



PARTNERSCHIP CALL FOR EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND APPLICATION 481 (FLANDERS)

[Thomas More University of Applied Sciences](#) is looking for partners for the European Social Fund (ESF Flanders) call 'Transnational Learning Networks'. We would like to cordially invite you to discuss the following call and project outline with us to potentially form a project partnership and develop a joint project proposal. We kindly ask you to confirm your interest by replying to this email by **Tuesday, November 10**. Should you be interested in mutual learning during a 2 year project, we will set up an online meeting to discuss further. Thank you for your time and interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Call for partners

In response to the ESF-Flanders call on Transnational Learning Networks, Thomas More University of Applied Sciences is looking for partners to augment the re-integration at work of employees and jobseekers with an acquired brain injury. We focus on a twofold perspective with specific service providers: from a rehabilitation perspective we actively involve health care professionals and from an integration perspective we actively involve employers and disability managers.

The aim of this project is to learn mutually and to develop dialogic and collaborative strategies and methods for a more increased and more effective chance to (re)integrate and sustain the target group at work.

The project has one main goal:

Reintegrating and sustaining more employees and job seekers with cognitive impairments due to an acquired brain injury at work.

To achieve this goal, the partnership will

- Map out framework conditions for target group and service providers
- Crystallize methodologies and best practices from other EU Member States for interdisciplinary cooperation
- Develop a road map from hospital admission to reintegration at work
- Translate road map into Flemish policy recommendations and implementation strategies
- Collaborate with transnational partners to co-create strategies and methods
- Disentangle specific pathology-related guidelines for target group
- Implement road map, recommendations and implementation strategies in Flanders
- Disseminate road map, recommendations and implementation strategies

Target group(s)

The primary target group for the project are jobseekers and employees with an acquired brain injury. We focus on their invisible cognitive impairments, such as reduced attentional span, impaired information processing or lack of self awareness. We will link the impairments to achievable and realistic working conditions, work content, work relations and work organization.

Process/activities:

With at least two transnational partner the vision is to visit each of the partner institutions in the 24-months project period. Below is an overall and broad process of the project.

1. Brainstorm, presentations, what can we bring/expertise, expectations and forward-looking
2. What have we learned since last time, experiences, further development
3. Road map (linked to International Classification of Functioning, disability and health): which job profile is desired by the employee/jobseeker with an ABI, which profile is achievable due to his/her cognitive impairments, which personal and external factors might influence (opportunities/boundaries) his/her re-integration
4. Implementation of road map, recommendations and strategies
5. Evaluation/dissemination of road map, recommendations and strategies

In between Microsoft Teams-meetings will be used in order to keep on track, spare and to share knowledge

The full proposal will be submitted to ESF Flanders in December 2020. If approved, the project will have a duration of maximum 23 months, starting in February 2021. Transnational partners do not need ESF funding from their own country. Transnational partners can participate with own funding, existing projects, including their own nationally funded ESF projects.

Short description of the organization

Thomas More University of Applied Science is a higher education institution, where research-based teaching is combined with practice oriented research and practical training in public institutions and private businesses.

Added value to the project idea

In 2018 the Belgian government created opportunities to successfully regain and reintegrate people with a disability at work. The Flemish government set up targets to get more people longer at work. Although the framework is interesting and ambitious, at this time there are several pitfalls, such as one in adjusting treatment objectives to job needs and wishes, one in synchronizing the care trail of different rehabilitation centers, one in adapting work (conditions) of different employers and one on the specific needs and wishes of the target group.

Competences

Thomas More University of Applied Science (www.thomasmore.be) is searching for partners who share the same aims, objectives and goals in response to regain and sustain employers and jobseekers with an acquired brain injury at work.

We are looking for Universities of Applied Sciences and/or service providers from any EU Member State with competencies, good practices or (national) projects related to integration at work (determining distance from job market, expertise with methods for reintegration road maps, matching supply and demand, job placement and/or aftercare) with a vision and willingness to contribute to augment the work opportunities for people with a disability.

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