



March 2015

## 3rd Newsletter

### Third Workshop in Le Puy-en-Velay

JEM's aim is to develop a Facilitator's Guide, intended as a means of practical support for new migrants in seeking and employment, created by the project's partners. It will be shared with other Vocational Education and Training (VET) professionals throughout Europe. The content of the guide is developed at workshops involving learners from the three participating countries, through the sharing of personal experiences and ideas on supporting the employability of migrants. After the first two workshops in Sheffield (UK) and Granada (Spain) the JEM team met for a third workshop in Le Puy-en-Velay (France) on 17th and 18th November 2014, which was organised and hosted by Greta du Velay.



The third workshop focused on providing tools to VET trainers who support new migrants in seeking work and enhancing their employability skills, particularly focusing on their cultural diversity. The workshop consisted of two parts. During the first part participants- both trainers and migrant workers- identified the major difficulties in job seeking/employability while, in the second, they reflected on possible solutions to these.

Welcome to the third Newsletter of the JEM Project!

In this issue, you will get an insight into our third workshop which took place in Le Puy-en-Velay, France, in November 2014. You will also find some useful news, links and information on supporting migrants' employability.

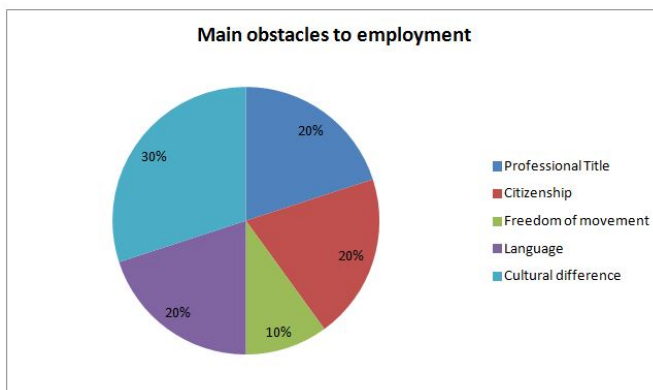
### Project Overview

Migrants are in a particularly insecure situation when looking for jobs in a new country because of language barriers, differences in hard skills and in adapting to the dynamics of a job search in a foreign country, and this becomes even more challenging in a period of economic crisis.

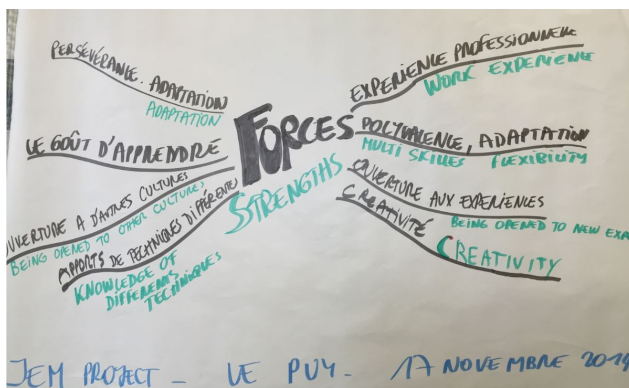
The JEM (Job and Employability support for Migrants) project seeks to find a solution to this issue by providing tools to VET professionals engaged in enhancing migrants' employability skills in the European Union.



The workshop was attended by six enthusiastic migrants seeking work in France, Spain and the UK. They were a diverse group from Comore Islands, Portugal, Malaysia and Italy, and are at different stages of their careers. The jobs they had in their home countries included electrician, international development professional, cook, banker, farmer, designer. In addition, VET trainers from France, the UK and Spain participated in the conversation, exploring what they have found to be the main obstacles for migrants when looking for a job. These are the main conclusions of the discussion:



In the second part of the workshop participants identified the strengths that migrants should focus on to highlight the contribution they can make in their new country and to prospective employers if they succeed in finding a job which their skills and competences qualify them for:



Later on, they focused on the best practices for VET trainers when making migrants reflect on their own culture as an asset during a job interview or when looking for a job in general:



## Partners



Intercambio is an international team that encourages and promotes lifelong learning for all. Its main aims are to provide networking opportunities for migrants to the UK, give career advice and training or study opportunities in the UK, and offer mentoring and coaching.



Greta du Velay is a network of public educational establishments that is part of the Ministry of Education. Greta provides training to regional companies and supports the vocational integration of disadvantaged groups such as unemployed people, migrants and persons with disabilities.



UPTA (Union of Self-Employed Professionals and Workers of Spain) works nationwide in Spain and represents the interests and rights of self-employed workers by providing training and information,



in particular encouraging self-employment in the social sector.

**Why are skills important for creating societies more inclusive both socially and economically?**  
**Watch this video!**

All participants seemed very satisfied with the workshop and were happy to share experiences and thoughts with colleagues from France, Spain and the UK.

## How to maximise migrants' potential? The response at the policy level

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) in collaboration with International Labour Office and the European Commission conducted a three-year-long research in six European countries, including France, Spain and the UK, exploring the dynamics which cause migrants to get stuck in low- skilled jobs and the role of training and employment services in supporting their career progression. [This video](#) provides an insightful explanation of the study's main findings, check it out!

Join our facebook group and help us spread the word!



For more insightful resources visit [our website!](#)

## Recent trends among British employers

According to a [recent study](#) researching the practices of 1,000 employers in the UK, those who employ a migrant workforce are also keen on offering apprenticeships and are likely to have experienced growth in their business in the last two years. This fact highlights that such British employers demonstrate wider horizons than those who don't have migrants among their workforce. The report also stresses the tendency of British employers to hire more experienced and qualified workers from the EU, over less experienced UK workers over the past 10 years.

## Join us for the JEM Final Conference in Madrid in April 2015!

Contact your local organisation for more information

Isabel (Spain) [isabelcontreras79@gmail.com](mailto:isabelcontreras79@gmail.com)

Pierre (France) [pl.carrolaggi@velay.greta.fr](mailto:pl.carrolaggi@velay.greta.fr)

Giulia (UK) [admin@intercambio.info](mailto:admin@intercambio.info)



Lifelong Learning Programme

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This newsletter reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information*

*contained therein.*