Joint international education EEE4all: focused on employability of individuals who are unable to access work due to their age, gender, disability and / or ethnicity

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The issue of work and employment is high on the European agenda and has gained, in the light of the recent global financial crisis, an even greater significance.

In the area of employability most occupational therapists work with individuals who traditionally come into contact with services within the context of vocational rehabilitation. The objectives of the EU Commission on prosperity and solidarity (COM (2007) 620final; COM (2007) 13final; COM (2007) 33final; COM (2007) 726. emphasize the needs of individuals that are disadvantaged through gender, disability, age and ethnicity.

These objectives challenge occupational therapists to develop new and innovative ways to reach those individuals who are currently furthest removed from the labour market.

From 2008 occupational therapy educators from five institutions from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany cooperate (EU funded EEE4allProject) on designing and implementing an international courses (4 courses, each 15 ECTS) on employability. The course enables international collaboration through e-learning and exchange and cooperation with individuals who are unable to access work due to their age, gender, disability and / or ethnicity.

The EEE4allProject is regarded an innovative way of collaboration between educational institutes. This paper elaborates on the context and the developments of the project and the opportunities for future collaborations and innovations in the area of employability.