



# Critical Skills for Life and Work



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The **Critical Skills for Life and Work** (CSLW) project has entered its second year. The project aims to design and implement effective training tools for enhancing key skills and competences of highly-skilled refugees and the language teachers who work with them, and so enhance the employability and societal integration of skilled refugees.

The main output of the project will be a toolkit comprised of two training modules, one aimed at highly-skilled refugees and one at volunteer teachers.

The project is led by the **Newcastle University** (United Kingdom). Project partners are the **Universität Graz** (Austria), **Fryske Akademy/Mercator** (The Netherlands) and the refugee charity **Action Foundation** (United Kingdom).

The project team is currently working on the materials for the training modules.

## STEERING GROUP MEETING

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the Newcastle team welcomed Sarah Mercer of the Universität Graz for a steering group meeting at Action Foundation. The team discussed and planned the crucial piloting and evaluation stage which will begin in February 2019 ahead of a transnational project meeting in Leeuwarden in March.

A project overview and further updates are available on the [website](#).



*Alina Schartner, Tony Young and Sara Ganassin (University of Newcastle); Sarah Mercer (Universitaet Graz); Nicola Brooks (Action Foundation) at the steering group meeting*



## CPD TRAINING FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Between September and December 2018, the project team at Newcastle University delivered a series of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training sessions in partnership with Action Foundations.

On December 13th, Dr Muge Satar delivered a session on designing and creating self-study digital materials. During the session, language teachers from Action Foundation discussed the type of materials that would be most suitable to be delivered online, as well as the importance of clear instructions and feedback provided in the materials. The teachers explored [www.h5p.org](http://www.h5p.org), a free and open-source platform for the creation of rich interactive online content, and reflected on how their materials can be adapted as or supplemented by digital activities.

The group also met with Prof Song Li and Dr Zhang Jin from the School of Foreign Languages of the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) in north east China, who were visiting Newcastle University as part of an academic trip in the UK.

We want to thank all teachers for the crucial input in creating the CSLW training toolkit and we look forward to sharing the materials!



*Impression of the CPD training for language teachers at Newcastle University*

### UNI GRAZ, PILOTING UNIT 4 – LEARNER MATERIAL

On Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, the University of Graz team piloted Unit 4 – learner material, entitled “Being interviewed for a job”.

At the beginning, we introduced the project, the rationale behind it, and explained the purpose of piloting the designed toolkit. Twelve (8 female and 4 male) teachers participated. They were kindly asked to read, evaluate, and, as a whole group, discuss the unit.

On the whole, the teachers thought that the Unit is well put, thought through, has clear layout and, most importantly helpful for the target audience, the highly skilled refugees. They also had interesting questions and observations about the visuals, as well as valuable suggestions for us to consider.

### UPCOMING: MULTIPLIER EVENT IN LEEUWARDEN

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, the Fryske Akademy/Mercator will organise a CSLW multiplier event. Teachers and learners are invited to evaluate the toolkit, so their input can be used to ‘fine tune’ the materials.

All project partners will attend this event since the consortium is having their third transnational project meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss the piloting phase and the progress of the project.

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## THE PARTNERSHIP



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Action Foundation  
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Fryske Akademy  
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