

TNS-FICHE

ESF-Flanders

Name of institution:	Voka –Chamber of Commerce West Flanders - Belgium
Type of institution (click the right answer):	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional training providers <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify).....
Contact person:	Barbara Geschier
Address	Pres.Kennedylaan 9A, 8500Kortrijk, Belgium
Phone	0032 (0)56 26 13 92
e-mail	Barbara.geschier@voka.be
website	www.voka.be
Stage of implementation: (click the right answer):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary project Idea (projects in preparation phase without grant awarded) <input type="checkbox"/> Project under implementation
Title of the Project:	‘Supporting young entrepreneurship in internationalization’
Approximate budget of the project:250.000euro.....
Budget for transnational activities:	250.000euro (we will spend the whole budget on transnational activities)
Duration of the project – starting date (in months):	From....March 2012.....till.....March 2014.....
Duration of the transnational activities within the project – starting date:	From March 2012 – March 2014
Thematic scope of the project (click the right answer – maximum 2):	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Access to the labour market/employment and social inclusion, e.g.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways to integration and reintegration of disadvantaged groups <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting discrimination when entering the labour market <input type="checkbox"/> Progress in promoting acceptance of diversity in the workplace <input type="checkbox"/> Customised programs for specific targeted groups <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulating and acknowledgment of working skills <input type="checkbox"/> A better flow from social economy towards the regular labour market <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Workers and new skills within the context of a “New Economic Environment” and social economy, e.g.:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Developing systems & strategies for lifelong learning within organisations and services for enterprises <input type="checkbox"/> Training & services for workers to increase their adaptability <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen an HR-competency policy in enterprises <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Business undergoing changes, e.g:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support labour organisations to adjust to rapidly changing economic & organisation standards <input type="checkbox"/> “Corporate Social Responsibility” <input type="checkbox"/> Social economy <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Education and training, e.g:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the participation in education and training at all time in one’s life

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase the transition from school towards work/labour market <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate the access to education for 45+ <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Women and job, e.g:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Measures to gain better access to jobs and achieve a more sustainable labour market participation <input type="checkbox"/> Measures to decrease the gender gap & have more women in the labour market <input type="checkbox"/> Actions to improve the balance private-working life <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fighting inactivity and discrimination at high age, e.g:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Measures for more and easy access to employability <input type="checkbox"/> Measures to keep elderly people working <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Stimulating entrepreneurship for target groups, e.g :</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Measures to increase the participation of migrants/ethnic minorities in the labour market and to stimulate social integration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovative actions <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Innovative actions</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Other themes</u> (please specify) <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Target group for transnational cooperation (click the right answer):</p> <p><i>(ONLY final beneficiaries, NO stakeholders)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Long term Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Persons not actively at work – e.g. Young people under 25 years old (Incl. school or high school/university) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> self Employed <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly persons (+ 50) <input type="checkbox"/> Specific target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged groups (Ethnic / national minorities) <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with mental or physical disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Employees in Social enterprises

Brief description of the Transnational cooperation:

1. Problems to be solved (justify the need of the transnational cooperation)

Young entrepreneurship needs to be supported and assisted in doing (international) trade, the young entrepreneurs are the future of the country. Not only assisting is crucial also creating a network of like minded young entrepreneurs. Exchanging experiences, ideas, information, etc. within the network encourages young entrepreneurs and helps them in a efficient way. Success of networking has been proofed since we have more than 10 years experience in it!

Currently young entrepreneurs do not have sufficient networks and channels to inform themselves and to be guided towards international trade (export). As a Chamber we would like to extend our support towards the young entrepreneurs and not only give them a platform/network for local entrepreneurship but also for international expansion (helping them to do trade abroad). Currently we have a successful network, called Voka Young Power but international orientation is required. Above, we want to implement our experience and concept in other partner regions.

Target group = young entrepreneurs

2. Objectives to be achieved

- Chamber of Commerce West Flanders brings over their knowledge and concept to the partner regions how they support young entrepreneurs, this concept is called 'Voka Young Power'. Not only this concept will be transferred also the lobby activities, Learning Networks, Business clubs, etc.
- The partner regions will transfer their experience about young entrepreneurship (as well good as bad experiences) towards our region.
- Creating steering committees in the different regions. These committees will consist of as well experienced young entrepreneurs (to share their experience) as the project co-ordinators of the project regions. These steering committees will give input and ideas regarding the set up of activities. These activities will all be in the framework of stimulating, supporting and encouraging young entrepreneurs.
- As well an incoming as outgoing mission will be organized in the partner regions. These missions are twofold. First of all, the young entrepreneurs from the different partner regions will get to know each other and give each other information about their region (business climate, good business locations, supporting organizations, legislation,...). Secondly, the visits offer the opportunity to see on-the-spot how a region functions (through visiting local companies, seeing investment opportunities, meetings with local authorities,...).
- Supporting young entrepreneurs who have interest in investing and/or exporting in the partner regions. Young entrepreneurs who have real ambitions will be supported as much as possible by the several project partners. F.e. a Flemish entrepreneur who's interested in exporting goods toward a partner region will be brought in contact through the Flemish partners with the right organisations in the partner region. The partner region will send information in first instance, and will guide them in second instance. The guidance does not mean that the entrepreneur will be helped with selling his goods/services, the guidance means that the partner organisations will assist the organization in taking the first steps in the new market.

3. Main transnational activities (as provisionally planned, to be confirmed with partners)

- Training, guiding and helping partner regions with setting up initiatives to support young entrepreneurs. F.e. CC West Flanders will support and assist in setting up the concept of Voka Young Entrepreneurs in the partner regions.
- Vice versa, the partner regions will share their experience and knowledge about supporting young entrepreneurs.
- Business missions with a clear goal: informing young entrepreneurs about the partner regions and guide them with their international ambitions.
- Helping young entrepreneurs in taking the first steps on a new market (in the partner regions).

4. Planned outputs, deliverables, results of TNC; expected outcomes (effects)

- A well established and sustainable platform/network where young entrepreneurs come together frequently in the partner regions. This platform offers the possibility to develop their activities through knowledge/experience exchange, input from professional guest speakers, company visits, etc.
- Creating a network of contact points in the partner regions who can offer information toward young entrepreneurs interested in exporting their goods/services towards the partner region.
- Guiding young entrepreneurs with their export plans within the partner regions through the creation of a network of experts and organizations in the partner regions who can help the young entrepreneurs.
- Above actions have a **sustainable character**, this means that these actions can continue after the end of the project with a minimum of financial input. Once the network has been created and the guidelines have been fixed, this project can easily continue to exist.

- We expect several outcomes:

1. Implementation of the Voka Young Power concept in the partner regions.
2. Implementation in our region of the actions towards young entrepreneurs executed by the partner regions.
3. A contact point that helps young entrepreneurs in the partner regions.
4. Guidance of a couple of young entrepreneurs in the partner regions.

5. Useful and additional remarks:

As partner regions we would like to focus on Eastern Europe. Our young entrepreneurs have a strong interest in Eastern Europe (Poland, Czech Republic,...).