldrich

In the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" is laid down in article 1:

"The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."

Article 31 "International Cooperations" specifies that *"such measures could include, inter alia:*

(a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities."

In Austria it is still not very common that people with disabilities are considered in such international partnerships. So we took this chance of an visit in Belgium, being very grateful and curious.

Solidarity – Ecology – Lifestyle...

... are the bases of the organisation SOL. What would the Belgium partner present us in these 3 fields?

Solidarity

The project "Services de l'APEM-T21" is a best-practice organisation showing how persons with trisomy 21 can be mainstreamed, employed, be part of community and given habilitation and rehabilitation.

Ecology

One of their work projects is a farm. Animal breeding (chickens, donkeys), planting and food processing are their duties there. They also guide pupils around and give people with trisomy 21 the chance to act as teachers and show their expertise.



Lifestyle

How could we change our lifestyle towards more responsibility and conscious consumption to find more fairness and equal opportunities for all inhabitants of this planet?

I'APEM-T21 ...

...gives one of the possible answers: if we share labour, occupation, education and come one step nearer to the dream of an inclusive community!



We – Tina and Ulli (center) – at I'APEM-T21

For us it was also very important to cause only a small ecological footprint by this journey to Belgium, so we took the train and travelled all in all 24 hours (each direction). The friendly welcome, the interesting guidance around as well as the discussions with all representatives of I'APEM-T21 compensated all the efforts!!

Special thanks to Xavier Rainotte!