

BOEMI – Music, creativity and the digital

Internal good practice, Crossing Borders.

What is it?

BOEMI – Building Our Employment Skills Through Music – is an Erasmus + project of which Crossing Borders is part of, along with partners from Europe and Africa, aiming at using non-formal education and digital media to improve youth empowerment and increase their employability, through the uncovering of local folklore music from each country.

Facts of method

200-300 participants

Target groups

Youth workers and unemployed youth from

Denmark, Spain, Italy,

Ghana, and Senegal

Performed continuously since April 2015

10 staff involved

Who makes it? What is done?

The project is carried on by 5 different partner organizations: Crossing Borders (Denmark), Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo “Danilo Dolci” (CSC)(Italy), IYEC (Ghana),

Jeunesse En Action “GNO FAR” (Senegal), Asociación para la Integración y Progreso de las Culturas Pandora (Spain).

BOEMI has been training youth workers and unemployed youth in new media and non-formal educational methods, including the maieutic approach, through workshops and seminars at a local and international level. Apart from the international meetings, conducted in Italy and Spain, where the partner organizations have met to receive training, the teachings have been passed on through locally arranged activities, such as investigations on local musical traditions, social media, copyright law, music production and employability.

The project’s final result has been concerts at a local level arranged by the youth workers and unemployed youth which has been trained by the former, and an international concert with all partners in Palermo, Italy, which took place on July 2016. Furthermore, an ebook is being written and translated into all languages of the project partners, to illustrate good practices that can be transferable to later projects.

Since when?

From April 2015 to October 2016

Target groups, national, international or local focus?

The target group for this project has consisted of youth workers and unemployed youth, which have had the opportunity to be trained at an international level and develop their skills at a local level.

Digital aspects of good practice

An important part of the project consists of developing new media skills among youth workers and unemployed youth. Crossing Borders has contributed for this by arranging a social media expert for the training in Madrid; the training has consisted of promotion on new media platforms, particularly social media, the visual aspects of music promotion, online profiles, and music distribution. Furthermore, the international communication in the project between meetings has been conducted via facebook, dropbox, and google drive, to allow all the partners to share the progress they were making at a local level. A facebook group has been created to maintain contact between all project participants to ensure the creation and maintenance of an international network which is sure to improve employability among youth.

The project has also a facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/boemiproject/?fref=ts> - and a website - <http://boemiproject.eu/> - where information is updated regularly, along with multimedia content, such as sound, photos and videos. The content is produced by the youth workers themselves using a diverse knowledge based where participants help each other in developing digital skills such as audio production and editing, photo shooting, and video recording and editing.

Finally, an online platform is in the making, where participants can easily upload content to be shared within and outside the project. This content includes recordings made during the study-phase at a local level,

consisting of photos, audio, and video recording of folklore music, music or other content created during the local and the international workshops, and recordings of the locals and the internal final concerts.

Pedagogic aspects of good practice

The project is based on non-formal education, and all participants have been trained according to the principles of cooperation, border crossing, team building, and intercultural communication. We have received special training in the maieutic approach using the maieutic circle head by Amico Dolci, director of the Italian partner organization, in all international meetings.

This has also been transferred to digital practices, given that no formal education has been given to the participants regarding new media production and dissemination, basing the learning process instead on mutual cooperation, using all the participants' different skills and weaknesses to ensure the quality and customization of each skill learned.

Strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of good practice

Strength

- Intercultural environment
- Good use of each participant's skills
- Creation and maintenance of an international professional network

Weakness

- Language and geographical barriers

Opportunities

- Improvement of employability skills of youth participants
- Expansion of the project's concept and method to similar projects at a local level

Threats

- Geographical barriers can limit the networking capacity of the group

Which aspects are transferable?

The methods of non-formal education, both in digital and non-digital practices, are easily transferrable for other projects. Although BOEMI was focused on musical traditions, the methods used can be applied in different contexts; examples of this can be the management of social media pages and networks, the maieutic approach, and the intercultural nights facilitated by all participants in order to break cultural barriers.

A success story of the good practice

The final concert in Palermo, which took place on the 12th of July 2016, was the

culmination of a year's worth of work between international partners. During one week, all participants were living together and sharing their daily lives, getting to know each other, and by the time of the concert, language barriers were shattered through the use of music and other alternative methods, allowing a band to be formed and a concert prepared with only 2 days of preparation. The concert was a success, you can see a clip here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yU7rs-VCE4>

Final summary: what makes it in your opinion a good method?

The method used was very successful because it allowed the sharing of knowledge regardless of cultural and social backgrounds, allowing all participants to be part of a dynamic international network with which they have learned and can continue to learn after the project is concluded. Furthermore, the use of digital tools was an essential part of the project, and all participants have been properly trained, whether during the international meeting or at a local level, where those who had received international training passed on their knowledge, creating a solid chain of knowledge across two continents.