

Educational Policies that Address Social Inequality

Luxembourg case study report 1 Integrating Young Asylum Seekers into Education and Employment

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The EPASI project is a programme of analysis of educational programmes in fourteen European countries, designed to address various forms of social inequality. The project analysis was conducted in the period 2007 – 2009. This report is part of the overall project, details of which are at <http://www.epasi.eu>.

The analysis is intended to be used within the overall framework of the EPASI programme.

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The EPASI project was conducted by the following institutions:

- The Institute for Policy Studies in Education, London
- Metropolitan University (UK) (Coordinator)
- Katholieke Hogeschool Zuid-West-Vlaanderen (Belgium)
- Univerzita Hradec Králové (Czech Republic)
- Montpellier III - Université Paul Valéry (France)
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- Malmö högskola (Sweden)



Integrating Young Asylum Seekers into Education and Employment – “Passe-Partout” Project

“Passe-Partout” Project has been set up by Caritas Foundation Refugee Service. The educational service Passe-Partout works in partnership with other associations and institutions of Luxembourg for the integration into society of some really vulnerable people to whom it grants the possibility to be taken care of for their education. Based on a team of socioeducational coordinators directly acting on the field, the main aim of Passe-Partout is to help the children of asylum-seekers and of refugees, in particular those between 15 to 25 years old, to be better integrated in the society of Luxembourg by enabling them to get a training course thanks to a special authorisation (TEA - Temporary Employment Authorisation¹) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

Rationale and Aims

As the Government didn't grant any work permit to applicants for international protection, teenagers had some problems finding some training courses. To be a minor and asylum-seeker in Luxembourg quickly becomes an experience where teenage comes up against several obstacles. After compulsory education, this population group often ends up in the street, vulnerable, without any real job and without any future prospects. By noticing that no socio and occupational integration system existed for teenaged refugees, that Caritas launched the “Passe-Partout” project: this socio and occupational integration project has been launched in July 2001 and is co-financed by the European Refugee Fund and by the Ministry for Family and Integration. Thanks to the new asylum law of May 2006, applicants for international protection can get the temporary employment authorisation under certain conditions.

The project aims to:

- a better integration of young refugees in the Luxembourg society by enabling them to get a training course.
- make the native population more aware of refugees.
- the specific follow-up of unaccompanied minor refugees.

Description, Implementation and Financial Aspects

Working to favour the integration of applicants for international protection, Passe-Partout offers in addition to integration workshops some training course in French, in Luxembourgish and in computing, as well as bringing them up to the required standard and some specialised classes to learn the specific vocabulary necessary and useful for studies and for the different professional sectors. For teenage having a lack in their linguistic, computing knowledge or general knowledge, Passe-Partout has created an educational centre with its head office in Mersch and some branch in Oasis Centre in Wiltz and in the Foyer St Antoine in Luxembourg town.

In Mersch, all year long, there is an integration class offered to young people who can no longer attend the classic scholar system because of their age or due to their mental capacity. This class is meant to be a vehicle for integration and a springboard towards other organisations such as the Language Centre or even the secondary school. The objective is to give to these newly-arrived an educational base to facilitate their integration. For these classes, the number of applicants for international protection from 16 to 25 years old for 2006-2007 school year stands at 45.

¹ AOT (Autorisation d'Occupation Temporaire)

The project also organises some computing classes, visits schools and public institutions to heighten the native population awareness and put an end to prejudice towards refugees. This project also offers some sport and leisure activities, it is open from Monday to Friday afternoons to answer your questions and help you at best to solve your problems.

Examples of actions of Passe-Partout project:

- Regular contact with young people on their place of residence
- Support all along their schooling via remedial courses and some advice
- Language training for teenage not attending school
- Registration of young people in a vocational training and support during their job search
- Supervision of minors without family

Passe-Partout Project particularly targets teenagers and young adult refugee in Luxembourg (from 15 to 25 years old), so teenage regularised, teenage applicants for international protection, the recognised refugees, people having a tolerance or a non suit status waiting to return to their country of origin. Projected is financed by: Caritas Foundation Refugee Service in Luxembourg, European Refugee Fund and Ministry for Family and Integration.

Evaluations, Outcomes

Between 2002 and 2006, 180 young registered for training in the workplace. In September 2002, the project received a hundred request and 67 young found a boss. To date, 13 of them got their diploma. In 2007, "Passe-Partout" registered 264 people – more than 30 different nationalities - who asked for an educational follow-up, 64 had between 15 and 20 years old.

References

<http://www.caritas-europa.org/module/FileLib/poverty2006FRWb.pdf>

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<http://www.caritas.lu/index.php?include=passepartout>