

CoTalent

Working in Europe to Connect Talent development in higher education

Project summary

The CoTalent project aims to provide teachers in European higher education with tools to stimulate their talented students

Europe simply cannot afford to waste talent. Therefore, nine organisations strongly committed to talent development in higher education have joined forces to develop tools that can help teachers spot and stimulate talents. Their project *Working in Europe to Connect Talent development in higher education* (CoTalent) has received EU funding under the Strategic Partnerships program within Erasmus+ Key Action 2, allowing it to run until August 2020. Hanze University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Groningen from the Netherlands leads the consortium.

CoTalent Wizard

The project addresses the problem that talented students in European higher education are not sufficiently challenged. As a consequence, young people do not fully develop their talents and the skills they need to have an excellent start in society. They might even drop out of education. One way to handle this problem is to better equip teachers. Therefore, the nine organisations develop tools which help talented young people reach their full potential. These tools are integrated into the CoTalent Wizard, an e-learning environment helping teachers to foster talent. It is developed in an international process of co-creation and consists of three parts:

1. an instrument for teachers to self-evaluate their views towards talent development (MeTalent Mirror)
2. an instrument to spot talented students (YouTalent Spotter)
3. an integrated e-library consisting of texts, images and minimovies enabling teachers to implement a research-based talent development program.

Partners in international co-creation

The CoTalent project coordinator is Professor Marca Wolfensberger, who leads the Research Centre for Talent Development in Higher Education and Society at Hanze University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. She is also honours coordinator at the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University and President of the European Honors Council. The nine partners in the CoTalent project are:

1. Hanze University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands)
2. The International Centre for the Study of Giftedness (ICBF) at the University of Muenster (Germany)
3. Metropolitan University College (Denmark)
4. The Austrian Research and Support Centre for the Gifted and Talented (Austria)
5. The University of Antwerp (Belgium)
6. The University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iasi (Romania)
7. Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands)
8. Utrecht University (the Netherlands)
9. The European Honors Council, a Europe-wide network uniting people involved in talent development in higher education, is involved as associate partner.

More information about the project can be found at www.cotalentwizard.eu (in development)

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CoTalent project planning

In the CoTalent project, teachers and students from the partner institutions work together in a process of co-creation to develop the CoTalent wizard, which aims to provide teachers in European higher education with tools to stimulate their talented students. The CoTalent Wizard consists of an instrument for teachers to self-evaluate their views towards talent development (MeTalent Mirror), an instrument to spot talented students (YouTalent Spotter) and an integrated e-library consisting of texts, images and minimovies enabling teachers to implement a research-based talent development program.

Two main events where the co-creation will take place are the week-long CoTalent workshops in June 2018 and summer 2019. In addition, twice a year the core group of the project will meet in Transnational Project Meetings (travelling around the partner institutions).

The project results will be presented in three public events. The project's main events are:

- **11-15 June 2018: CoTalent Workshop 1 - Hanze University of Applied Sciences (UAS), Groningen, Netherlands**

The first CoTalent Workshop is an intensive program where students and teachers from the partner institutions co-create products to support teachers in stimulating talented students. In the week-long program, 12 teachers and 12 students from the CoTalent partner institutions come together to learn about talent development and honors pedagogies and co-create content for the CoTalent Wizard.

- **November 2018: MeTalent YouTalent Event 1 (E1) - Metropol University College, Copenhagen, Denmark**

At this event, first draft versions (in English) of the MeTalent Mirror and the YouTalent Spotter will be presented to a mixed national and international audience (30 persons in total). The audience is asked to actively participate in evaluating and improving the outputs.

- **Summer 2019: CoTalent Workshop 2 (C4-6) - University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iasi, Iasi, Romania**

CoTalent Workshop 2 again brings together teachers and students from the partner institutions, under the leadership of expert invited teaching staff, with the aim of co-creating content for the intellectual outputs of the project. The Workshop serves as a laboratory, providing input for the CoTalent Wizard.

- **November 2019: MeTalent YouTalent Event 2 (E2) - The International Centre for the Study of Giftedness (ICBF) at the University of Muenster (Germany)**

At the MeTalent YouTalent Event 2, final versions of the MeTalent Mirror and the YouTalent Spotter will be presented to a mixed national and international audience (60 persons in total). Versions in local languages are also finalised before this event. The participants are asked in a workshop-like setting to work with the products, using the English-language versions and local-language versions where possible.

- **June 2020: CoTalent Wizard Event (E3) - Hanze University of Applied Sciences (UAS), Groningen, Netherlands**

During this final event, the teachers and students who have worked together with the participating institutions will present the complete CoTalent Wizard to other HEIs from around Europe. Active participation of the mixed national and international audience (100 persons in total) is required. We

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will discuss how the CoTalent Wizard raises awareness of talent development and ethical and civic values and attitudes in European Higher Education.

CoTalent Workshop, 11-15 June 2018



Are you interested in helping to make a sustainable change in talent development in European Higher Education? The CoTalent Workshop is an intensive program where students and teachers co-create products to support teachers in stimulating talented students. In the week-long program, 12 teachers and 12 students from the CoTalent partner institutions come together to learn about talent development and honors pedagogies. They will use this week to co-create and test products that will help teachers around Europe to stimulate talent development.

What we will do

The workshop is part of the EU-funded CoTalent project, in which teachers and talented students from six European countries work together to learn and collaborate on different themes related to talent development. During the week, we work on the following:

1. The first draft of the MeTalent Mirror (an instrument for teachers to self-evaluate their views towards talent development) will be used, discussed and further developed with the participants.
2. The first draft of the YouTalent Spotter (an instrument to spot talented students) will be used, discussed and further developed with the participants.
3. Participating teachers will be trained in the three pillars of honors pedagogies.
4. Participating students will be trained in how to interview and to create minimovies for the e-library which is part of the CoTalent project.

Participants

The participating students and teachers will represent a diversity of backgrounds, coming from different countries and from various schools and faculties. Teachers and students will work together, but also split up at various moments, working on the first ideas of the tools. Both of the groups will be guided on this process: teachers by offering expert information about spotting talents in the educational system (with a special focus on Higher Education) and students by guiding them to self-reflect on their own learning experiences throughout their educational career.

We are looking for participants:

- who are involved and/or interested in talent development programs
- who are willing to invest their time and creativity in a co-creation process
- who get inspired by an international and interdisciplinary context where ideas can be developed into concrete products.

Practicalities

- The CoTalent Workshop is held from Monday 11 June – Friday 15 June 2018 at Hanze UAS in Groningen, the Netherlands. We start Monday at 11.00 and end Friday at 15.00.
- Selection of participants is handled per institution, by the institutional coordinator.
- Participants will be provided with accommodation and meals. Travel will be arranged through the institutional coordinator. Of course the program also provides social events and opportunities to explore the city of Groningen and its surroundings.
- Hanze will provide a certificate to students / teachers upon successful participation.

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More information can be obtained from project leader Maarten Hogenstijn
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