BACK 2 BASICS

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION AND LABOR MARKET BY FOSTERING DIGITAL SKILLS

NEWSLETTER 2

MAY 2023

- ENTERING THE LABOUR MARKET – WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?
- DIGITAL SKILLS FOR BETTER EMPLOYABILITY
- FIRST BACK2BASICS TRAINING COURSE IN GREECE
- SECOND BACK2BASICS PARTNER'S MEETING
- WHAT'S NEXT?

READ MORE NEXT

ENTERING THE LABOUR MARKET - WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Partners in the Back2Basics project plan to develop a "**Guide on Online Communication and Etiquette**" to help graduates develop a more professional image of themselves before the employers and within the labour market, thus facilitating their integration in this environment.

As a starting point, Associação BioLiving and GRI developed two **Focus Groups** each, with companies and recent graduates to identify real-life experience and knowledge of what is lacking in the labour market from both perspectives.

The conclusions drawn from both countries are interestingly similar. The findings suggest that, in general, recent graduates are not well-prepared for the real job market and **lack the necessary skills and employability profiles** required.

Some suggestions were made in order to increase possibilities of being hired include attending specific training courses, taking initiative to solve problems, doing internships, participating in brainstorming sessions or engaging in online forums to be more aware of political and social issues.

Partners:

DIGITAL SKILLS FOR BETTER EMPLOYABILITY

In today's rapidly evolving marketplace, where technological development is driving the emergence of new work scenarios that require new and updated skills, **digital skills have become an essential requirement for employability**. However, there is a growing gap between the demand for digital skills and the number of workers who possess them, meaning that individuals who demonstrate proficiency in the digital skills' different dimensions are at a clear advantage in the labour market.

Are you graduating and don't feel ready to enter the job market? **Sign up and come to learn with professionals from different European countries!**

DIGITAL SKILLS FOR A BETTER EMPLOYABILITY
20-24 February 2023 / Thessaloniki, Greece

REGISTER AT:
shorturl.at/grRVW

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www.back2basicsproject.eu
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The **"Back2Basics – Digital Skills for better employment" training course** was developed taking into account not only the training needs perceived by young students but also the gaps identified by institutions and organisations when hiring new employees. In order to train more digitally prepared graduates and young people, the training course covers themes, such as information and data literacy, citizenship through digital technologies, digital identity and netiquette, health and well-being in digital settings, cyber hygiene and online personal protection.

FIRST BACK2BASICS TRAINING COURSE IN GREECE

The first training course, held in Thessaloniki from 20th to 24th February 2023, brought together 22 young participants from various countries – Portugal, Spain, Greece – and it was a unique opportunity to share and learn about what it means to be an aware and qualified citizen in this digital age, as well as an unforgettable moment of cross-cultural sharing and learning. Besides the learning activities, which included a session with Delloite and Human Value Guest Speakers, participants also had the chance to learn more about Greece and the Greek culture, an unforgettable intercultural experience for everyone!

Trainer's thoughts on the course – Theano Chatzidaki (University of Macedonia)
"The B2B training course was really important and the students really benefited from it. More specifically, participants explored popular sources of information for academic, research, workplace, and everyday life contexts and learned how to critically evaluate online content and how to avoid misinformation sharing. They also learned about the various aspects, both positive and negative, of the use of digital devices and were introduced to good practices that can ensure or enhance their well-being in the digital world. Lastly, high interaction, collaboration, and intercultural communication in face-to-face contexts and out of the classroom were also valuable benefits for all."

WHAT THE TRAINEES SAID ABOUT THE COURSE?

"I have really enjoyed the course. The trainers knew the subject very well and have really provided me with knowledge that I have found practical in my day-to-day life ever since. In addition, the course covered several different but connected subjects, so that a whole body of knowledge on media literacy is generated."

Gonzalo Loureiro, Law Studies (Spain)

"It was an amazing way of learning digital skills and knowing new people while doing it! The course was very well organized and planned and I hope there will be more activities like this. I'm truly grateful to have been part of this wonderful event and it's amazing to know that there are new exciting ways of learning digital skills".

Ricardo Soares, Audiovisual Communication for the new Media (Portugal)

WHAT THE TRAINEES SAID ABOUT THE COURSE?

"During the training course "Back2Basics – Digital Skills for a better employability" which took place in the city of Thessaloniki (Greece), between the 20th and the 24th of February 2023, I learned new ways of expressing myself in a virtual context, as part of the given formation. The concepts were well transmitted and exemplified, and trainers found enthusiastic ways of involving the students with interesting activities throughout the sessions. For the time being, the given content was well distributed. At the end of the training course, I especially enjoyed the time for reflexion and sharing of ideas about the best ways to transmit the need for people to engage in the safety and justice for everyone in the digital world."

Carolina Simões, Biology (Portugal)

"I can't put into words how exciting and remarkable the whole experience was. The seminar was really interesting and influential from the knowledge and the practical skills it provided me with, to the strong friendships that came to stay. From now on I can manage my digital presence better and I am more prepared to enter the job market in the future".

Pothitou Evangelia, Economy (Greece)

SECOND BACK2BASICS PARTNER'S MEETING

The second Partner's Meeting of the Back2Basics project was held in February 2023, in Thessaloniki, Greece, and hosted by University of Macedonia.

The partners discussed the progress of the project, the next steps for the outputs coming up ahead and also the important feedback and recommendations obtained about the training course.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming months, there are several outputs and events to be excited for!

Young people and recently graduates will be able to learn more about how to present a better professional image of themselves through our "**Guide on Online Communication and Netiquette**". In this guide, it will be possible to find real-life examples of common mistakes made in professional settings that can be easily avoided. Read through our "do's and don'ts" recommendations and be prepared to face the labour market!

Cybersecurity and cyber hygiene are also very important subjects in a more modern and digital age. In professional settings it is fundamental to be aware of the more common risks and threats associated to the cyberspace so that important and (many times confidential) information does not get compromised. In our "**Handbook: online security and safety**" it will be possible to have a better understanding of these issues and learn how to avoid cyber threats.

There will also be plenty of chances to participate in the project's events in all partner countries up till the end of the year!

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