

REPORT

on

First Transnational Meeting in Italy (Potenza) on Erasmus+ Project "ICT for Minimizing Dropout" (2016-1-LV-01-KA219-022656)

15-17 December 2016

Day 1 (15 December)

OPENING OF PROJECT MEETING (GREETINGS OF HEADMISTRESS OF ISTITUTO PROFESSIONALE DI STATO PER I SERVIZI DI ENOGASTRONOMIA E L'OSPITALITÀ ALBERGHIERA 'UMBERTO DI PASCA')

PRESENTATIONS OF PROJECT PARTNER SCHOOLS

Latvia

EU Regulation Nr.1288/2013

One of the goals in the strategy for smart, sustainable and integrative development «Eiropa 2020» :

Decrease the number of dropout students till the level less than 10%, and provide that at least 40% of adults in age of 30-34 have been given **terciar** or adequate education.

Criteria for dissemination of Erasmus+ programm:

- Percentage of those youth students (age 18-24) who have only elementary education and who are not included in any of educational or training organisation.
- Percentage of those people in age of 30-34 who have already gained terciar or adequate education.

European Union conclusions on minimizing dropouts and promoting students' achievements:

Factors that promote decision making to dropout:

- structure and quality of educational systems;
- not supporting environment at school;
- violence and giving fear;
- environment where students do not feel respected and evaluated;
- teaching methods and curriculum;
- not enough support for students;
- lack of career education and regulations;
- not very good relationships between teachers and students.

Research connected with dropouts, done in Latvia:

- Identification and analysis of new challenges and the possibilities of their solutions that influence joining (returning) adults (18-24) to long life learning

process», 2012 – 2015, University of Latvia Latvijas Universitāte – **the only research in Latvia about evening schools**

- «Research on developing alternatives of dropout policy problem solving», 2015, „Aptauju Centrs” Ltd. and „Excolo Latvia” Ltd.
- Report of Education Quality State Service on research of practice «Problem of doing one form (class) in two years in educational organisations that provides contemporary elementary education in Latvia», 2016. – **our school also joined.**
- Report of Education Quality State Service on research of practice «Absence of students of compulsory and vocational education organisations and what is done to prevent them», 2015.
- Research on reasons and risks of dropouts for youth in age group 13-18, 2014, Baltic Institute of Social Sciences

Legislation in Latvia concerning dropouts:

- **Regulation of Cabinet of Ministers Nr. 89** «Regulation how educational organisation informs parents, other municipal and state organisations about the fact that the student does not attend school without any good reason»
 - 01.02.2011. – amendments of regulation concerning school youth (not 18 years old yet);
 - 06.09.2016. – amendments of regulation concerning also adults (older than 18).

Good practice of Ventspils Secondary Evening School for minimizing dropouts:

- Work of support team at school (administration, social employee, psychologist, responsible teachers).
- Interinstitutional cooperation among municipal police, social service and custody court (orphans/family court).
- Individual plans.
- Offering different school curriculum (non-presence and distance learning)
- Meetings together with students, administration, responsible teachers and subject teachers (so called pedagogical councils)
- Individual conversations with students
- Involvement of students in different activities outside the lessons.

Lithuania

Taurage Adult Centre - average age of students – 27. 45 % of students work, 34 % of students have young children (up to 7 years), 31% of them live in rural areas, 19 % of students come from other areas.

Children do not attend school mainly due to the following reasons:

- inability to learn learning materials and not on time educational assistance;
- psychological characteristics of personality;
- emotional and behavioural disorders;

- socio-economic circumstances;
- lack of competence of teachers to work with adults students.

Romania

Technical College “Matei Basarab”

School dropout is the phenomenon of leaving the educational system before obtaining a graduate certificate. Official statistics shows that in our country school dropout is a serious problem which places Romania on the third place in Europe in relation to dropout problem.

For the last 3 years, the dropout rate has increased from 17.3% in 2013 to 19,1% in 2015 in Romania. Therefore, Romanian target of dropout rate is the average European rate, 11%, by 2020. The strategy of Romanian Minister of Education until 2020 describes the actions that can address the dropout problem at national level such as improving the relevance and the attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training across the country.

Some of our statistics show that the dropout rate was at 9,8% at the end of 2014-2015 school year and has increased to 16% at the end of 2015-2016 school year. Therefore, we conducted an updated research related to collecting information from students who are at risk to dropout and we discovered some of the main reasons that make them less interested in studying. One of the main reason is that they are not strongly motivated to participate in school training activities in order to obtain a professional qualification because it is very difficult to find available jobs locally. At the same time, a substantial number of our students live in rural areas and experience financial problems. As a consequence, many students are exposed to the major risk to dropout the school.

- The risk factors for school dropout can be classified:
 - economic
 - demographic
 - socioeconomic
 - personal
- In Romania the socio economic risk factors have a large importance for school dropout rates. This are: roma nationality, rural residence, parents in agriculture related occupation, poverty.

In order to adress the problem of a low motivation of students and to increase the attractiveness of education offered, our school has implemented a Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project, „YESdigital“, between October 2012 and September 2014.

Turkey

Reasons of dropout:

- friends and social environment
- Academic Failure
- Grade repetition
- Parental pressure and other parental reasons

- Decrease in trust against school

National level suggested solutions:

- A call center and an internet portal for dropouts
- By setting a communication mechanism among the stakeholders (Ministry of Education, Ministry of family and social policy etc)
- By building and implementing a strategy and action plan with all stakeholders
- By rearranging and developing the curriculum according to needs of dropouts
- By making use of ICT (Fatih Project)

School level suggestions:

- Carrying out orientation work with new pupils
- By improving the Parent-Teacher cooperation
- By seminars for parents
- By a better guidance (My teacher, My counsellor project)
- By making use of ICT (FATİH Project- smart boards, tablets etc)
- By making the school environment more fun for pupils

Italy

- projects related to students' educational programs
- PON projects
- Erasmus projects
- various work experiences
- professional training

DISCUSSION ON DROPOUT SITUATION IN EACH PARTNER SCHOOL WITH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF ISTITUTO PROFESSIONALE DI STATO PER I SERVIZI DI ENOGASTRONOMIA E L'OSPITALITÀ ALBERGHIERA 'UMBERTO DI PASCA')

PRESENTATION ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES (COORDINATOR) **marked in green – the nearest project activities, marked in red – the changed project dates and activities.**

M1 – First transnational meeting (Italy, December 14-18, 2016)

M2 – Transnational meeting on dissemination (Latvia, **April, 2018**)

C1 – short-term joint staff training event (Latvia, **3-9 April, 2017**). Planned number of people -19, **money given for 12 (IT-3; TR-3; LT-3; RO-3; DN-0)**

C2 - short-term joint staff training event (Denmark, October/2017 – **discussed and decided NOT to be implemented due to Denmark's withdrawal**)

C3 – blended mobility of school learners (Turkey, April/2018) - participant students and accompanying teachers will acquire new competences on some ICT tools like Weebly, Blogger, Wevideo, Slideshare. Teachers will exchange ideas on new Web 2.0 tools to integrate their classes. Discussions about the materials worked out by students - video films about the dropout problem in every country (A3), interviews with the graduates and the possible employers (A4, A5) Goal: To improve ICT skills of students and teachers. Planned number

– 23, money given for 18 students (LV-5; IT-5; LT-3; RO-5; DN-0), mind – take money from management for accompanying teacher.

C4 - short-term joint staff training event (Romania, October/2017) - Improving the content and design of the online course “Career Education and guidance in the context of the European Single Market” – planned number 19, money given for 12 (LV-3; IT-3; TR-3; LT-3; DN-0)

C5 - short-term joint staff training event (Lithuania, October/2018) - Content: Dropout problem in Lithuania, visiting Taurage Adult training Center and Tauragė vocational school, and other adult schools in Lithuania (Kelmė, Kėdainiai, Kretinga, Klaipėda) Organizing a workshop for participating teachers: “What can teachers do to help students stay in school”. Goal: To share our experience in minimizing dropouts by using ICT, different teaching methods. Planned number – 19, money given for 12 (LV-3; IT-3; TR-3; RO-3; DN-0)

Activities:

A1 - homepage (Latvia, January 2017) - Responsibility – Latvia, deputy director in IT Dace Bergmane

Homepage address – dropoutmin.eu

- Links to project homepage must be inserted in every school's homepage
- Every school's homepage must have a short info about the project (the name of project, time, partners, link or reference to project homepage)
- Content – what kind of information and how much we would like to include (Calendar of the project with 12 months' activities. The information is added during the whole project implementation time (LV-Sandra and Dace, initially according to the activities given on the project proposal, correction – if necessary)

Photo gallery that shows common activities and those taking place in every school (responsibility – coordinators of those schools where the particular activities take place, in time of 3 days after the activity is done, selected photos with comments are sent to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv)

Project results, for example, presentations, results of surveys, video etc. (responsible coordinators of every school send to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv)

- The initial version of homepage will be available till the end of January, Sandra will inform you about that.

Responsibles:

A short/brief information about the project (from the proposal) – actuality, goals, tasks (LV – Sandra)

Contacts: schools' e-mails, names, surnames and e-mails of school coordinators (schools' coordinators send to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv till 06.01.2017)

A brief information about every school: when founded, how large, what characterises the school, its offers, experience in projects (schools' coordinators send to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv till 06.01.2017)

5 photos that characterise the school, each photo must have a comment! (schools' coordinators send to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv till 06.01.2017). Mind! Fill in a table of two parts: name of the photo and description of the photo.

A2 –sharing good experience (every partner, see in time-table)

A3 – (every partner, October/November, 2017), video films on dropout's problem. Two goals: ICT use in practice and what students think of the problem of dropouts. These results can be used during LTTA C3 (work in groups, creative workshop). 3-5 minutes not more than 3-5 films

A4 – (December/2017/January 2018) - video interviews (employer) Students interview the employers (students should get to know if it is possible that they can apply for a job without any experience, how they can choose the new job, how important IT knowledge is, what kind of professions are important, the attitude of employer, how important the digital literacy is). Goal: ICT use in practice and getting knowledge about skills for job market. Results can be used during LTTA C3 (work in groups, creative workshop). Responsible: Lithuania: [template form, 3-5 video interviews in native language eith subtitles in English, max length – 3 min](#)

A5 – (February/March 2018) - video interviews with the youth who has graduated the school (their experience in the job market, what or who urged them to start learning again, who or what helped not to dropout).

A6 – (March/April 2017) seminars/brainstorms for students and/or parents organized in every partner school about the issue how they see the educational process, what would help them. The results can be used as a work material to continue brainstorming in international groups (Italy summarizes)

A7 – surveys (Italy, January/February 2017) - (40-100 students in each school should be asked) – what makes you to return to school, were there any problems? Goal: to summarize and compare data to organize the more optimal support system for students. Remember to set up the target group. Must be done in January (summary and conclusions should be sent till 31.01.2017. to sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv and dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv)

A8 – career education (October 2017-October 2018, Romania) - Career Education and guidance in the context of the European Single Market. The on-line course - focused on informing the students about their opportunities in the European Single Market.

A9 – surveys about feedback (all the time except summer holidays, every partner) - Survey about feedback. All time during the project. The responsible person: for every activity of the project the coordinator of partner schools writes a report and summarizes the results. The Goal: to use the received feedback in the process of evaluating the project, as well as to improve content and organizational quality during the project.

A10 – implementation (all the time except summer holidays, every partner) - Implementations activity, all time during the project. Preparing Press releases and/or publications for media, publishing and updating the information in the web page at least once in a quarter.

A11 – dissemination (April-June 2019, every partner) Dissemination of the results. At the end of the project each partner school organize the activity for dissemination the results – a seminar or a conference for the teachers and/or parents and other interested persons.

A12 – communication (every partner) Communication among partners through ICT (webinar, e-mail, Skype, etc.). At least, once in a month. (Seems, once a week) - Writing e-mails, always address them to **all project** partners:

LV: sandra.kalnina@ventspils.lv; vakara.vidusskola@ventspils.lv;
dace.bergmane@ventspils.lv; iveta.rubene@ventspils.lv;

LT: smctaurage@gmail.com; rimute_bandziniene@yahoo.de

RO: gsi_caracal@yahoo.com; liviazgn@yahoo.com;
tecunicoletanew@gmail.com

IT: pzrh010005@istruzione.it; euro-net@memex.it; mrpomarico@gmail.com;
tittiamorosi@gmail.com; pierluigi64@hotmail.com

TR: 325779@meb.k12.tr; mustafakozan1982@gmail.com;

A13 – group on Facebook (Turkey, December/2016)

Mind: after every activity in time of 3 days – summary and report of the particular activity should be sent to all partners.

Day 2 (16 December)

PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK “UNE MEDIUM, DUE BOVARY E IL MISTERO DI BOCCA DI LUPPO” BY GASTANO CAPELLI.

The book as a project result was presented, and it is devoted to Italian culture, food and wine traditions. Partner school of Italy support the idea of untraditional

approach to raise students interest of learning and decrease risk of dropouts. Prominent people took part in the presentation (the school headmistress, the author, the president of film company, the general of carabinieri).

DISCUSSION OF CHANGES IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES DUE TO DENMARK WITHDRAWAL

During the first meeting it was decided NOT to do C2 due to Denmark withdrawal and due to a specific activity of involving students in the process of creating of learning materials.

Day 3 (17 December)

DEFINITION OF RULES FOR THE PROJECT REPORTS AND FINANCIAL ISSUE

20% (not more) of project budget can be redivided. A specific platform Mobility Tool+ is set for writing content and financial reports (Romania already has access to it)

Rules of financing the project were discussed. Every partner is responsible for given project budget.

DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES, PROJECT PUBLICITY

Logo of the project – Romania, Livia (very soon)

Every partner is responsible for including project results into school's homepage after every activity and transnational training mobilities. Remember Nicoleta's remark about target audience (whom you address the information, what would be reached by sharing this information and why it is needed).

Send info also to your national agency and mass media.

Events that concern information also need the list of participants.

Send press releases to mass media about activities, ask mass media people to take part in activities, save photos and videos from the activities. Local TV or radio?

Always remember to prepare feedback questionnaire for every activity.

Use Google Drive for putting documents in it.

Always include logo of Erasmus+ and flag of EU on project documents.

VISIT TO MATERA