TNS-FICHE
ESF-Flanders

Name of institution:	LINC vzw
Type of institution (click the right answer):	☐ Public ▪ Private ☐ Institutional training providers ☐ Other (please specify)………………………………………………………
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Stage of implementation: (click the right answer):	▪ Preliminary project Idea (projects in preparation phase without grant awarded) ☐ Project under implementation
Title of the Project:	DigiTalent (working title)
Approximate budget of the project:	250.000€
Budget for transnational activities:	To be determined based upon the financing structure of the project and the concrete project plan.
Duration of the project – starting date (in months):	From September 2012 till September 2014
Duration of the transnational activities within the project – starting date:	From January – February 2013
Thematic scope of the project (click the right answer – **maximum 2**):	▪ **Access to the labour market/employment and social inclusion, e.g.:** ▪ Pathways to integration and reintegration of disadvantaged groups ☐ Fighting discrimination when entering the labour market ☐ Progress in promoting acceptance of diversity in the workplace ☐ Customised programs for specific targeted groups ☐ Stimulating and acknowledgment of working skills ☐ A better flow from social economy towards the regular labour market ☐ **Workers and new skills within the context of a "New Economic Environment" and social economy, e.g.:** ☐ Developing systems & strategies for lifelong learning within organisations and services for enterprises ☐ Training & services for workers to increase their adaptability ☐ Strengthen an HR-competency policy in enterprises ☐ **Business undergoing changes, e.g:** ☐ Support labour organisations to adjust to rapidly changing economic & organisation standards ☐ "Corporate Social Responsibility" ☐ Social economy

	▪ **Education and training, e.g:**
	▪ Increasing the participation in education and training at all time in one's life
	□ Increase the transition from school towards work/labour market
	□ Facilitate the access to education for 45+
	□ **Women and job, e.g:**
	□ Measures to gain better access to jobs and achieve a more sustainable labour market participation
	□ Measures to decrease the gender gap & have more women in the labour market
	□ Actions to improve the balance private-working life
	□ **Fighting inactivity and discrimination at high age, e.g:**
	□ Measures for more and easy access to employability
	□ Measures to keep elderly people working
	□ **Stimulating entrepreneurship for target groups, e.g :**
	□ Measures to increase the participation of migrants/ethnic minorities in the labour market and to stimulate social integration
	□ Innovative actions
	□ **Innovative actions**
	□ **Other themes** (please specify)
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Target group for transnational cooperation (click the right answer): *(ONLY final beneficiaries, NO stakeholders)*	□ Long term Unemployed
	□ Persons not actively at work – e.g. Young people under 25 years old (Incl. school or high school/university)
	□ Employed
	□ self Employed
	□ Elderly persons (+ 50)
	▪ Specific target groups:
	▪ Disadvantaged groups (NEET – not in employment, education and training)
	○ Immigrants
	○ Ex-offenders
	○ Women
	○ Persons with mental or physical disabilities
	○ Employees in Social enterprises

Brief description of the Transnational cooperation:

1. **Problems to be solved** (justify the need of the transnational cooperation)
   The relationship between underprivileged groups and ICT is what can be called a worst-case scenario. These groups have low access to ICT, low usage levels and possess few digital skills. Most underprivileged individuals are part of a homogeneous ICT-poor network of other underprivileged individuals. They have few weak ties like colleagues, acquaintances or distant friends but many strong ties like nearby family and close friends. As a consequence, they have very few opportunities of use. Within their social network underprivileged groups rarely have the necessary material, cognitive and social resources to use ICT in a strategic way. Why should I email if there is no one to whom I can send an email? An additional barrier is that underprivileged groups rarely transcend this homogeneous but familiar social network because of too many negative experiences in the past. The continuous rejection by society, for example at the level of education or employment, has led to a loss of confidence, low levels of self-esteem, insecurity and the constant fear for rejection. Furthermore, learning barriers – low self-esteem, lack of confidence, learning difficulties, negative school experiences – prevent them from participating in education. The entrance barrier of formal education institutions is too high for underprivileged groups. This implies that other, more suited, places need to be found if one wishes to provide alternative ways of ICT-access to underprivileged groups.

   The 'DigiTalent' project aims to organize, validate and exchange the competencies available at an individual and community level to increase and enhance digital competencies amongst vulnerable groups via a bottom-up approach (eg. NEET, not in employment, education and training). If focuses on the project implementation of two best practices in the United Kingdom (Digital Champions program, Making IT Personal project) and aims to adapt these projects to the context in Flanders.

2. **Objectives to be achieved**
   The 'DigiTalent' project consists of two tracks. The project aims to increase the digital competencies amongst vulnerable groups by 1) instigating individuals to become a digital champion and hence share their knowledge in their immediate social environment; and 2) motivating vulnerable groups to become digital champions themselves and hence, extend their participation in informal learning opportunities in civil society organisations through a certain accreditation and recognition of these competences.

3. **Main transnational activities** (as provisionally planned, to be confirmed with partners)
   The main transnational activities will consist of 1) knowledge exchange via a close working relationship with the two projects mentioned (Digital Champions program, Making IT Personal program); 2) a number of study visits by the Flemish partners to the UK programs that will be implemented in the Flemish context; and 3) a number of working and evaluation visits from the transnational partners to Flanders.

4. **Planned outputs, deliverables, results of TNC; expected outcomes (effects)**
   So far the 'DigiTalent' project consists of 1) an extensive academic case study on the adaption of Digital Champions program and Making IT Personal program to the context of Flanders; 2) the realization and implementation of a communication campaign to activate individuals and intermediaries to exchange and share their digital competencies with others; in this regard a pilot project will be realized with the following project partners: Digidak, Digitaal.Talent@Gent, Digipunten Antwerp; and 3) the creation of an centralized online platform that will inform and provide support to individuals and intermediaries.

5. **Useful and additional remarks:**
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