

France: E2C (Ecole de la Deuxième Chance)

Second Chance School for Second Chances -Val de Marne Region, France

Type of provider

The Second Chance School (E2C) is an association with sites across France. The site featured in this case study, which is in the Val-de-Marne region (E2C94), opened in 2009. It trains young people (between 18 and 25 years of age) who lack formal qualifications, and assists them in validation of competences to support integration in social, civic and professional life. It partners with regional companies and institutions to organise internships, visits to companies, business conferences, educational projects with companies, and recruitment of trainees following completion of training.

Objective

E2C pioneers the European concept of «Teaching and Learning – Towards a Cognitive Society» originated by Edith Cresson in 1995. E2C94 runs courses that take 8 to 10 months, building a knowledge-based foundation and the acquisition of social and personal skills. Additionally, internships enable the discovery of different trades, career guidance and skills validation. Second Chance Schools are developed to offer an innovative solution for young adults who have left the education system without a diploma, and are at risk of exclusion. From the outset, E2C has placed great attention on the validation of skills, alternating courses and internships, drawing up approaches centered on the valorization of trainees' experience. At the end of the course, E2C delivers a certificate of acquired competences, although it is not yet officially recognised.

The training course supports:

- individual learning of basic knowledge and competences (French, mathematics, general culture) to allow the trainee to progress according at appropriate level and pace;
- the development and validation of a professional project. This is done by alternating school and internships, in order to access work or further training;
- cultural and sports activities to promote the development of socio-professional skills and learning about social and civic life.

Assessment approaches

Candidates are placed in groups. In the first session, the aims of the training course are presented validating and/or ensuring basic knowledge and competences, alternating studies/ internship and cultural and sports activities.

The «rights and duties» of trainees are clearly articulated. An interview is then conducted to ascertain the young person's educational and professional background and ensure his/her motivation and understanding of the activities, in line with programme goals.

E2C employs a "Competences Approach" framework. It has a "repository of competences" to support validation of experiences. The E2C repository aims to validate a foundation level of knowledge and professional skills, but also takes into account broader personal, social and civic dimensions. The domains evaluated are also reflected in and are compatible with the ANLCI repository (French National Agency Against Illiteracy) or in the CléA certification method (see the CléA methods described in the Innoval INFREP case study and accompanying video). It is organised into 8 domains for personal, social and professional competences. These are

Assessment approaches (rest)

as follows:

1. Communicating in French (verbal & written)
2. Mathematical reasoning & calculation
3. Using IT and digital communication
4. Working in a collective or group setting
5. Planning one's professional future
6. Lifelong learning
7. Contributing to a sustainable environment and workplace
8. Openness to cultural and social life
9. Communicating in a foreign language (verbal and written)

E2C's facilitates a «personalised» approach to training, by adapting to the needs and goals of the trainee, offering them different learning paths and promoting autonomous learning. E2C avoids focus on any skills or informal knowledge already acquired. This is done by taking into consideration:

- the trainee's achievements and training objectives;
- professional and personal goals;
- assessing what is acquired/learned after each step

Trainers/coaches support the trainee throughout the process. They conduct interviews and serve as «resource person» for the school, partners and social actors, support and motivate the trainee's academic progress. The trainer ensures that the learner progresses in line with his or her professional goals.

Companies/businesses play a large role in this programme. The internship helps the trainee gain experience in the workplace, to develop professional skills, personal abilities, and to validate short and medium-term professional projects. The company helps evaluate professional projects and facilitates workshops about a CVs and letters of motivation and simulates interviews. This also helps promote the image of their business.

Target group

E2C94 works with young people between 18 and 25 years of age, who have been out of school for more than a year and lack formal qualifications.

Potential transferability/ scalability

The E2C Network first opened in 2004 with 1,428 young trainees. There are now 15,000 registered trainees in 2017. E2C has 124 sites throughout France and continues to expand.

Summaries or Basic elements of analysis

Many graduates, following interviews, have perceived increased confidence and an improved self-image. They feel more effective in their training. In 2016, E2C94 hired an external team to look at quality improvement. One challenge faced by the team was why certain youth would leave training midway through the course. Trainee audits also took place to evaluate the level of support in order to reach professional goals. These gave rise to a decrease of trainees leaving the program. Statistics in 2017 showed an improvement in results:

- 24% of graduates continued further training, 12% entered a work/studies program, and

Summaries or Basic elements of analysis (rest)

30% receive a work contract (short-term and indefinite).

- 21 businesses were created by trainees, and 9 began working with organisations that assist entrepreneurs in the creation of their business.

Other positive results (improved from 2016) are:

Percentage of successful graduates: 83%

Average trainee age: 21 years

Number of trainees registered: 328

Trainees graduating with a job contract or pursuing further training: 57 %

Youth without prior professional experience: 78 %

Youth from priority neighbourhoods/districts: 26 %

Percentage of trainees with secondary-school certification (CAP/BEP) 79%

Presentations of E2C were also made at government meeting in January 2018 on the theme of inclusion, and the Labour Minister cited the E2C programme as a model in regards to youth at risk of exclusion. Mrs. Estelle Sauvat, High Commissioner responsible for a government investment plan around competences, met regional E2C representatives and trainees in March 2018.

