

EU Project visualLearning

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT I: Evaluation of the Project Progress

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Hennef, Germany, January 2008

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1 Evaluation topics and proceedings

1.1 Evaluation topics

This report continues the evaluation of the project and ties on the Interim Evaluation Report which evaluated the work process from the beginning of the project to the 3rd partner meeting in Bonn. Continued evaluation includes the question if the suggestions of the interim evaluation report had been tried out and if they were useful.

The work process during the 4th to the 7th periods and the whole progress of the project will be evaluated here.

The impressive range of products which have outcome from the project will be evaluated separately: The Final Evaluation Report II deals with the project products CD-ROM and gallery and surveys the dissemination activities.

1.2 Evaluation proceedings

1.2.1 Evaluation by documents

The impacts and outputs of the project will be measured by the effects on the partners involved and the effects on the target group.

Effects on the transnational partnership will be proved by the documents of the work process.

The effects of evidence on the target groups are realised by the products and their dissemination.

1.2.2 Observation

The work process had been observed by documents as monitoring reports and by information about the project management in discussions with the coordinator. Here the effects on good transnational partnership could be explored.

1.2.3 Evaluation of the whole work process

Final remarks will resume the effects of work in the project work.

1.3 Results of evaluation

The main question will be if the outcome of the projects meets the expectations of the goals as being specified in the proposal.

This work reports the results of evaluation by quality and by quantity.

The above mentioned topics will be presented in qualitative appreciation. All the documents and outcomes of the project will be given in a numbered list which shows their quantity.

2 The work process from the 3rd partner meeting to the end of the project – 4th to 7th periods

The work process is evaluated in the chronological order of the project up to 7th project period.

The appropriate documents concerning the 4th partner meeting are

- presentations
- minutes
- evaluation.

The documents concerning the 4th to 7th period are

- Suggestions and contributions after the interim evaluation report
- National report of the Netherlands
- Synopsis chart of the national reports
- Monitoring reports
- Dissemination reports
- Final report.

Furthermore meetings with the coordinator allowed the observation and suggestions for the project management.

2.1 Work process from the 3rd to 4th partner meeting in Dublin

2.1.1 Presentations for the 4th partner meeting

The presentations for Dublin are focussed on the results of group discussions and on the national workshop's results. They give an overview over impressions and trends and make recommendations for the final products of the project. Even if they show the variety of approaches in the partner countries their sum total of knowledge is a fruitful base for the final concept of the trainer's guide.

2.1.2 Minutes of the meeting

Subjects and working plans fit in with the adjusted work plan. The minutes report the discussion in a differentiated way and give a clear impression of the work process. They also put the discussions and decisions into a detailed work plan with tasks and dates for the partners.

The partners started the meeting with a visualisation of their expectations to the meeting. It is a very good impact of the project that they behave as trainers and use visual methods.

All topics of the meeting were consequently worked out with focus on finalization of tasks and products. Regarding this goal the coordinator wisely took the priority on products which were 100 percent done up to this point and renounced on demanding new activities, but gave the chance to compensate missing contributions by other works still to do.

The meeting ended with a reflection on the work process of the partners. All expressed their satisfaction about the results (or those to come) but also touched upon the difficulties which emerged from the change of partners in the middle of the project and from the number of reports. Altogether everyone was looking for solutions, instead of sticking with the problems, and stressed that the experience was surely positive.

2.1.3 The work process and the 4th Partner Meeting in Dublin

The evaluator accompanied the 4th partner meeting by a questionnaire which helped to reflect the work process up to that point and the meeting itself.

Questions	Ra- tings	Answers or comments
WORK PROCESS between the 3rd and 4th Partner-Meeting		
<i>The following questions were given a rating on a 1 low to 10 high scale with added facultative comment.</i>		
How well could you succeed in sending your contributions to the partners (national workshops, group discussions, dissemination and monitoring reports)?	8,2	The partners gave a frank reflection on their troubles to follow the work plan. Altogether the rating shows that they felt good with their mutual contributions.
How well could you use the contributions of the partners for your national work process?	7,4	Most answers stress the advantages of exchange of ideas. The coordinator however mentioned the difficulties to prepare the final outcomes without the required contributions.
To which extend is the aim of good transnational partnership realised in the project?	8,6	The partnership worked fine. The Dutch partner regrets the problems of their late entry.
Please add any additional comments or suggestions here.	-	Some would have liked one more additional meeting to be helpful. The partner with delayed works accepted the responsibility.
Average Rating of WORK PROCESS:	8,1	

The work process is frankly reflected and at the same time gives the impression of quite strong mutual partnership.

<i>Questions</i>		<i>Answers or comments</i>	
EVALUATION of the 4th MEETING			
What were your expectations of this meeting?		All partners and the coordinator expressed their wish to set up all details concerning the final steps of the project.	
To what extent have these expectations been met?		These expectations have completely been met.	
EVALUATION of the SESSIONS		<i>Ratings</i>	
Introduction: Finalization of the project – Work plan, tasks and obligations		9,4	A real clarifying event.
National reports Reports as part of CD-ROM; discussion of summaries and comparative analysis		9,0	Productive and constructive work
Learning biographies, Analysis of group discussions with learners		8,8	Delightful presentations and reports.
Newsletter		8,8	It's very clear to everyone what we have to do now.
Qualification concept Findings, recommendations, common concept, further steps		9,6	Good preparatory work by Monika and Dirk. Great discussion, very happy with outcome.
Outcome and project products, Qualification concept – Handbook / guide for trainers – CD-ROM – Gallery		8,8	See above: very constructive session
Final report		9,0	All clear
Dissemination		9,2	(same)
Monitoring		9,2	(same)
Evaluation		9,2	Nice questionnaire! Rather confronting with own limitations, but we have to be honest about that as well. Clear, easy to follow, covered all the points.
Average Rating of SESSIONS		9,1	

Questionnaire continued

Which session(s) did you find most useful?	Partners: Qualification workshop, Very open discussion on the concept. Coordinator: All sessions related to our final products (qualification concept, handbook)
Which session(s) did you find least useful?	Discussion about Handbook or CD-ROM.
Did you receive adequate information about the meeting before it began?	Partners: Yes Coordinator: unfortunately not from all partners.
Comments on the accommodation and food	Excellent, thanks to Fergus
Additional comments	Partners: Great group to work with. Honest discussion. Coordinator: We will meet our goals!

Even though the work process had some difficult phases the partners expressed their happiness about the transnational exchange.

2.2 Documents of the 4th to 7th period

2.2.1 Suggestions and contributions after the interim evaluation report

The interim evaluation reports suggested an overview over the findings of the national reports in a synopsis chart.

In the 3rd meeting the partners expressed the wish to have a feedback form for their national workshops similar to the feedback questionnaire used in the 3rd partner meeting. This form was provided and consequently used in the national trial workshops.

2.2.2 National Report of the Netherlands

Even though the Dutch report does not exactly follow the prescriptions of the outline for national reports it gives an interesting overview over the feasibility of visualisation in E-learning, regarding also aspects of learning in the Netherlands. Thereby the ensemble of the national reports receives important new aspects.

2.2.3 Synopsis chart of the national reports

A summary grid was written in addition to the National Reports. The synopsis chart is currently presented on the internals section of the project web page gives an overview on the European state of the art of visual learning. In addition summaries of the national reports are available which follow the grid of the synopsis chart.

2.2.4 Monitoring reports

All monitoring reports fulfil the requirements which the coordinator had given after the 3rd reporting period and answer the questions of the outline.

The monitoring reports of the Dutch partner give an honest insight into the difficulties to organise group discussions and national qualification workshops, due to the late entry of this partner.

The monitoring reports of the partners show a good progress of work: workshops and group discussion had been held and brought to the expected results. Although the partners promote the project work as concerns national qualification workshops or the development of the local network of national experts with a different intensity the good results are to be seen in the products.

2.2.5 Dissemination reports

The dissemination reports will be evaluated in the above mentioned final evaluation report II for certain products and dissemination.

2.2.6 The final report

The final report due the end of the project in January 2008 is present. It follows the specifications of such reports and gives a well focussed overview over the whole project.

In the description of project activities, products and results the coordinator relates the targets to outcome and results of the project and defines the project achievements.

- The states of the art of “visual literacy” in the 5 partner countries are described in the national reports. A general picture emerges in an additional synopsis.
- The role of “visual learning” in the learning process and in learning biographies is specified in the findings of interviews and group discussion. In addition the final document “explorative research” resumes the findings of interview and group discussions.
- A qualification workshop for trainers ended the research and started the production phase of the project. In all partner countries national workshops gave the qualification concept a trial the results of which flew into the final qualification concept put down in a trainer’s guide and a method’s manual to make teachers and trainers experts of “visual learning”.

The report lists the products of the project. They are presented on the web page, part of them in the internals section, and on the CD-ROM which is published after the end of the project. Those two outcomes will be considered separately.

2.3 Observation of the coordinator and suggestions for the project management.

Means of observation during the work process were personal meetings with the coordinator and the correspondence which the coordinator conducted with the partners.

2.3.1 Observation by meetings

There were four extra meetings for consultation between the coordinator and the evaluator. In these meetings the evaluator took the role of a conversational partner with whom the coordinator could discuss the strategies to bring the works to the required results. This included the preparation and call for papers before the 4th partner meeting and the means to support the partners in their work progress.

As the final date of the project phases came near the form in which the products would be presented was intensely reflected.

2.3.2 Observation of the correspondence

To the end of the time table the coordinator had to put some energy into the activity plans, outlines and reminders of reports to get results from some of the partners. Thanks to that persistent support all results finally arrived in time and the final product, the CD-ROM with all project outcomes could immediately be started.

3. The project documents

Project documents which represent the outcome of the project are the following:

- National reports and synopsis chart
- Group discussions and Explorative research
- Newsletters
- National workshops
- Qualification concept – guide for trainers.

The national reports had been evaluated in the precedent evaluation report. The other documents are following here.

3.1 Group discussions

The materials of group discussions include results and summary of the countries. In addition the work instruments like outline for group discussions and a guideline for the evaluation of group discussions are present. The Netherlands renounced to realising group discussions due to the late entry of this partner.

These are 18 documents of which the outline and the results will be evaluated.

3.1.1 Outline for group discussions

This document gives a guideline for the interviewer and provides preparation, tasks and 7 interview questions as well as reflection sheets and background information about the phases of group discussions for the interviewer.

The guideline had been followed by all interviewers in the partnerships. The method with the support of the developed question catalogue is reported as being very suitable for exploring experiences of learners.

3.1.2 Reports of the partners

Germany and Romania present a conclusion of the group discussions and give detailed recommendations for the qualification concept. The Polish and the Irish partners confine themselves to the answers of the questionnaire. The Netherlands had no time to realise the group discussions with learners.

3.1.3 Results of the group discussions

The document “Explorative Research: Relevance visual learning for specific target groups” gathers the results of the research in the partner countries. The paper presents the main questions and the methodological procedure, then gives information about the participants (learning biographies of persons in basic education, language learning and third age) and lists the outcome of the exploration in detailed grids and full text answers.

The final chapters reflect the effect of the conducted method of group discussion and resume the most important findings and conclusions for the project work.

The results show that visual learning is very important for the interviewed target groups. Specific results have become part of the guide for trainers.

3.2 Newsletters

8 newsletters had been published in the public section of the project website between December 2006 and Spring 2008. They were offered for subscription.

Nr. and date	Content	Provided by
1, December 2006	General information about the project "visuaLearning", group discussions with learners, announcement of the qualification workshop for trainers	DIE Germany
2, May 2007	Copyright of pictures in the internet, start of national workshops in the partnerships group discussions with learners (continued)	DIE Germany
3, July 2007	Experiences of a qualification workshop in the Irish partnership, Copyright (continued), here: creative commons in the internet including the addresses of websites for free clipart. A very good service for the users!	NALA Ireland; DIE Germany
4, November 2007	Experiences of a qualification workshop and on focus group discussion with learners in the Romanian partnership, Recommendation and implications for Second Language	FiaTest Romania
5, December 2007	Creative Commons (continued), Understanding of visual Learning – the current situation in the partner countries, Mnemotechniques – new research and initiatives in Poland Polish group of students win a Record of Guinness by longest English lesson (75 h)	DIE Germany, ITeE – PIB Poland
6, January 2008	Experiences of a qualification workshop in the Netherlands, Pioneers of visual sign language, Announcement of new German qualification workshop	Reflexion Netherlands, DIE Germany
7, January 2008	Results of group discussions with learners, Visual methods in teaching	DIE Germany
8, Spring 2008	General information on finalization of the project: findings, activities, products	DIE Germany

The newsletters give a detailed insight into the topics of visual learning as well as into the work process of the project. As one article had been provided by each of the partners and additional five by the coordinating partnership it had been desirable if more contributions had come from the partners.

3.3 National workshops (trial workshops in the partner countries)

3.3.1 Materials

These materials include the papers used for the realisation of the workshops. There are announcements, flyers, agendas, programmes, presentations, Mindmaps, readers, handouts, photos, feedback evaluation forms, excel-sheets and photos.

3.3.2 National evaluation

All workshops had been evaluated by the materials the evaluator had provided: questionnaire for the participants and reporting sheets for the results. Some of the partners followed the outline to structure the final reports of the national workshops given by the coordinator.

3.3.3 The reports of the national workshops

The workshop concepts refer to the reader of the qualification workshop for trainers (result of the 3rd partner meeting) and to the national results of the group discussions. The partners added national aspects like special needs of their target groups or proved methods or complementary documents i.e. the German partner provided an additional reader as handout for the participants.

Organisational problems had creatively been solved by all partners. Due to the late entry the Dutch partner could not manage to realise the national workshop. Good transnational partnership could help: As most Dutch trainers understand German quite well the German trainer delivered his workshop also in The Netherlands.

The feedbacks of all workshops were very positive. Even participants with great experience as trainers took their profit.

The partners gave detailed recommendations for the guide for trainers to be implemented in the concept.

3.3.4 Results of the procedure

The four steps of development which the proposal of the project had suggested were successfully realised. First, in the group discussions and interviews the learners described their experiences and needs of visual literacy. Second, the qualification workshop of the 3rd partner meeting installed the basis of educational knowledge and methods. Third, those were tried out and adapted in the national workshops. And fourth, the results of the trial workshops constituted the common guide for trainers.

3.4 Guide for trainers – Concept for qualification workshop

The concept for qualification workshop includes a concept for visual learning and methods of visual learning.

3.4.1 Concept of visual learning

The concept contains three capital chapters. In the beginning, the starting point and basic considerations are presented as well as the procedure of development. Second, the programme is elaborated, including a detailed timetable for a one day's workshop. The largest part deals with the explanations regarding the contents of the workshop and with the didactic considerations.

The last chapter provides a wide range of materials as there are theories of visualisation with visual examples, educational methods and reports from practical experiences of tutors with visual learning.

3.4.2 Methods of visual learning

These additional work materials provide worksheets with methods of visual learning. The descriptions are integrated in a didactic grid. The columns indicate the phase, the action of tutor or participants and the needed equipment. The lines include preparation, introduction, explaining of the method, working with the method and results. In addition the effects of the method are described.

The handy method sheets may be used for preparation and for the work with the method in class as well.

3.4.2 Reader "Visual learning"

This compendium of visual learning encloses the results of the project. In over 50 pages visual theories, learning psychology, the power of images, methods, creative techniques are elaborated. A special chapter supports the search for free images.

The reader forms the basis for the guide for trainers and the method worksheets. It is thought to be given as a handbook or a handout in the workshop.

3.4.3 Effects of the guide for trainers

Concept and methods had been thoroughly worked out both in funded theory and in practical approaches. Therefore the materials meet the project's objective to enable tutors to use it and inseminate visual learning and teaching.

4 Overview over the whole project outcome and work process

The overview focuses on the outcome and the work process of the whole project.

4.1 The outcome

4.1.1 Content

The project started on the large and unstructured field of visual education. As procedure an empirical approach of collecting information was chosen. On the one hand literature und outcomes in the national fields were surveyed. On the other hand members of the target groups of adult learners were interviewed.

In this way the results of the exploration were stringently integrated into the main product, the final concept of the guide for trainers which makes it extremely well fitted for the didactic needs in the work with adult target groups.

Besides the guide background documents are provided for the trainers to deepen the knowledge about theoretical constructs and to use methods of visual learning right away thanks to prepared work sheets. A large gallery of pictures for educational use completes the guide for trainers.

4.1.2 Media

The public gets access to the outcomes on the project web page and by a special CD ROM which is disseminated in the national target group of trainers. Users in the national fields of the project partners will be happy to find a great number of documents in their own languages.

4.1.3 Outcome – results

The empiric and educational qualities of the products and their media fit the needs of the target groups. All things considered the outcome meets the expectations of the project proposal and may justifiably be named a great success.

4.2 The work process

4.2.1 The start

In the beginning the project was accompanied by some difficulties regarding the consistency of the partners at start. The first Dutch partner left the project shortly after the kick-off meeting in February 2006. A new Dutch partner joined in at the 3rd partner meeting in the end of January 2007. This change caused an amount of additional work especially for the coordinator with was considerably structured and organised including the extension of the project until January 2008.

4.2.2 The middle of the project term

Due to the late entry of the second Dutch partner a long period of the project was determined by two speeds of work progress between the partnerships. The coordinator took a great effort to compensate und support the Dutch contributions.

Anyhow the outcome showed the required quality and impacts as targeted in the project proposal.

4.2.3 Final works

The nearer the end of the project term came the more the partners intensified their efforts. Seemingly all of a sudden the work results were ready for dissemination. A special contribution was given by the coordinator by taking over the role of an editor for the resuming documents as the reader and the guide for trainers.

4.2.4 Work process – results

In the whole work process all the partners and the coordinator gave a very good example of good transnational partnership as they committed themselves to the goals of the project, took their responsibilities, coped with the difficulties and finally contributed to the accomplishment of the project outcome.

5 References

5.1 Evaluation reports

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/english/internals/Evaluation

5.2 Feedback from the 4th meeting

4th Meeting_Feedback_Evaluation

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/english/internals/Evaluation

5.3 Final report

EU Project visuaLearning – FINAL REPORT –
Project Nr. 225773-CP-1-2005-1-DE-Grundtvig-G1

5.4 Minutes of meetings:

4th meeting in October 2007 in Dublin, Ireland

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/english/internals/partner-meetings

5.5 Monitoring report: the reports on the 4th to 7th 3rd reporting periods

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/english/internals/Monitoring-reports

5.6 National reports

State of the art of “Visual Learning” in The Netherlands

Synopsis Chart

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/English/materialien/index

5.7 Presentations for meetings

Download from www.die-bonn.de/visual/english/internals/Presentations

5.8 Survival Kit for European Project Management, 2nd edition 2001,

Download from www.sokrates.at/survivalkit/