

*On the Move* is a computer programme on the Internet meant for young people who are considering being mobile in Europe. *On the move* has been developed by many partners within the European Network of National Resource Centre for Vocational Guidance (now called: Euroguidance network) over the past 5 years. The project was initiated by Denmark under the PETRA programme in 1995, given a new life on the Internet in a Leonardo da Vinci multiplier project applied for in Iceland in 1996 and today the third generation of *On the Move* is run by the UK. The partners have always believed that *On the Move* is a unique product that provides guidance counsellors in Europe with quality tool when assisting client in integrating globalisation in his/her career development. *On the Move* can be accessed on the Internet in eight languages versions: Danish, Dutch, English, Flemish, Greek, Icelandic, Spanish and the French part of Switzerland. It is also available on CD-ROM and can be downloaded to a floppy disk for those who have not access to necessary computer facilities. Current website: [www.rthj.hi.is/otm](http://www.rthj.hi.is/otm)

### **What is On the Move?**

The main idea of the *On the Move* was to refine and disseminate information which will assist young people in their decision making process with regard to mobility in Europe. The initial objective chosen was to promote vocational training for young people and prepare them for adult and working life, taking into account the requirements of society and technological changes.

The programme is intended for young people at the age of 15 – 20 who are considering mobility in Europe and who want to have a clearer picture of what it takes to be mobile. We believe that young people are challenged with rapid changes in all respects regarding information technology, changes in the labour market and new possibilities in education and training. In order for students, employees or unemployed to make use of the opportunities available and to stimulate their career awareness for their future roles, access to appropriate information on jobs, study and training is imperative along with professional guidance. *On the Move* is meant to be a additional guidance tool where we make use of the newest technology in transferring knowledge to our young clients in this case i.e. young students, young people in transition, employees and unemployed in all kind of settings e.g. school settings, information centres, training instituitons or employment agencies. *On the Move* tries to meet this demand by providing an attractive, educational software, with playful cartoons and strong colours that is more likely to grab young peoples attention and interest.

### **What kind of information can be found in On the Move?**

When browsing through the website the user decides which way to take by answering questions in his field of interest. On the first page you decide your path by choosing between two options: whether you are thinking of going abroad to study or work. You can go back and forth and collect information of various kinds that suits you in your quest ahead. In *On the Move* a brief discussion on various issues is presented e.g. on insurance matters, a short description on vocational training systems, how to find accommodation, how to document language skills, how to apply for jobs abroad, what to expect, what necessary permits needs to be obtained, on industrial injuries, on study fees– to mention a few!

By asking questions and providing the most appropriate answers, the users will be able to determine what information they want and how to best access this. We have added addresses and list of further readings into the programme to make it more practical and expect everyone who uses *On the Move* to leave the programme with a better idea of what they really want and what is feasible for them. *On the Move* is a dynamic guidance tool which can be used in the process of clarifying ideas and needs in relation to transnational experiences. The aim is

not to provide ready answers but rather to help young people focus their questions, sharpen the discussion and identify where they might best address these questions.

### **How was *On the Move* distributed?**

*On the Move* is available both on the Internet in eight languages and on a CD-disk version. It has been distributed to the Euroguidance Network and more thoroughly within all the participating countries. The product has reached its target group, namely guidance counsellors and transnational advisors in various educational and training sectors through the means of articles in newsletter, seminars and training fairs. A special handout in French and English was also distributed on a European level. Some countries offered guidance counsellors a short training course but because of the user-friendliness of the product a self-autonomous training was expected. In order to reach the younger generation 2000 colourful postcards were distributed to various schools and organisations according to a national dissemination plan in each participating country.

### **Pros and cons**

The main ideology of *On the Move* demonstrates several very important factors that can be used when discussing Guidance in Lifelong Learning. Of course all those issues mentioned below depend upon constant development and care for the product, and they only touch upon one angle of the issues at stake.

#### Dissemination on the Internet

*On the Move* was disseminated on the Internet and on CD-disk version. The importance of the Internet version became clearer as the product developed and according to a counter set up on the Internet, several thousands visits were made in the first year. *On the Move* offers a computerised information tool specially designed for young people who have to adjust to the huge technological changes already taken place in modern society, where the skills of how to look for information are highly appreciated. Because of the Internet version the programme can be accessed hypothetically from everywhere if the necessary computer equipment is available. Because *On the Move* has always been run as a project with limited timeframe and budget, it has been difficult to update it, maintain it and develop it further. The future of a project like *On the Move* depends upon more stable surroundings than individual project can offer.

#### Dissemination materials

To achieve wider distribution 2000 colourful postcards in three playful versions have been distributed through the Euroguidance network along with a handout in English and French. The postcards were made in three versions and specially designed to be attractive to the young users of *On the Move*. Layouts, cartoons and the overall design is very important to reach the clients attention.

#### Self Learning

*On the Move* stresses independence and decision making skills. By answering questions and selecting options the user chooses his or her own independent way through the programme, get the most appropriate answers and knows where to look for further information. Along with the discussion of mobility issues the user can access respective list of addresses and further readings to support his search for more detailed information and career planning and options for vocational training abroad. That fact is likely to develop his skills in searching for the various information and adjust to the developing information society.

#### Career development

*On the Move* raises awareness on career development and future employability.

It should be recognised that in providing any potentially mobile young person with the tools to aid their decision making, particularly with regard to potential employment, training or educational opportunity, then we are surely beginning to equip them with tools to be able to face the demands of such sectors of society.

#### New tool

The product is also looked upon as a guidance tool, where guidance counsellors can refer their young clients to when they want them to have a clearer picture of what it takes to be mobile. The project combines several educational dimensions very valuable in modern technological society. It presents well defined information on career planning by using the latest technology means, e.g. the Internet and CD disk version. It offers computerised guidance tool to both counsellors and end-users and gives them opportunity to enhance their computerised skills.

#### Working methods

Through the promotional activities carried out within the *On the Move* projects some partners ran into some reluctance of guidance counsellors to act as an information service experts on transnational opportunities. In some cases guidance counsellors prefer to be regarded as specialist in personal counselling with regard to education and the world of work. This of course varies between nations.

#### Training

The lack of ICT training in the educational and training background for guidance counsellors is a fact and their young clients are far ahead in searching for information and surfing on the Net. There is a potential gap between methods used by guidance counsellors and young people! All partners in *On the Move* raised the discussion on the importance for guidance counsellors and careers advisors to use the opportunity to arm themselves with latest technology and develop their skills in using the advantages the new technology provides in modern information process work. Some measures were taken to raise the awareness of the guidance counsellors community to update their technological skills.

#### The European dimension

*On the Move* can provide global vision by intervening eight national versions of EU/EEA countries in one easy accessible packages. The partners managed to integrate each individual national version into an European packages of eight languages versions, disseminate it according to national standards and stress an unity of the European dimension in information services.

#### Quality check

An evaluation form was added to the Internet version, which was e-mailed directly to the developers of the programme, redirecting feedback for future corrections or additions. The questionnaire involves components like; country, age group, why using OTM, degree of satisfaction, usability and suggestions for improvement. A counter was also set up on the Internet counting over 2000 visits in March '99. The main results from this survey was that the users regarded the product as user-friendly and easy to use but wanted more detailed information. These results were used to prepare for and develop a new Leonardo da Vinci application in order to ensure the life and further development of *On the Move*.

#### **Future development**

*On the Move* is a collaborative project which has been developed over five years by eight nations. Many times during the development stages it has been necessary to converse and debate on a transnational level, either the text within the product or the platform upon which it would be presented. During these times it was necessary to gather opinion, make decisions, and form conclusions which would meet the needs of all partners. As regards innovation then

it must be stressed that through the use of aids to decision making, young people are able to decide the most appropriate source of information or mechanism for support to meet their individual need/s. As we approach the electronic era, young people are increasingly seeking out information outside of established structures such as through careers guidance services or guidance provision within education and increasingly young people look to the Internet as their own electronic library. Through ensuring access to *On the Move*, both through established networks such as guidance services and through other non-formal methods such as the Internet we are ensuring that all young people have access to this new tool.

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