

Issues of interest from the visit to CEPA Oviedo “El Fontán”



During the meeting in Oviedo, we got a clear insight on the **education system of Spain**. We also were introduced to the activities of the CEPA de Oviedo “El Fontán”, the types of courses they operate and the results they produce. This institution is focused on **key skills and basic competence** like Spanish, English and Maths which are very important in the context of citizenships to promote inclusion in education, training, work and social life. They also enable students to move forward with their education and potentially get a degree or apply to higher level of education.

Adult education is a means of engaging people who may be in danger of falling outside the system. The school is funded by the state and the cost of learning is low, therefore, it's **available for a wide range of students**: the unemployed, immigrants, and low-skilled workers.

Teachers from CEPA Oviedo work with adults from different countries and backgrounds. During the visit we learnt what methods are applied to make sure the teaching process is effective. We were introduced to the way teachers in Oviedo manage **diversity**, what it means with the context of adult education in Oviedo, the sheer scale and range of ethnic minority and the importance of engaging vulnerable adults in training.

CEPA Oviedo provides a model of best practice concerning diversity as a way to address the difficulties of the learning process. We have seen how adaptive teaching affects the role of the teacher, the course structure and the methodology. We could also see how this methodology results in benefits for the learners. There is a nurturing environment in the classroom, where teachers ensure **positive atmosphere**. Lessons are taught by even three teachers at a time, which gives each student more time with a teacher and learners feel well-cared for

A flexible methodology is applied in order to deal with diversity. We could see how the courses run by CEPA are adapted to the needs of students. The learners use an **e-learning platform** with courses designed for them. In our visit to Oviedo, we were afforded the opportunity to witness some of the student/staff interactions and see how English was taught, and the use of e-learning platforms.

Learners can rely on **teachers' support and guidance**. They are supported in their process of reflection on the competences they already master and the ones they need to acquire, the objectives and the difficulties they have to face. Learners are encouraged to become the actors of their own learning.

Another point of interest was the **cooperation with the public employment service**, because due to the economic situation in Spain and the rate of youth unemployment this relationship becomes more relevant if possible. Through this collaboration learners contact the public employment service for information on acquiring the Professional Certificate, that recognizes the learners' previous skills and informal training and allows them to apply for a job or further training.