

WHO ARE WE?

ZNI Institute for New Age Education is based in Maribor, Slovenia. We are a nonprofit and non-governmental organization (NGO). The ZNI Institute was founded by Mrs. Maja Kumperščak in 2005 with the purpose of encouraging individuals' participation in the society as well as motivating them to connect and cooperate with each other.



The managing director of the Institute is Sonja Markič, who has many years of experience with European Projects. The leading Coordinator for partnerships is Neja Cerar Babič. ZNI team consist of young, experienced mentors, mobility coordinators, administration staff and interns, providing both sending and hosting services resulting in over 2.500 successfully implemented mobilities



There are various possibilities for mobility in Slovenia, depending firstly on participants' knowledge, skills and motivation, and secondly, on their needs, desires and fields of interest. Our team carefully performs examination of participant's profile, field of study and interests. Based on this, we choose a suitable company.

OUR TEAM



Maja Kumperščak,
founder



Sonja Markič,
directress



Neja Cerar Babič,
coordinator for partnership



Rebeka Čeh,
mobility coordinator



Patricia Hrnčič,
group mentor



Petra Lazar,
office manager

WORK PLACEMENTS

ZNI can provide complete service for participants: work placements are being hosted by our partners based across Slovenia, mainly in Maribor, Ptuj and Celje. Work practice is normally done in English. Our advantage is that in Slovenia there are also bilingual regions where German, Croatian, Italian, and Hungarian languages are traditionally spoken. For participants with lower English knowledge, work placements organised in these areas can be a very good opportunity.



We truly believe that the best way to organise quality work placements that match participants interests, lies in discovering individual's potential and setting up the scene for personal development. Our mobility coordinator Rebeka Čeh is in charge of organising work placements and finding companies where participants can gain new skills and learn from their mentors.



MOBILITY IN MARIBOR

At ZNI we offer a complete set of services which include:

- Arranging work placements and accommodation.
- Organising language courses.
- Personal and work preparation of participants.
- Cultural program, mentoring, monitoring and evaluation, 24 hours support.
- Airport and local transfers.
- Issuing attendance certificates.



Moreover, during personal preparation, participants are involved in personal presentation and interview simulation trainings with purpose to learn how to provide relevant information about themselves and how to leave best impression on potential employers. In other words, participants are thought how to benefit from their mobility experience and increase their employability for the future.



MOBILITY IN MARIBOR



During the work practice, each incoming group of candidates is assigned a mentor from ZNI, who provides professional and moral support, and monitors each candidate's progress. Mentoring meetings take place every one to two weeks. All participants are requested to write weekly reports in which they express their thoughts, encounters and any significant experience they had at work. At the end of the mobility program, an evaluation meeting is held with the objective to reflect on the benefits as well as to assess the program itself. ZNI offers guidance and support to every individual through all the stages of the program and ensures that all the objectives of the program are met.

As an important part of the preparation period for candidates, we can organise English language courses, where basic Slovenian phrases for communication and integration into community are learnt as well. Participants are also involved in cultural activities and trips to discover and familiarise themselves with historical and cultural heritage of our region. We organise visits to museums, theatres, medieval castles, towns of historical and modern significance as well as nature tours such as hiking and skiing or sledging.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Within mobility projects, we are developing and applying innovative methods and approaches to human resource management. In the year 2012 ZNI has received National Quality Award »Jabolko kakovosti« - an acknowledgement which is awarded to the best completed mobility projects within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Program.



We have designed special, tailor-made mobility projects for the European Union Programs, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Youth in Action or Grundtvig which was successfully developed in past years and are continuing under the Erasmus+ and European social fund. Since 2021, we are partners in a big European project from Western Balkans, called Intervet. We already hosted two groups, one from Serbia and one from Kosovo. We are happy to be hosting even more groups in the upcoming year.



OUR MISSION

ZNI's priority lies in helping mobility participants to achieve their personal and professional goals. We have identified weaknesses and gaps in lack of skills and knowledge of young people on the one hand and needs of the labor market on the other, which even the most educated individuals face. Years of experience have shown that well organized preparation period is crucial for participant's successful mobility experience, which results in improvement and development on both professional and personal level of the individual.



Therefore, at ZNI we developed a special, innovative approach to activities before candidates start with the work placement. During the preparation period, all participants familiarize themselves with the wider meaning and purpose of EU mobility programs. As part of personal and work preparations, they are given advice and instructions on what is expected by employers on today's labor market: what are the must-have job skills, personal attitude and expected approach to work.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US



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