



Welcome to the first ScienceLit project Newsletter!

Project ScienceLit: Scientific Literacy for all!

First we would like to say that we don't want to just fill Your inbox, but just once every few months we would like to inform You about all that we have done and what we are working on, like:

- Our meetings,
- The materials we will develop,
- Development of our web platform,
- The National coordination committee meetings,
- Dissemination events we will organize,
- And our developed results.



Background and description of the project

The European Union has the challenge to advance towards more responsible and impacting science, looking for innovative links between science and people. Making science more attractive for young people, enrolling citizens in research or promoting formal and informal scientific education, are for instance, some of the objectives under the Horizon 2020 programme. Likewise, the European reference framework points out the need of developing key competences for lifelong learning of the adult population including the knowledge of fundamental and scientific concepts, principles and methods. The European reference framework suggests that these knowledge and competences may make adult learners more critical and able to make complex assessments of situations in everyday life, for instance taking into account ethical issues when assessing the impact of technological progress in their families and communities. Based on the necessity to develop adult learners' scientific knowledge, the ScienceLit project aims to develop a methodology for the transference of scientific knowledge to adults with low skills and in disadvantaged situations who participate in non-formal educational programmes.

The project is directed to four target groups. The main target group is adult learners with low skills and in disadvantaged situations, more concretely, adults above the age of 55 and young adults at risk of age 18 to 34. The project uses the dialogic communicative methodology that incorporates participants as part of the project team. This means that adult learners traditionally excluded from the areas of education and science will be key speakers and participants in the project. The other three target groups are: adult education educators, professionals and volunteers; adult education providers and schools; and public administration and decision makers.

Main activities and results

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To facilitate the access to scientific knowledge to adult people, especially to those in at-risk situations, providing them with the tools that they need for their scientific literacy; tools that enable them to understand, interpret and analyse the scientific knowledge independently and autonomously.
- To develop the ScienceLit Methodology to transfer scientific knowledge to adult people.
- To connect European Science institutions with the Adult people at risk in order to contribute to set science closer to society. And to develop key competences (literacy, numeracy) by participating in Successful Educational Actions like Scientific Gatherings.

The key innovation of the project is that it applies a Successful Educational Action (SEA), an educational action that has been scientifically tested to always have effective results, to a new field, that of science. The SEA used is the “dialogic gathering”. The first main output of the project, the ScienceLit methodology, explains how to implement “scientific dialogic gatherings” so that they can be implemented in adult schools across Europe. The second output of the project is an Interactive Guide, available online (open access), which will contain audio-visual materials on the methodology as well as on how to organize and participate in a scientific dialogic gathering. The third output will be a training course for educators and volunteers on scientific dialogic gatherings.

The project is led by Agora (Spain), a community-based association with 30 years of experience in the implementation of SEAs. The team is also composed by two community-based organizations with a long tradition of work with vulnerable groups (Slovenia and Greece), a federation of centres of adult education with access to multiple centres, organizations, and public institutions at the European level (Spain), and a big research institution on adult education (Germany). The combination of the expertise of these partners will guarantee the high quality of the outputs.

The expected results are the acquisition of basic competences by adult learners and the promotion of the independence and autonomy of vulnerable collectives of adults. This project opens a new line of work in adult education.



Methodology on Scientific Literacy for Adult

The first output that the partnership has already delivered is the Methodology on Scientific Literacy for Adult Education, it is also considered as the main project output. It was designed and agreed through the implementation of national scientific dialogic gatherings. The Dialogic Literary Gathering is a Successful Educational Action (SEA) recognized by the European project INCLUD-ED for its capacity to overcome inequalities and promote social cohesion. More concretely, the Dialogic Literary Gathering consists of: “reading a classical literature book and then sharing meanings, interpretations and reflections with the dialogic learning methodology.” The present project applied for the first time this SEA to the field of science to develop a scientific literacy methodology. Dialogic gatherings are already used in regards numeracy and literacy but have not been implemented in regards to science. Thus, this methodology is completely innovative and original. This SEA reinforces people’s capacity to question, to look for information and discuss about all kind of scientific questions. In doing so, scientific dialogic gatherings may help to strength the dialogue among science and society, reducing the existing distances.

The partnership started the implementation of scientific dialogic gatherings in November 2016 and the partners are still implementing them now. In Spain the gatherings are implemented weekly, meaning the gatherings are well received and liked by the participants. If You want to see for yourself how these gatherings go, just contact the partner from your country and ask about the gatherings.

Current tasks

The partners are now setting their focus on the second intellectual output of the project, which is called ScienceLit Interactive Guide on Scientific Literacy for Adult Education. Basically this means, that the partnership will prepare video guides, that will be very useful for Adult Educators, as they will show and explain on video, how the methodology of the gatherings is applied in an actual group of participants. The main task of the partners right now is to make and produce more video sequences in order to produce good quality interactive guides.

The Partnership:

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To be continued...

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