

WBL-PRO Professional Peer Network: The team talks with the professionals – Lauren van Heel, Bradford, the United Kingdom

We are very happy to present to you today **Lauren van Heel** - Aspire-international Manager, Bradford, the United Kingdom. She is also a Prince2 qualified Project Manager, partner and coordinator on international projects in the VET and guidance sector.



Please find below what he has shared with the WBL-PRO team about one of their projects related to work-based learning:

"NewT4S follows on from a previous project called Experience for Training, which looked at the theory behind successful work based learning models and practices across Europe. The study was particularly interested in work based learning that has an element of training in a real-life working environment, whereby the social enterprise or organisation had contact with customers and trainees were developing a range of employability skills through real scenarios with customers. By 2016 Experience for Training had delivered a range of support tools for organisations offering work based learning - such as a model and guidelines for delivering successful work based learning programmes, a skills profile tool for trainers involved in work based learning and a bank of best practices.

The theoretical work was very well received but there was a clear next step - how does this translate into useful, practical tools for trainers themselves? Since all the partners in the consortium were already involved in work based learning to some degree, we developed a project whereby trainers could get together and share their best tools, resources and experiences. These tools have helped them to improve the ways in which they evaluate trainees, engage and retain them on courses, develop their functional and technical skills etc. The NewT4S project started in 2017 and has so far involved around 20 trainers in peer learning activities. In the next stages the trainers will come together to develop tools that are commonly lacking in their current practice.

Ultimately the objective of these projects is to raise awareness around work based learning, promoting it as an effective training model and supporting the professionals involved. As a training provider working with hard to reach groups, Aspire-igen is positive about the benefits of the work based learning approach and has set up its own [training café](#) based on what we've learnt through our international partners. We look forward to seeing our new training beauty salon open this Spring!

More information about the Experience for Training and NewT4S project can be found on www.eft-project.eu and www.nt4s.eu. Or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/efproject

Please feel most welcome to like our facebook page and join the linkedin group to get acquainted with many best practices and other useful materials, tools and resources supporting the high quality performance of work-based professionals around Europe and beyond its borders!

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